Joel 2:28-3:2

- The focus is on the restoration of Israel before the nations are judged. Israel is judge during history, but when Israel is fully restored then the Day of the Lord begins for the nations.
- These verses are first and primary about Jerusalem, Judah and Israel. And, only have secondary application to the Gentile believers and the church.
- Clues that these verses written in Joel's day refer to a distant time in the future:
 - o 2:28 "after this"
 - o 2:29 "in those days"
 - Bayyamim hahemma refers to End Times in:
 - Jer. 33:15-16 "In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.' "
 - Zech. 8:23 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."
 - 2:31(2:11) "great and awesome day of the Lord"
 - 3:1 "in those days and at that time when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem."
 - \circ 3:18 "on that day"
- The presentation of the Day of the Lord follows a similar pattern of a 24 hour day as the Jews recognized of a normal day...beginning at sunset:
 - Before darkness of the sunset preparatory events before the Day of the Lord
 - \circ During the darkness of the night... Events during the darkness of the Day of the Lord
 - Events during twilight just before the daylight begins . . . transitional events at the dawn of the Day of the Lord
 - Events during the light of the day the established events during the light of the Day of the Lord

Joel 2:28 – "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.



- 1. "after this" refers to after the deliverance from the Northern invader
 - a. After the defeat of the spiritual forces of evil (NT)

- b. After the defeat of the spiritual, demonic physical army of the 70th week (Revelation)
- 2. The Spirit coming on all is similar to promises in:
 - a. Ez. 36:27 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."
 - b. Ez. 37:14 "I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the Lord; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the Lord
 - c. Ez. 39:29 –" I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord God."
 - d. Zech. 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.
 - e. Moses words in Numbers 11:29 "Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord would put his Spirit on them!"
 - f. Isaiah 32:15 "until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.
 - g. Isaiah 44:3-4 "For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground;
 I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams.
- 3. Absence of prophetic revelation results from sin and judgment, but eh presence of prophetic revelation indicates divine favor and blessing. Thus, the day when the Spirit comes on all and all prophecy (receive revelation from the Lord) is the day of restoration:
 - a. 1 Samuel 3:1 "Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.
 - b. Amos 8:11 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord God, "when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.
- 4. "All flesh" is identified in the parallel following verses as:
 - a. Jewish sons and daughters
 - b. Old Jewish men
 - c. Young Jewish men
 - d. Jewish male and females
- 5. "pour out my Spirit" (2:28 and 2:29) refers to the "all flesh" receiving revelation (insight, understanding, guidance, etc.) of God's Word (God's will, God's ways, God's purposes, etc.) because the Spirit of God will communicate it to these people.
 - a. Jesus said as much in John:
 - i. 14:16-18 "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even <u>the Spirit of truth</u>, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for <u>he dwells with you and will be in you</u>. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."
 - ii. 14:26-27 "The **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he <u>will teach you</u> all things and <u>bring to your remembrance</u> all that I have said to

you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

- iii. 15:26 "when the **Helper** comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, <u>the</u> <u>Spirit of truth</u>, who proceeds from the Father, he <u>will bear witness about me</u>."
- iv. 16:7-15 "I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, <u>I will send him to you</u>. And when he comes, he will <u>convict the world</u> concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. <u>I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now</u>. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
- v. And, Revelation 19:10 John writes, "For the *testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*."
 - 1. The whole of prophecy or the coming of the Holy Spirit is telling about Jesus, or revelation of the Word of God.
 - 2. "testimony" is the Greek word *marturia* /mar-too-ree-ah/ which means "testimony" and is used to say "witness, evidence, testimony, reputation."
 - a. Testify before a judge
 - b. Testimony of an historian
 - c. Testimony concerning a person's character
 - d. Testify to the truth

2:29 – "Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

	7307 (e) rū-hī.	853 (e) "et-	8210 [e] 'eš·pō·wk	1992 (e) hā-hêm-māh,	3117 (e) bay-yā-mīm	8198 (e) haš·še pā·ķō·wţ;	5921 [e] wə-'al-	5650 (e) hā·'ā·bā·dīm			
•						הַשְׁפָתֻוֹת [My] maidservants			עַל־	וגם	29
	My Spirit	-	will I pour out	those	in days	[My] maidservants	and on	[My] menservants	on	And also	
	N-csc 1cs	DirÓbjM	V-Qal-Impert-tcs	Art Pro-Smp	Pied-b. Art I N-mip	Art N-fp	Conj-w Prep	Art N-mp	Prep	Conj-w Conj	

2:30 – "And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

	6227 [e] 'ā·šān .	8490 [e] wə·ṯî·mă·rō·wṯ	784 [e] wā·'êš ,		1818 [e] dām		776 [e] ū∙<u>b</u>ā∙'ā∙reş;	⁸⁰⁶⁴ [e] baš·šā·ma∙yim	4159 [e] mō∙wp<u>∙t</u>îm ,	5414 [e] w ə∙nā ∙ <u>t</u> at∙tî	
•	עַּשֶׁן: of smoke	ןְתֶימֲרֻוֹת and pillars	ָּאֵٰשׁ and fire	•	<u>ז</u> ָ Blood	•	וּבָאֶָרֶץ and in the earth	בַּשָּׁמַיִם in the heavens	מְוֹפְתִׁים wonders	ןְנֶתַתָּי [ָ] And I will show	
	N-ms	Conj-w N-fpc	Conj-w N-cs		N-ms		Conj-w, Prep-b, Art N-fs	Prep-b, Art N-mp	N-mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs	

- 1. "wonders" refers to miracles on earth and sky
 - a. These took place in Jesus ministry...leading to Acts 2 reference
 - b. These will ultimately take place in the end...leading to the ultimate fulfillment
- 2. "blood, fire, columns of smoke" refer to warfare on earth
- 3. "sun dark" and "moon blood" refers to the appearance of the sun and moon from the earth

- a. These took place in Jesus ministry with the darkness while he was on the cross
- b. These will take place ultimately in the end:
 - i. Because of wars and fires on earth
 - ii. Because of Jesus return at the sign of the Son of Man

2:31 – "The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

3117 [e] yō∙wm	935 [e] bō∙w	6440 [e] lip∙nê,	1818 [e] lə∙₫ām ;	³³⁹⁴ [e] wə∙hay∙yā∙rê∙aḥ		2822 [e] lə·ḥō·še<u>k</u>,	У	2015 [e] ê·hā·pêk		8121 [e] š e∙meš	
ים Of day	. בוֹא the coming	לְפְנֵי Before	גיב into blood	וְהַיָּרֻתַ and the moon	•	לְחֹשֶׁךְ into darkness	shall b	ַנְהָפֵּך turned et		הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ he sun	31
N-msc	V-Qal-Inf	Prep-I N-cpc	Prep-I N-ms	Conj-w, Art N-ms		Prep-I N-ms	V-Nifal	Imperf-3ms		Art N-cs	
							3372 [e] ō∙w∙rā.	141 hag∙gā∙₫	19 [e] ō·wl	³⁰⁶⁸ Yah∙w	8 [e] / eh ,
					•	ןְהַנּוֹרָא: and awesome Conj-w, Art V-Nifal-Prtcpl-ms				of Yahv	

- 1. Similar to:
 - a. Ezekiel 32:6-8 "I will drench the land even to the mountains with your flowing blood, and the ravines will be full of you. When I blot you out, I will cover the heavens and make their stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give its light. All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over you, and put darkness on your land, declares the Lord God.
 - b. Amos 5:18-20 "Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
 - c. Amos 8:9 "And on that day," declares the Lord God, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.
 - d. Zephaniah 1:15 "A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,
 - e. Revelation 6:12-13 "When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.
 - f. Matthew 24:29-31 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.
 - g. Mark 13:24-27 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers

in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

h. Luke 21:25-28 – "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

2:32 – "And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

6726 [e] șî·yō·wn	2022 [e] bə∙har-	3588 [e] kî	4422 [e] yim∙mā·lêţ ;	3068 [e] Yah∙weh			21 [e] iq∙rā	834 [e] ' ă·šer-	3605 (k	ē] ōl	1961 [e] wə·hā·yāh,	
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- 1. "Call on the name of YHWH" means:
 - a. Call on the Lord consistently and exclusively as in:
 - i. Gen. 4:26 –
 - ii. Gen. 12:8 "
 - iii. Gen. 13:4 "
 - iv. 1 Kings 18:24 "
 - v. Psalm 116:17 "
 - vi. Zephaniah 3:9 "
 - b. Acknowledge faith in the Lord in the midst of hostile environment as in
 - i. Psalm 105:1 "
 - ii. Isaiah 12:4 "
 - iii. Zech. 13:9 "
- 2. In the NT after the day of Pentecost people could "call on the name of the Lord" or "Jesus" for salvation. This is a partial fulfilment of this verse according to:
 - a. Peter in Acts 2 in verses 2:36-41 -

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of <u>you in the name of Jesus</u> <u>Christ</u> for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will <u>receive the gift of the Holy Spirit</u>. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls."

b. Paul in Romans 10:8-13 -

"But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that <u>Jesus is Lord</u> and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is <u>no distinction between Jew and Greek</u>; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <u>For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved</u>."

- 3. Survivors and those who escape on Mt. Zion and Jerusalem as in:
 - a. Isaiah 51:3
 - b. Zech. 13:8 "In the whole land, declares the Lord, two thirds shall be cut off and perish, and one third shall be left alive.
- 4. Ten places in the NT where this context and promise appear:
 - a. Matt. 24:29 (above)
 - b. Mark 13:24-25 (above)
 - c. Luke 21:25 (above)
 - d. Acts 2:17-21, 39
 - e. Acts 2:28-32
 - f. Acts 21:9 "He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied."
 - g. Acts 22:16 "And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'
 - h. Romans 10:13 "For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
 - i. Titus 3:6 "he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior
 - j. Revelation 6:12 "there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,"
- 5. The Day of the Lord will include judgment and destruction, but along with that will be salvation and deliverance for those who call on the name of the Lord.
 - a. This salvation and deliverance began in Acts 2
 - b. The judgment is still being held back

3:1 – "For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,

853 [e] ' e<u>t</u>-	7725 [e] ' ā·šî ⊵	'ā∙šū⊵	834 [e] ' ă·šer	1931 [e] ha∙hî;		6256 [e] ū· <u>b</u> ā·'ê <u>t</u>	1992 [e] hā∙hêm∙māh	3117 [e] bay∙yā∙mîm	2009 [e] hin∙nêh		3588 [e] kî,		
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	3389 [e] wî·rū·šā·lim .		7622 [e] šə ·bū <u>t</u>
•	וִירוּשֶׁל <u>ָ</u> ם:	יְהוּדָה	שְׁבָוּת
	and Jerusalem	of Judah	the captives
	Conj-w N-proper-fs	N-proper-ms	N-fsc

- 1. "For" indicates that Joel is now going to explain in detail what he had just introduced.
- 2. When God restores Israel in the distant future he will also bring the nations to Jerusalem to be judged. The nations will come to destroy Israel, but they will be destroyed by the Lord.
- 3. "Valley of Jehoshaphat" means literally "Yahweh Judges"
 - a. This is the only place this is a geographical location.
 - b. It may be in the Kidron Valley or that valley extended toward the Dead Sea (King Jehoshaphat)
 - c. It may not be a location, but an event. The event would be "Yahweh Judges" and it would be there in Jerusalem where the nations have been gathered.
- 4. Valleys are often the place of battles
- 5. In verse 2:14 this location is called "valley of decision"
- 6. This may be the name of the new valley formed when the Lord returns as described in Zechariah 14:4
- 7. Jesus refers to this verse in his account of the final judgment when the Son of Man comes in his glory in Matthew 25:31-46 –

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world......"

3:2 – "I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land,

•		3092 [e] wō·šā·pāţ; יְהְוֹשֶׁכֵּט hoshaphat N-proper-ms	6010 [e] 'ê∙meq لايچېק the Valley N-msc	אָל־ to and	3381 [e wə·hō·w·radַ·tîm 'קוֹרַדְהִים bring them dowr lifil-ConjPerf-1cs 3mj	, hag·gō·] ∙ n ı		3605 [e] kāl- כָּלֹ־ all N-msc	853 [e] 'e <u>t</u> - پيرر- DirObjM	and	6908 [e] wə·qib·baş·tî إجتِجَبَرُ d I will gather Piel-ConjPerf-1cs	2
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Four interpretations of Joel 2:28-32:

- 1. Joel's prophecy was completely fulfilled on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2
 - a. This cannot be true since much of the passage did not occur on Pentecost
 - b. The Da of Pentecost was not the Day of the Lord spoken of here
- 2. Joel's prophecy began on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 and continues through the church age.
 - a. That interpretation makes the Day of the Lord the Church Age
 - b. Scripture does not support this
- 3. Joel's prophecy was partially fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, but the rest awaits fulfillment in the future.
 - a. God poured out his Spirit on the church (which began as Jewish) in Acts 2, but it spread to the Gentiles. Thus, he poured out his Spirit on the Church in Acts 2.
 - b. In the future God will pour out his Spirit on Israel
 - c. The problem with this is there are 1,000's of years separating these events, but they are in the same set of verses in Joel, AND Peter says in Acts 2 that these verses are what the people were seeing fulfilled.
 - i. In Luke 4:18-21 Jesus only quoted part of Isaiah's prophecy concerning the Messiah (Isaiah 61:1-3), but not the whole passage that included building up the ancient ruins, foreigners plowing your fields, being called priests of the Lord, eating the wealth of the nations, etc. This was yet future
- 4. Joel's prophecy of an eschatological event was similar to what took place on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. Peter was making a comparison, but not saying 30 AD was Joel 2 occurring historically.
 - a. In this view all of Joel 2 is yet future.
 - b. What happened in Acts 2 was a foretaste of what will ultimately happen eschatologically.