

JOEL LESSON 12

30 QUESTIONS ABOUT JOEL 2

(1) Is the first half of Joel 2 about *something* more than locusts or about *nothing* more than locusts?

(2) If the first half of Joel 2 is about something more than locusts, then who or what is that something more?

(3) What is *the day of the Lord* in verses 1, 11, and 31? Are they the same day or different days?

(4) Is Joel 2 about the end of the world?

(5) What is *the Lord's army* in verses 11, 25?

(6) Why is there a call to repent in verse 12? What had the people done?

(7) What does the word "*relent*" mean in verse 13? Does God ever change his mind? And if he does, what does that tell us about God and about our own free will?

(8) Who is the *northerner* in verse 20?

(9) Who or what are *Gog and Magog* in Ezekiel 38-39 and Revelation 20? Is there a relation between Gog and Magog and Joel 2?

(10) Why did Peter quote Joel 2 in Acts 2? Why did Peter end his quote of Joel 2 where he did?

(11) Why does the book of Acts translate "*afterward*" as "*the last days*" when Peter quotes Joel 2:28? What period of time is "*the last days*"?

(12) If all we had was the Old Testament, what would we know about the Holy Spirit? What *new things* do we learn about the Holy Spirit in the New Testament? Does the Holy Spirit operate or manifest himself differently in the New Testament than in the Old Testament?

(13) Which Greek and Hebrew words are translated "*Spirit*" in the Bible? Are those words used for any other purpose in the Bible? If so, how can we tell when they are being used for the Holy Spirit?

(14) How and when was God's promise in verses 28-29 to pour out his Spirit on all flesh fulfilled?

(15) Who is included or excluded in the phrase "*all flesh*"?

(16) What is the time frame of the prophecy? Is it a promise to "*all flesh*" for *all time*, or is it a promise to "*all flesh*" for a *limited time*?

(17) Why is that promise described using the word "*pour*"?

(18) Do we find that same promise anywhere else in the Old Testament?

(19) Which activities or manifestations of the Holy Spirit are included or excluded in that promised "*pouring out*" of the Spirit?

(20) How is the promised "*pouring out*" in the New Testament different from how God provided his Spirit in the Old Testament?

(21) What is the relation between this promised "*pouring out*" and the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Mark 1:8?

(22) What is the relation between this promised "*pouring out*" and the gift of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:38?

(23) What is the relation between this promised "*pouring out*" and miraculous gifts given through the laying on of the Apostles' hands in Acts 8?

(24) What is the relation between this promised "*pouring out*" and the conversion of the Gentiles in Acts 10-11?

(25) What is the relation between this promised "*pouring out*" and the gospel?

(26) What are the boundaries between matters of the faith and matters of opinion when it comes to the Holy Spirit?

(27) Why was the church established on the day of Pentecost? Did a judgment occur on that day?

(28) Verse 31 says that "*the sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.*" What is that great and awesome day? And what is meant by the darkening of the sun and moon that would occur before that day?

(29) In the final two verses of the Old Testament, Malachi says that God will send Elijah the prophet "*before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes,*" and that "*he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.*" How is that day of the Lord in Malachi 4:5 related to the day of the Lord in Joel 2:31 and Acts 2:20? And what is the threatened "*decree of utter destruction*" in Malachi 4:6?

(30) Who *escapes* in verse 32, and when? Who *survives* in verse 32, and when? Who is *called* by God in verse 32, and when?