

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How do we rejoice in the Lord?
2. Does rejoicing come naturally to us? Why does God command it?
3. What are some of the ways in which God gives an overabundance?
Do all men share these blessings?
What are some of the limiting factors?
4. What is necessary that men may receive the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:38)

SUMMARY:

Joel prophesied about the Holy Spirit approximately 800 years before the birth of Christ. The Holy Spirit had been bestowed upon individuals even before the time of Joel (see Numbers 11:25) but its coming in its fulness was yet far in the future.

He reminded the people first of all, of the joy that abounds in living for God. As this was true then, it is even truer today when we have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. All of God's richest blessings are contingent upon living upright holy lives in which He will find pleasure. We are not here on this earth to please ourselves but rather that we might please God.

With receiving the Holy Spirit comes the blessing of the comfort, leading and teaching of the Spirit. Also we have the assurance that even though most all men will refuse the call, yet a remnant shall be saved. Will you be counted as a part of the remnant?

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #11

December 11, 2011

Fourth Quarter

JOEL, PROPHET OF PENTECOST

LESSON TEXT: Joel 2:21-32

LESSON SETTING: Joel prophesies of God's judgments and the advent of Pentecost.

TIME: Approximately 800 B.C.

I. REJOICING IN THE LORD. Joel 2:21-23

- A. Duty of Rejoicing (vs. 21) Psalm 5:11; 32:11; Philippians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:16
- B. Spiritual Living Brings Gladness (vs. 23) Acts 2:46; 11:23; 14:17

II. PROSPERITY IS PROMISED. Joel 2:24-27

- A. Over Abundance (vs. 24-25) Malachi 3:10; Matthew 14:20; Luke 6:38
- B. The Lord's Doing (vs. 26) 1 Samuel 3:11; Psalm 118:21-23; Isaiah 29:14

III. PENTECOST IS FORETOLD. Joel 2:28-32

- A. Spirit Promised (vs. 28) Luke 11:13; Acts 1:8; 2:38
- B. Deliverance Promised (vs. 32) Psalm 91:3; 2 Timothy 4:18; 2 Peter 2:9
- C. The Divine Call (vs. 32) Jeremiah 35:15; Ezekiel 33:11; Revelation 3:20

GOLDEN TEXT: *FOR AS MANY AS ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THEY ARE THE SONS OF GOD.* Romans 8:14

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Obadiah 1-21

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Isaiah 2:12-22; Malachi 4:1-6;
Revelation 20:11-15

QUARTERLY THEME: Kings and Prophets of Judah

TOPIC: OBADIAH, A PROPHET OF JUDGMENT

INTRODUCTION:

The descendants of Esau formed the people of Edom referred to in the lesson for this week. (Genesis 36:9) They seem to have inherited Esau's hatred for the descendants of Jacob or Israel. During the siege of Nebuchadnezzar they aided in the plunder of Jerusalem and seemed to have been extremely cruel. It is to this, no doubt, that reference is made in the book of Obadiah. The Edomites are told that when they should have been helping their neighbor they gloated over his misfortune and used it to further their selfish ends.

God is just in His judgments and though they are redemptive in nature, times come when He must tear down before He can rebuild and there are times when nations must be laid low. These are to serve as a deterrent to cause other nations to do the right thing. Edom was not to suffer a terrible judgment.

In His dealings with man, God is ever willing to draw man to Himself and as a result of the shed blood of Christ, He can consign the sins of man to the sea of forgetfulness. Just as Edom, however, had to suffer for unatoned actions, so must man eventually suffer for all sins not covered in faith by the blood of Christ.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Rebellion against God will receive its just judgment.

GOLDEN TEXT: *HE THAT BELIEVETH ON THE SON HATH EVERLASTING LIFE; AND HE THAT BELIEVETH NOT THE SON SHALL NOT SEE LIFE; BUT THE WRATH OF GOD ABIDETH ON HIM.*
John 3:36

To believe on the Son of God means to believe on the whole plan of God that brought His only begotten Son to earth. This plan included the sinless life which the Son of God lived, that He might be the sacrifice for sinful man who of his own free will chose to disregard the will of God. When God put man on earth, it was as a steward to care for the garden, which was the earth. Man refused to return to God the things that were rightfully the property of God. Man chose to rule his own life and to ignore the governorship of God. This caused man to be separate from God but the plan that brought His Son to earth makes it possible for God's own Son to be an atonement for sin.

Is it not wonderful to consider these truths and to know that belief in Jesus the Messiah will snatch man from an eternity apart from God? The Word cautions that there is an empty belief that will not yield eternal fruit. True belief, however, results in a rebirth and a new life, a new joy in harmony and in fellowship with God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 12 – 18

- M. *Edom's Judgment. Obadiah 1-9
- T. *The Prophet of Judgment. Obadiah 10-21
- W. The Lord's Return. Matthew 24:27-31
- T. Just Judgment. Matthew 25:31-46
- F. The Comfort of His Coming. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- S. The Unexpectedness of His Coming. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
- S. The Responsibility in Living. 2 Peter 3:9-18

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