

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Joel 2

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the "appointed day" of Pentecost when the church was born, and God's spirit came to live from that day forward in the life of every believer and follower of Jesus of Nazareth. Joel's name means, "The LORD, **Yo**, is God, **El, Yo'el**. The major theme for Joel is the "Day of the LORD" and its certainty in coming. Most of the prophets deal with this very subject, thirteen out of sixteen, which makes it even more ominous. Judgement was coming and the only way that it could be averted was through complete repentance. The nation had reaped what it had sown and the swarming, crawling, consuming, and chewing locusts were only precursors of the judgment that would surely come if the people did not repent. But Joe's prophecy is just a message of judgment, but also a message of hope. Some of the greatest passages on hope, redemption, and bright promises of trust in God are found in the prophet Joel. The call to repentance in Joel is one of the greatest in the entire Bible.

"Blow the trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the LORD is coming, for it is at

hand... "Now therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." So, rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him—" (Joel 2:1; 12-14a)

Repentance is followed by the promise of restoration, revival, and blessing; 2:25-32. These are some of the greatest passages of hope in the entire Bible. On the great day of Shavuot/Pentecost in Acts 2:1ff, it was Joel's prophecy that was quoted as coming to pass and as an explanation for what was happening to the followers of Yeshua/Jesus, the Messiah on the southern steps of the Temple complex in Jerusalem. God's nature is to give life, renewal, and blessing.

Prayer and Action Steps

Pause and thank God for His mercy, love, and forgiveness and for the Holy Spirit sent from heaven to live in our hearts.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
