

Joel 3:17-21

We have come now to the greatest gift that the Hebrews will receive. This takes place after all the judgment and the destruction of the enemy. Now, the blessing

- I. First, we have the blessing of knowledge – Joel 3:17
 - a. When they see their enemies being destroyed, this will make them realize one thing
 - b. That God is there LORD!
 - i. Up until this point, they have rejected Him
 - ii. They have shunned Him and pursued their own selves
 - iii. We already know that the name of God used here for LORD is Jehova (self existing one) but the name for God here is different. It is Eloheim!
 1. Eloheim is what we find in Genesis 1:26 (Let us make man in Our...)
 2. Eloheim is a plural. But in the context we have a singular...TRINITY!
 - c. God has been, since their founding, repeatedly told them that He was their God!
 - i. An author of one of the Psalms makes a statement to this – Psalm 91:2¹
 - ii. He has revealed Himself to them in this manner because He wants them to turn to Him.
 - d. Not only will they realize that God is their God, but that He is living in Zion, in His Holy Mountain (Two affects)
 - i. First is that Jerusalem shall be holy
 1. Right now, we cannot say that Jerusalem is Holy.
 2. But imagine a time when Jesus Himself will be dwelling here physically
 3. Also, notice the connection. The Holy Mountain (Where the temple was and will be) is called holy, and the city where the common man dwells now is also called Holy (same exact Hebrew word)!
 4. God is Holy. This city is now His dwelling place!
 - ii. Second is that there be no aliens passing through the streets!
 1. What is meant by this is truly profound!
 2. It will seem that Jerusalem will be a city separated only for the Jews who believe in God (The others would have taken the mark already)
 - a. Notice Zechariah 8:1-17 (especially 8:4-6) It will be a place of peace and rest!
 - b. This teaching is seen in Isaiah 35:8; 52:1; Zechariah 14:21
 - e. Lesson for us: God has revealed two great things to us
 - i. First, He has revealed Himself in the form of the trinity
 1. I know some who say they understand the Trinity (Maybe, maybe not)
 2. For me though, the beauty of the Trinity is the mystery of the Trinity.
 3. If we could understand everything about God, then He is no God.

¹ Psalms 91:2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

4. What we need to do is be willing to receive God as He has revealed Himself to us
 - a. This means we do not try to change Him to fit our own thoughts
 - b. We don't try to change Him to fit our own ideologies
 - c. He is so much bigger than we are. By trying to change how He is revealed is to try and Change who He is (**This is one of the many dangers of the movie the shack**)
- ii. Second, He has revealed that we will live in peace...true peace
 1. The world is seeking peace in every direction they turn...yet they receive none
 2. As believers, we are given true peace – **John 14:27²**
 3. When we read all of this, does it not sound like paradise...Well it is!
 4. God is a God of peace, not anxiety – **Hebrews 13:20-21**
 5. This peace is a fruit of the Spirit – **Galatians 5:22**
 6. By being in God, we will have this peace because He promised it.
- II. Second, they will have the blessing of prosperity and abundance– **Joel 3:18**
 - a. This has been spoken of in other places – **Amos 9:13³**
 - b. This picture of such bountiful food, prosperity is not new
 - i. We see this in **Psalms 46:4-11** (interesting to note this to last week)
 - ii. I would also recommend reading **Ezekiel 39:17-48:35** (There is a lot of detail, but take it little at a time and you will start to see the Glory of God..especially **48:35**)
 - iii. The water is very vital as well. We see how this water is alive and has so much figurative pictures in it (**John 4:10, 14; John 7:38⁴**)
 - iv. We also get a future glimpse in Revelation but in this is a question...When does this happen? (I believe this will be during the Millennial reign) - My reasons
 1. One, in the next verses we are going to see some descriptions that would not be in a perfect world
 2. Two, There are still gentiles who were part of the nations that attacked Jerusalem – **Zechariah 14:16**
 3. Three, There still seems to be a separation between Jew and Gentile, and in the perfect world, there is neither – **Galatians 3:27-29⁵**
 4. Four, God points out that Israel will receive water that is so desperately needed, the only way that the other nations will receive any water is by

² **John 14:27** Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

³ **Amos 9:13** "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it.

⁴ **John 7:38** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

⁵ **Galatians 3:27-29** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (28) There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (29) And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

giving an offering to God (forcing them to recognize Jesus for who He is) – I would recommend reading Zechariah 14 completely, but notice **Zechariah 14:16-17** (notice what nations are mentioned in verse 18...very interesting)

- c. Lesson for us: God does promise us things as believers
 - i. Now before I am thought of as teaching heresy in the form of social gospel, let me explain ☺.
 - ii. I am not teaching that if you accept Jesus you are going to have everything perfect and you will have no problems and God just wants you to smile all the time. That is a bunch of nonsense
 - iii. What I am saying is that God does give us promises – **2 Peter 1:4**⁶
 - 1. Sometimes, He blesses us with promises and blessings here on earth. I am not denying that. But that is based upon His choosing and what He knows we can handle
 - 2. However, when we get to Heaven, God's promises there are also present – **Luke 18:28-30**
 - iv. We should be thankful for the promises that He gives us here, and as Believers we can look forward to the promises He will give us, if we are faithful now, there.
- III. Third, they will have the outpouring of blessing in comparison of the enemy – **Joel 3:19-20**
 - a. Notice that Egypt and Edom is left desolate and a wilderness. That means that it is wasted and destroyed.
 - b. While all of the enemies are now devastated, Judah and Jerusalem will abide or live forever! - We can see this going to the mind of the Jewish people from other writers as well – **Amos 9:15**⁷
 - i. The enemies of God are dying out or have died out. They are not being blessed. They are being cursed
 - ii. Yet Jerusalem and Judah are prosperous!
 - iii. Those who abide in the Lord will have His blessing on them
 - c. Lesson for us: We also will be blessed beyond the world
 - i. God will put us above our enemies (we will help judge them) – **1 Corinthians 6:2**
 - ii. Unlike the world, our blessings will endure forever. The world's will end
- IV. Fourth, they will have the blessing of the LORD – **Joel 3:21**
 - a. Notice why they are not destroyed – The first part of the verse
 - b. Notice the greatest thing...They very thing that they are even now looking for...The LORD dwells in Zion! but what blessing do we have?
 - c. Lesson for us: We also will have the Lord dwelling with us

⁶ **2 Peter 1:4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

⁷ **Amos 9:15** I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them," Says the LORD your God.

- i. For the Jew this is the APEX! Their Messiah with them! This was what they were looking for!
- ii. This is the best blessing that as a Gentile I can think of... God dwelling with us or taking up a habitation with us! – 1 John 4:13⁸
- iii. As believers, we also will have God dwelling with us...and this is already partially being fulfilled!
 - 1. If we accept Jesus, He will come into our lives and will dwell with us.
 - 2. Imagine that! The greatest thing ever! The creator of the universe living in us! – Revelation 3:20

⁸ 1 John 4:13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.