



Empowering People to Change the World

Introduction to Prophecy and Joel

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Antiphonal Reading: Matthew 24:4-14 NKJV

Me: And Jesus answered and said to them: “Take heed that no one deceives you.

Church: 5 For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.

Me: 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all[a] *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Church: 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences,[b] and earthquakes in various places.

Me: 8 All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.

Church: 9 “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.

Me: 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

Church: 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

Me: 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

Church: 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

ALL: 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Announce:

- Two things if you are new to The Road: Get on our mailing list for the blog and EBlast, and download our App
- Telios, our youth ministry, and Shine, our women’s ministry are meeting this Thursday night at 6:30pm. Youth are beginning a series on “Worldview and World’s Religions”
- If you don’t have our current PB&J bookmark they are available up here on the stage. We have a few left for November

Would all of our Veterans and current military and their spouses please stand. Let's thank these men and women for their service to our country...

The Book of Joel "The Last Days Church"

As I observe what is happening in our world I have been deeply prompted by the Holy Spirit to teach on the End Times, the prophetic Spirit is speaking into my spirit. Every church is a reflection of the calling and the movement of the Spirit within the pastor of that church:

- I am deeply concerned for the direction of our nation—the continual relativistic, Darwinian, openly anti-Christian assault into the hearts and minds of our youth and children
- The weakening of the Church in her willingness to preach the Word of God, book by book, chapter by chapter, verse by verse, for fear of offending people
- The Rise of evil coming forth from within and without our nation concerns me
- The weakening concern and support toward the nation of Israel is disturbing
- Whenever I seek God for my next teaching series, it is always obvious, no doubt. That is the case here, God made it very clear that this would be the next study for The Road
 - I've never taught Joel, but through a message I heard and prayer I put in, I began to see Joel as the introduction to Revelation
 - For the next year we will be studying prophecy, the End Times Church, the Last Days before the coming of the Lord, Armageddon, and the preparation we must have as we see the rise of evil, the spirit of Anti-christ upon the earth

Why is the study of the Prophetic Scriptures Important? 5 Reasons

- 1) **The Lord tells us that all Scripture is God breathed, and a living and powerful book.**

Apostle Paul in 2 Tim 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- Translation of the word “theopneustos” means “God breathed” From the mouth of God to the writers. This is scriptures most important statement about itself, meaning that the Bible is the product of God’s creative breath. Thus we say, “The Word of God”
- This is God’s Word to the human race. This is God final and complete word to the nations
- This is how a man or woman may be complete, THOROUGHLY equipped for every good work!
 - For our jobs, our marriage, our personal life
 - For our friendships/allies, for our wives, husbands

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- Be in God’s Word! Read it, meditate in it, know it, love it—it is living, active, powerful for changing our lives
- At The Road we teach it from Genesis to Revelation

- 2) **The Bible is a Prophetic Book. It is a historical book, poetic book, and a prophetic book**

- 28% in the Old Testament is prophetic

- 21.5 % in the New Testament is prophetic
- 8x more prophetic passages about the second coming of the Lord than the first coming of the Lord.
- If we don't believe the Word of God, we're unlikely to teach the prophecy. Pastors lack the knowledge and training in biblical prophecy.
- Some pastors have a fear of being lumped in with prophecy nut cases—false prophecy. Numerous copies of books have been published stating why Jesus would come in a specific year. Ex: "88 Reasons Why Jesus Is Coming In 1988."
- Lack of understanding that the times in which we live have the purpose and power of Bible prophecy.

3) Prophetic Preaching and Personal Prophecy Builds up the Church

- 1Cor. 14:3 - Apostle Paul gives purpose of prophecy. Build people up in Christ, for Edification, exhortation, consolation/comfort.
 - Prophecy encourages us to live for Christ.
 - Prophecy is not to split churches or cause speculation about God's plan or cause political arguments.
 - The Spirit of prophecy is Jesus! Prophetic words and prophetic teaching is to draw us closer to Christ

4) Prophecy is Divine Intelligence that Equips us to Endure.

- Ungers Bible Dictionary on Prophecy: "The revelation of future events may be needful in times of discouragement to awaken or sustain hope, to inspire confidence in the midst of general backsliding, and to warn of evil threatening the faithful."

- Ex. The slaves in America loved Bible prophecy and often sang of the coming of the Lord because of their situation of torture, confinement, and hardship
- Paul and Peter refer to teaching on the last days to the church in the first century because of the hardship they were under
- We know what's coming! Others don't know. Most of the church doesn't know
- We can know and be equipped and prepared
- Ex. Have you ever watched a tevoed football game where you already know who wins? After a service I'll sometimes ask Josh, "Do I want to watch it?" If you know they won the game, you don't freak out when your team is down do you? You know the end!

Jesus on the Last Days, (Matthew 24:4)

"Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all[a] these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences,[b] and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. 10 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. 12 And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. 13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

- **We know what's going to happen! We know Who wins.**
- **Joel** is an Intelligence Brief of the coming of the Lord, the Day of the Lord. **Revelation** is an Intelligence Brief, giving us inside

information from our Commander in Chief on what is happening behind enemy lines

- The Restraining will be lifted and literally “all hell will break loose” 2 Thess 2:1-12

5) Prophecy reminds us that we are Preaching, Living, and will Inherit the Kingdom of God

Jesus: Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34)

- We are to be living and proclaiming the Kingdom of God!
- **The prophetic has 4 levels of meaning:**
 1. To the Past. Joel’s prophecy was to the nation of Israel in 800BC, a warning to repentance
 2. To the Now. There is an immediate meaning to us and America right now—prophetic words like Joel are for you and me in our individual lives
 3. To the Church. There is a Ecclesiastical meaning—the role of the Church in a city, in a nation
 4. To the Future. There is a future work of God that we are receiving a Briefing on concerning what’s coming

Joel – What does it say or mean to us?

- Not a popular book: never heard anyone teach on Joel. But I have a sense of urgency we need to share
- Joel – You need to blow the trumpet and preach through Joel. Something on Father’s Heart. Go home; study and teach. Joel has warnings we dare not ignore.

Vs. 1

The word of the Lord that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

- “**Joel, the son of Pethuel**” whose name means “Yahweh is God” – He’s a Hebrew prophet.
- Little is known about Joel but what the book shows us. There is no way to precisely date the book but Amos and Isaiah seem to quote from Joel, making Joel one of the earliest of the minor prophets, probably around 800 years before Christ. Other studies seem to indicate a later day of 500 BC
- This is when Israel was divided into two parts: the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah
 - Joel is prophesying to the southern kingdom of Judah (6 references) and Jerusalem (6 references) and gives us insight into the priests and the Temple (7 references)
- For us today, this is a prophetic book of Jesus! Jesus is exalted through Joel. Jesus is warning us through Joel

Listen, don’t miss this:

- What the Prophet Joel was to ravaged Judah, the Prophetic Church is to a ravaged world
- What the Prophet Joel was to ravaged Judah, Jesus is to your ravaged life and family

Vs. 2-3

***Hear this, you elders,
And give ear, all you inhabitants of the land!
Has anything like this happened in your days,
Or even in the days of your fathers?***

***Tell your children about it,
Let your children tell their children,
And their children another generation.***

- This is a book about something terrible and beautiful that has happened. Joel is a prophetic book of something happening ,but it's for us today
 - How could we believe what is happening in our day right now
 - Who would have dreamed of cell phones, cloning, social media, terrorism, Islamic Jihad, just 25 years ago?
- The Church is birthed in Joel! It's the preaching of Joel that brings a great harvest of souls
- It's the preaching of Joel that converts all these people: Parthians, Medes, Elamites, Judeans, Cappadocians, people from Pontus and Asia, Egypt and Rome
- Everyone has gotten filled with the Holy Spirit and the first sermon ever preached to the Church is from Joel!
- Peter quotes Joel 2 in the first sermon given to the Church
- Peter is proclaiming the last days, the coming of the Lord, Day of the Lord

Central theme of Joel is “Day of the Lord” is coming. Mentioned 5 times in Joel. 13x in 7 other Prophetic books.

- This is a warning book! Israel is being warned; America is being warned. For the Spirit filled Word rooted believer, we are being warned by God of coming judgment
- Such key words would describe Joel and “the Day of the Lord”: lament, repent, judgment, and redemption
- The Day of the Lord heralds destruction for nations and people who will not listen, but blessing and salvation for those who will
- If the whole community will cry out to God and repent, God will listen, God will avert judgment

- ***if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chron 7:14)***

The Day of the Lord may be coming sooner than we think!

- ICIS is knocking at our doorstep. CIA is telling us that they are here
- This is a trumpet blast prophecy! Tell the elders! Tell your children
- Ex. At The Road we are getting ready. This is the time to be clinging to Jesus
- God's giving us His plan, His Divine Intelligence
- God gives "harbingers" or signs of his coming and the book of Joel is giving us signs
- Ex. Noah is referred to as a sign to us of the last days, "it will like the days of Noah" Noah was given harbingers, warnings from God of the coming doom. Noah was the only one listening to the Lord at that time
- Go home tonight, this week, and tell your children what we discussed tonight

This is a book chronicling the End Times Church! Warning us and empowering us to prepare

- We will see growing demonic power, Satanic strategies upon the earth as we near the coming of the Lord—lying false signs and wonders
- And we will experience growing Holy Spirit power upon the Church even as the whole world hears the gospel—Kingdom signs and wonders

As we take communion now, would you recommit your life, your home, your family to Jesus and the kingdom of God?