

ARAMAIC BIBLE COMPANION

HIGHLIGHTS

JOEL PREDICTED THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Joel is perhaps best known for his classic reference to the "Outpouring of the Holy Spirit" in Chapter 2 28-29. The fulfilment of this prophecy on the Day of Pentecost was confirmed in the historic address of the apostle Peter. The uniqueness of this blessing from heaven so long awaited was that it reversed the Pride of Babel and created in humble servants an immediacy of linguistic capability never before seen and never again equalled for its spread of identifiable languages heard. The "gift of the Holy Spirit" implicit in the outpouring resulted in the conversion of 3000 people and what is generally thought of as the birth of the Gentile Church - "All people" *Booth warned of religion without the Holy Spirit*

JOEL PREDICTED THE DAY OF THE LORD

The "Day of the LORD" (Chapter 2.2) was to be marked by "darkness and gloom"; by the appearance of the largest army of all time on the mountains of Israel; by anguish of nations; by a massive shaking of earth and sky; by the sun and moon turning dark-a day of complete terror. *For more study 2 Peter 3.10-11*

JOEL'S CALL FOR REPENTANCE

"Rend your heart and not your garments"(2.13) The Prophet sought genuine humility before God and wanted to see current priests get back to sackcloth and the elders summon the people to prayer. *Turn away from known sin to eschew all sin as the Spirit reveals it*

JOEL SEES GREAT DAYS IN THE DISTANT FUTURE

In Joel 2 18-27 and 3.17-21 wide-ranging blessing is forecast for the Jewish people. Locust eaten years will be more than matched by days of plenty. This vision sustains the prophet in face of the Day of the LORD. *They shall reign with Him 1000 years (Apocalypse 20.6)*

THE VALLEY OF JEHOSHAPHAT

Chapter 3 1-16 gives us the famous phrase "Multitudes multitudes in the valley of Decision (or Judgment). This is the time immediately before Christ returns to judge nations and rule over all. The sun and moon will be darkened; the LORD will "roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem". Christ shall rule. *"He treads the winepress" Apo.19.15 Joel 3.13*

THE IMMANENT RETURN OF JESUS

The prophetic vistas of Joel are now upon us. We live close to the beginning of the 70th week of Daniel-a period of seven years of turmoil from the confusion of which the Church shall be raptured in accordance with 1Thessalonians 5.17-and at the conclusion of which the LORD shall again dwell among men in the temple and establish His dominion from sea to sea centred on Jerusalem. All this and more in quite fine detail awaits you in the commentary itself. This prophet was spaced from the end of the Davidic kingdom by something over 100 years and yet he says more about the end times and millennium than about his own day or even the day when God established the Church.

Though God is not in a hurry history has inexorably moved on since Pentecost and we are now awaiting the return of Jesus. Grasp this message with your mind, place it in your heart and continue in the power and spirit of the Apostles till the hour of our receiving promises joys in heaven! *Jesus said "Watch the fig tree and all the fruit trees" -are you watching?*

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