

## Joel 2:28-3:3 – I Will Pour Out My Spirit

Joel had recounted God's judgment on Judah for their sin. Judah was called to repent. Joel 2:28-32 in the English Bible is chapter 3 in the Hebrew Bible. Joel 3 in the English Bible is Joel 4 in the Hebrew Bible. Joel 2:28-32 are probably the best known verses in Joel since they are quoted in the New Testament. The chapter divisions in the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible) are the same as the Hebrew Bible (4 chapters). What Peter quoted at Pentecost was the entire third chapter of Joel, since he was either quoting from the Hebrew Bible or the Septuagint.

### Read Joel 2:28-29.

ESV has "it shall come to pass afterwards". So the verses to follow are what would happen in the future. God said that he would "pour out my Spirit on all flesh". Based on the context, what does "all flesh" refer to? Does it mean all people without distinction or all people without exception? When God said "my Spirit" what was he referring to? How was this outpouring of the Spirit different from Old Testament times? Who were recipients of God's Spirit in the Old Testament? (2:28)

The second half of verse 28 mentioned the effects of the outpouring of God's Spirit. Will all sons and daughters, without exception, prophesy as a result of the outpouring of the Spirit? Will all old men, without exception, dream dreams? Will all young men, without exception, see visions? Note that prophecy, dreams and visions were all ways in which God communicated with people in the Old Testament. See Numbers 12:6. Can you think of some examples? Prophecy is an easy one. Joel is an example of prophecy. For some examples of dreams see Genesis 28:12, Genesis 37:5, 1 Kings 3:5. For some examples of visions see Genesis 15:1, 1 Samuel 3:15, Jeremiah 24:1. (2:28)

In verse 29, what was the significance that, in the future, God would pour out his Spirit on male and female servants? According to Raymond Bryan Dillard, there was an ancient daybreak prayer of the Jewish male: "I thank you God that I was not born a Gentile, a slave, or a woman." (2:29)

Based on Acts 2:1-18, 38, how was Joel 2:28-29 fulfilled (at least partially)? Notice that Peter said "in the last days" instead of "it shall come to pass afterward". Peter also switched the order from "old men / young men" to "young men / old men". At the end of Joel 2:29, Peter added "and they shall prophesy". In Acts 2:38, Peter said that all who trusted in Jesus for forgiveness would receive the Spirit. In John 7:38, Jesus said "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" John explained, in verse 39, that Jesus said that because everyone who believed in him would receive the Holy Spirit after he was glorified. Do you think "the Scripture" that Jesus was referring to could have included Joel 2:28-29, 32? How is Joel 2:28-29 similar to Galatians 3:28?

**Read Joel 2:30-32.**

We saw in the book of Malachi that sometimes time gets squished together in prophecy. The first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ were mentioned together without a clear time distinction between the two. Verses 28-29 began to be fulfilled on the day of Pentecost. Joel, John the Baptist and Jesus all foretold that all who believe in Jesus Christ receive the Holy Spirit. What time period is referred to in verses 30 and 31? When is the “great and awesome day of Yahweh”? (2:30-31) See Malachi 4:1, 5-6.

What other passage talks about the sun being darkened and the moon turning to blood? See Revelation 6:12. What other passages talk about the sun being darkened? See Joel 2:10, 3:15, Isaiah 13:9-10, Matthew 24:29, Mark 13:24.

Did Peter, in Acts 2:22, tie Joel 2:30 to the miracles which Jesus performed? Explain.

How did Paul use Joel 2:32 in Romans 10:12-13? Do you think Peter, in Acts 2:38-39, was referring to Joel 2:28, 32?

In verse 32, notice that it starts with those who call on the name of Yahweh and ends with those whom Yahweh calls. What is the significance of this? What is the result for both those who call on Yahweh and those whom Yahweh calls? Are they the same people?

**Read Joel 3:1-3.**

When would God restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem? (3:1) In what other passages did God promise to restore the fortunes of Israel? See Deuteronomy 30:3, Jeremiah 29:10-14, 30:3,18, 31:23, 32:44, 33:7, 11, Ezekiel 39:25, Amos 9:14, Zephaniah 2:7, 3:20.

What did God say he would do to the nations in the Valley of Jehoshaphat? What were the nations guilty of? Contrast what God said he would do for Judah and Jerusalem, in verse 1, with what he would do to the nations in verses 2-3. (3:1-3)