

“Surely, the Lord Has Done Great Things”

Joel 2:20-21

It is interesting for the Prophet Joel to prophesy to the people of Judah – “the Lord has done great things” “the Lord is about to do great things” when he just told them the darkest hours and days of their lives. “People of Judah, because of your spiritual adultery, God was not pleased with your deeds. As a result, God will turn this beautiful city of yours into a place of poverty and death.”

Three catastrophic incidents will ravage your city; it will affect the economy and life in general.

- 1) Pestilence – an invasion of locusts - “it will come like destruction from the Almighty” (1:15).

God will send an army of locusts that cannot be numbered, like a large and mighty army (2:2) enough to blacken the clouds. His forces are beyond numbers (2:11)

- 2) Drought – The storehouses are broken down for the grain has dried up (1:17). The streams of water have dried up (1:20). Even the herds (cattle moan) are suffering because there is no water and no pasture for them, too (1:18). The wheat and barley harvest is destroyed – (1:11) The drought will cause the vine to dry up, and the fig tree withered (1:12). All the trees of the field will dry up – pomegranates, apple trees, and palm, to name a few. The fields are ruined, the ground is dried up; the grain is destroyed, even the new wine is dried up, and the olive oil fails.

- 3) Blazing fire – a fire has devoured the pastures in the wilderness; flames have burned up all the trees of the field (1:19)

It was a scary day to be alive! Yet, not the end of the world. “The Lord is about to do something great.”

21) don't fear fertile land; rejoice and be glad, for the Lord is about to do great things! (CEB)

While the season of pestilence, drought, or bushfire is on, this is not the time to refuse God. This is the time to get ready for the upcoming season of restoration. This is the time to lift your praise confession higher! Because God is

- a) Gracious and compassionate
- b) God is slow to anger
- c) God abounds in love
- d) God relents from sending calamity

THREE THINGS TO GET READY!

1. Repent of sins for which they were being punished – our continued play with sin prohibit us from appropriating our rightful place in the kingdom of God.

Ac 3:19–21 - repent therefore and be converted that your sins may be blotted out,

2. Return to the Lord – Deut. 30:1-10; John 21:15–23
3. Rend your heart, not just your garments

Fast and pray, weep, mourn (1:13;2 "15-17); gather, summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the Lord your God and cry out to the Lord."

Warn all – "blow the trumpet in Zion, sound the alarm on my holy hill" (2:1) 'let everyone know and tremble

4. Renew your commitment to God

Joel 2:26 - You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.