

## The Coming Spirit and the Call for Salvation (Joel 2:28-32)

### Lesson 8

Much of the teaching on the Holy Spirit is scattered throughout our Bibles, and Old Testament descriptions and explanations of the Spirit can be challenging. But the reward is worth the work! A right understanding of God's Word is important for our Christian walk.

#### A Study of Joel 2:28-32

The prophet describes what the Day of the Lord will look like spiritually along three distinct themes: Spirit, signs, and salvation.

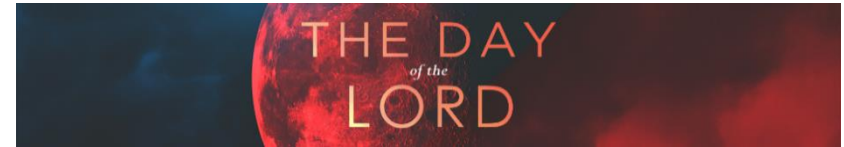
#### A. The day of the Lord will mean the coming of the Spirit (2:28-29).

Other prophets had built anticipation that when Israel was restored to the land, there would be an outpouring of the Spirit (see Ezek. 36:26-29; Is. 32:14-18; 44:3-5).

1. **The Spirit would come upon \_\_\_\_\_.**  
While the audience may not have imagined the Spirit poured out on the nations, this was certainly in the mind of the Spirit.
2. **The Spirit would empower supernatural \_\_\_\_\_.**  
In judgment, God previously remained silent (Prov. 29:18, Amos 8:11). On this day all will access God's revelation!

#### B. The day of the Lord will mean the coming of \_\_\_\_\_ (2:30-31). Joel describes the end of the world – the great and terrible day of the Lord.

1. **These signs are \_\_\_\_\_.**  
This is a grand, massive step that no one will be able to ignore.
2. **These signs point to \_\_\_\_\_.**  
These great signs are a warning that God will again judge the wicked. But this time, his judgment is over all the nations.



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**3. These signs \_\_\_\_\_ the day of the Lord.**

God's final judgment will come with a warning, and everyone should pay attention to the last verse in this section!

**C. The day of the Lord will bring with it the offer of salvation (2:32).**

Joel offers the hope of salvation to all who will turn to God. Calling upon the name of the Lord implies a loyalty to and belief in God and God alone.

If we read Joel and only Joel, he seems to be saying that when Israel turns to the Lord God, He will restore her blessings, send the Spirit, bring his judgment on the wicked, and save all those who trust in him and him alone. So is this what Joel is saying? That brings up the question of the New Testament.

**The New Testament and Joel 2:28-32**

The context and description of signs would suggest to us that this is a future date in the millennial kingdom. However, the New Testament seems to state that this prophecy has already been fulfilled (Acts 2:16-21, Romans 10:13)! So how should we think about these passages?

**A. Peter and Joel: The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit (Acts 2:16-21)**

Peter sees Pentecost as a taste of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. God has begun the work promised in Joel, although that prophecy awaits a more complete fulfillment when God brings judgment and restores Israel. We all should call upon the name of the Lord Jesus for salvation while we still can.

**B. Paul and Joel: The \_\_\_\_\_ for Salvation (Romans 10:9-13)**

Paul points to the fact that salvation through Christ is open to all, both Jew and Gentile.

With the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost and the offer of salvation to all, we see the first steps in the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. But there is much more that awaits us. With that knowledge, we are called to wait for God, to hope in his plan, and in the meantime to trust him and to call out to him for our salvation. Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

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