

The God Who Restores (Joel 2:18-27)

Lesson 7

God loves to restore broken things. God disciplines with an eye toward restoration and blessing. As Hosea puts it, God breaks us that he may heal us (Hosea 5:14-6:1).

In the section we see God give back what he originally took away.

- God restores what the massive swarm of locusts eats (2:25; 1:4).
- The shame of previous sections is removed (2:26-7; 1:11).
- God will restore the grain, wine, oil, fig tree, and vine (2:19, 24; 1:7, 10, 12).
- Even the animals who were punished will rejoice at God's restoration (2:22; 1:18, 20).

God plans on restoring blessings, peace, and a right relationship with him.

Restoration of Blessing (19, 22-25)

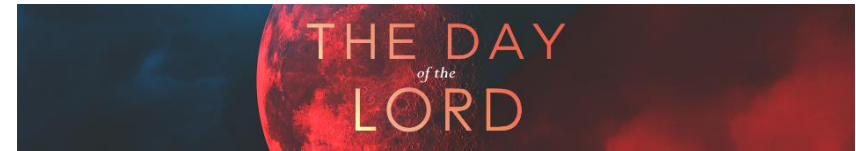
God will not bless a disobedient people. This does not arise from stinginess on the part of the God. And as soon as sin is removed, he delights in bringing blessing!

A. God restores the _____ blessings he had taken.

God promises to bring back the very things that had been lost. His blessings are for those who humbly follow him, and we face great loss when we go our own way.

B. God restores the _____ that has been lost.

God can bring beauty from ashes (Isaiah 61:3) and has a wonderful future in store if you follow him and obey his Word.



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Restoration of Peace (20-21)

Sin brings loss of blessing, but sin also brings chaos and conflict. God promises that the threats will be taken away when the people repent.

- A. **God will bring _____ on Judah's enemies.**
God will one day right the wrongs and address the injustice.
- B. **God will demonstrate his power over Judah's enemies.**
Joel tells his audience not to fear, because God was the one who truly could do great things.

Restoration of Relationship (26-27)

The worship of God had been broken off, their shame had brought him shame, and his presence had in some ways been withdrawn. When God brought healing and restoration, He would also restore their relationship.

- A. **God's _____ will be able to resume again (26).**
God will bless in part so that they can serve him (2:14).
- B. **God's _____ will not be shamed (26-27).**
Shame comes when those who are the people of God must face his discipline rather than his blessing.
- C. **God's _____ will be known once again (27).**
God is always with us, but we can enjoy his presence or we can push him away. Those who repent and accept God's discipline will find themselves closer to God as a result.

Israel and Judah chose death over and over, and God brought judgment upon them, but he also challenged them to choose life. And he continued to offer them the option of life. And beyond that, he even promised to restore the life that they had given up.

No matter what your sin has cost you, there can be forgiveness, healing, blessing, and life. Because while God is a God who brings judgment, he is also the God who restores. And our God loves to restore!

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