

## ***Session 12 Israel's Victory in the Millennial Kingdom***

### **INTRODUCTION**

This is our twelfth and final class, session notes fourteen. Joel 3:17-21. I've placed verse 17 in the last class as well as in this one because it's a transition passage. We're in the last session. Previously, we looked at the conflict with the nations that God is stirring up; then we found that the Devil is stirring it up, too. Not only that, but men in their own greed and ambition and bitterness are willingly stirring it up as well.

### **YOU WILL LIVE IN A PHYSICAL BODY ON THE EARTH FOREVER**

Here we see Israel's victory. Remember the principle that what God does in Israel is a picture of what's in His heart for His people in the nations of the earth. This is the sort of thing that He will do throughout the millennial kingdom. We won't talk much about the millennial kingdom, the 1,000-year reign of Jesus on the earth in the age after He returns. We will be involved in it; we will have physical bodies, but they're resurrected. Our resurrected bodies will be as physical and material as the bodies we have now, but with the added dimension of supernatural abilities. Don't think that in your resurrected body on the earth in the age to come, you'll inhabit a ghost-like substance: that when you hug each other, you just pass through, go back and try it again. It's not like that; you'll be as material and physical as you are now. You'll actually rule on this earth. When you put your foot down and stomp the ground, you'll feel the dirt and it will make a noise when you stomp it. It's that physical!

And you'll be on the earth forever and you'll never die. And you'll have a ministry, and you'll have friends, and you'll be learning and teaching. You'll have a ministry like you do now; you'll have the capacity to learn. You'll be studying, teaching, meeting new friends, eating food, introducing yourself to new people, just like you do now. There will be no negative impact whatsoever—I mean, no negative impact. There will be none of this and none of that. I love what Allen Hood says. Jesus ate fish in His resurrected body; He ate fish and walked through walls. Allen Hood says, "Did the fish go through the wall with Him?" We've never been able to answer that question—because Jesus ate physical fish with the disciples, but in a resurrected body.

### **GOD HIMSELF WILL DWELL AMONG HIS PEOPLE IN THE AGE TO COME**

Some of the key highlights in Joel 3:17-21 are related to how God will dwell with Israel, but again, the story is bigger. This gives us insight as to how He will dwell with people in the age to come. In the age to come, there will be people with natural bodies, those who survived the Tribulation period. They resisted the Antichrist and they didn't say yes to Jesus. They didn't go up in the rapture and they weren't killed in the Antichrist's judgments. Life will continue on the earth; they will be converted, but shall live out their natural lives. They will have children, and their children will have children, and their children will have children. There are people with natural bodies in the age to come. You'll have a resurrected body, but you'll interact with them as Jesus interacted with the apostles when He rose from the dead in Acts 1. For forty days He met with them in His resurrected bodies. They didn't have resurrected bodies. He taught them, they hugged each other, they ate together, they fellowshiped and it's that kind of dynamic we'll have with people with natural bodies in the age to come.

We'll be involved in the affairs of the earth. It's a very exciting reality; because it's not far away, no matter what. If you lived 100 more years, that's a minute from now either way it goes. Whether it's sooner or later, it's a minute either way it goes. That's the hope we have.

**THEY WILL ALL KNOW THE LORD, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST**

“So you shall know that I am the Lord your God” (Joel 3:17). In other words, “Israel, you will now be saved as a nation.” The whole nation will know the Lord. It’s more than just knowing the Lord; they will have intimacy with the Godhead. They won’t just serve the Lord, they’ll actually know Him. They will have dynamic family relationship. We’ll be sons and daughters of the Father, and collectively we’ll be the Bride of Christ, which has nothing to do with boyfriend and girlfriend relationships. What it means is that He will share His heart and we’ll be in full partnership with Him in governing the earth, in a deep connectedness at the heart level. “You shall know the Lord your God”: “You shall know that I am the Lord your God” and “You shall know Him” are both ideas presented over and over in the prophets. This is more than serving God, but you will know that He’s your God. Israel will be saved as a nation.

**JESUS WILL DWELL IN MOUNT ZION, AND JERUSALEM SHALL BE HOLY FOREVER**

But it’s more than that. Jesus will dwell “in Zion My holy mountain,” (Joel 3:17), literally on the physical mountain in Israel. He will live there; His throne of glory will be literally set up as a man. He’s fully God, but He’s fully Man, literally on a throne on Mount Zion, in the city of Jerusalem in the millennial kingdom. “Then Jerusalem shall be holy” (ibid). Currently Jerusalem is a sinful city, and has been for generations. “No aliens shall ever pass through her again” (ibid)—there will be no hostile, foreign armies.

“It will come to pass in that day that the mountains shall drip with new wine, the hills shall flow with milk, and all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water” (Joel 3:18)—instead of being in drought. “A fountain shall flow from the house of the Lord and water the Valley of Acacias” (ibid). Those are the Acacia trees just outside Jerusalem.

**“JUDAH SHALL ABIDE FOREVER, AND JERUSALEM FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION”**

“Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom a desolate wilderness” (Joel 3:19). This is during the Tribulation judgments. Egypt ends up with tremendous blessing in Isaiah 19, and tremendous status in the world in the millennial kingdom. Egypt and Edom will come under the judgments of God in the Great Tribulation because of the violence they committed against the people of Judah: “for they have shed innocent blood in their land” (ibid). They shed it not only in the land of Israel, they killed the Jews in their own homelands, in Egypt and Edom. Edom is, loosely speaking, the land of Jordan today.

“But Judah shall abide forever” (Joel 3:20). Jerusalem is the city, Judah is the surrounding area—the county or province, to speak. Most of you know that. Jerusalem is the city, and Judah is the area. It’s like a county, but bigger. That’s not what they call it in terms of our geography here. “Judah shall abide forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation” (ibid). The reason that’s so big is because Jerusalem and Judah have been on the verge of annihilation so many times. In the Great Tribulation, those final three and a half years, they will go to the very edge of annihilation. The prophet says, “Don’t worry, they won’t be destroyed; as a matter of fact, they’ll live under the favor of God forever and forever and forever. They’ll make it; God’s plan will work. No matter how close it gets, God’s promises will come to pass.”

Yet this promise is even bigger than Judah and Jerusalem. That principle is true in your life. There can be times when it looks like you’re at the very edge and it’s over. I tell you, if you say yes to the Lord, God will make a rebound, a recovery, and a reinstating of His blessing on your life. That’s what Judah and Jerusalem are a

picture of. If Jerusalem could be so wicked and on the verge of extinction, and then end up in such favor and blessing and security, then that's an insight into how God deals with human beings.

### **“I WILL ACQUIT THEM OF THE GUILT OF THEIR BLOODSHED”**

“For I will acquit them of the guilt of their bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; for the Lord dwells in Zion” (Joel 3:21). Jesus in Matthew 23:35-38 gives this most heavy statement to the city of Jerusalem. He says in effect, “O Jerusalem, you will be guilty of all the blood of all the martyrs in the whole world.” I'm paraphrasing, but it's this huge statement in which He assigned Jerusalem with bloodguilt. He said, “You're guilty of My blood and the blood of all the martyrs throughout history.”

Yet now it's a reversal: “You will be acquitted of the bloodguilt that the Messiah pronounced over you in Matthew 23:35-38.” He says, “You were not acquitted, but only for a season.” That's why they had been through so many judgments. He says, “Now I live in the city, the land is cleansed, you are My people, and the bloodguilt is answered. You have accepted the blood offering of My life; therefore the price is paid and the bloodguilt that was on you when you rejected My atonement is no longer on you—because as a nation you have accepted My blood atonement. Now there is One who pays for your sin.” What a powerful statement is being made there.

### **THE HEART OF LIFE IS GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE HE LOVES**

Roman numeral I. I went through that to give you the feel of where the passage is going. It starts off in verse 17, “You shall know that I am the Lord your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no alien shall ever pass through her again” (Joel 3:17).

Paragraph A, at the heart of this, what God wants them to know is that He wants the knowledge of God to flow between them. God wants more than servants; He wants them to know, “I am your God, and you will know Me, and I you. I want relationship.”

Paragraph B. Jesus will literally dwell in Zion in the millennial kingdom. Incidentally, in Zechariah 14:2, which we've looked at several times, we see that Jerusalem is surrounded by all the nations. Remember Zechariah 14:2: “The nations captured her” (paraphrased). They captured the city. Here Jesus wins it back; He has captured the city and He rules it forever. When Jerusalem is surrounded, we can take this statement and tell them with certainty, “Yes, you're captured, but only temporarily. There's the Captain of the armies of heaven. He's going to come and win the city back and live in it forever and pay the price for your sin with His own blood. Now you don't have to pay the price for your sin with your blood anymore by being under the judgment of God.”

This is the greatest privilege that a city could have. There's nothing like it. “The Son of God lives in your city forever? What?” What an amazing reality. This is one reason why the Devil is waging a battle against Jerusalem: because it's the city of the great King. From the very beginning, the Lord chose the city of Jerusalem to govern the earth and to bring His throne from heaven down to the earth, to the city of Jerusalem. That's why there's so much conflict over this city.

### **JERUSALEM, THE EPICENTER OF RIGHTEOUS LAWS AND WAYS**

Paragraph C. “Then Jerusalem shall be holy” (Joel 3:17). Why will Jerusalem be holy? Why? Number one, the presence of God will be in the city. The presence of God will be in all the cities of the earth to some measure,

but in Jerusalem in an unprecedented way. The leaders of the earth will journey to Jerusalem in the age to come. They'll learn the laws at the international conferences in which Jesus is the key note speaker in all the main sessions. They'll go back home with their syllabus and establish the laws in every realm of life: not just in the legal system, but in the economy, in the education, in the media; whatever they learn in Jerusalem from Him, they'll go back and in all the seven spheres of society establish it in their own place. Jerusalem will be the epicenter of righteous laws and ways.

### **THE CITY OF DREAMS, THE ETERNAL CITY, WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN JERUSALEM**

Not only that, there will be holy gatherings—*convocations* is the term used in the Bible. A convocation is when they gathered from all around for a holy purpose. Those convocations will take place in Jerusalem, the great, global feasts where the leaders of the nations will come and worship Jesus and have worship sets. Can you imagine the worship? Because there will really be worship with instruments and all that. Can you imagine what the worship sets will be like? Jesus is leading the ministry time and the teaching. He picked the worship team and the songs. That's a serious worship gathering. The city will be filled with holy people; everyone who lives in the city of Jerusalem will be radically committed to holiness and purity. It will be the city of cities; it will be the dream city. The city that all the nations have dreamed about will be fulfilled in that city.

### **THE REDEMPTION WILL SURPASS HER FAILURE, HER DEFILEMENT AND SIN**

Joel says, "Jerusalem shall be holy." We look at Jerusalem now: Jesus called Jerusalem, a harlot. Isaiah called Jerusalem a city of harlots, and the prophets throughout history proclaimed, "You're a harlot city, a city of murderers. You're an evil city, a wicked city." No matter how bad Jerusalem has become at different times, we can always say with the certainty of the Word of God, "The redemption will surpass your failure, your defilement and sin."

The same principle is true in our lives. No matter how far we went out, because no one has gone out farther than Jerusalem has gone out in darkness and sin. "She shall be holy." There's recovery. I can look at this and think of Jerusalem. I could apply this to every city of the earth that will call on the name of the Lord. If this is what God does to a city, this is what God has in His heart to do to people. He will do it for you; He will do it for your friend. Even for that one person who is so far gone, I tell you, there can be a recovery.

### **NO MORE SHALL FOREIGN ARMIES INVADE AND POSSESS THE HOLY CITY**

It says that there will be no aliens, paragraph D. No aliens shall pass through. At first, because the aliens would be Gentiles, you think, "Wait a second, I'm a Gentile! I was hoping to hang out a little in Jerusalem. I can't ever pass through?" He's not talking about Gentiles; He's talking about foreign armies. There will be no invasion, no military occupation. That's what it's talking about. The Bible makes it clear that the Gentiles will pass through Jerusalem, many, many times.

### **THERE WILL BE NO RAIN ON THE FAMILIES THAT REFUSE TO TRAVEL TO JERUSALEM**

As a matter of fact, if you look at paragraph E, God tells us in Zechariah 14:17, "It shall be that whichever families of the earth"—of the Gentiles—"do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts"—Jesus—"on them there will be no rain"—there will be no rain on that nation. This isn't just a hypothetical warning. There will be some people in the Millennium, people with natural bodies—those with resurrected bodies will never sin, so this isn't speaking of them. The nations will go on for another 1,000 years with natural bodies. They'll have children, their children will have children, they'll have school systems and the whole bit. You, with your resurrected body, will be interacting with cities and nations. Jesus says some saints

will rule them. They won't rule them disconnected from the people who have natural bodies, but in partnership. That's happening now in a different way. Right now there are angels and demons over cities and nations. Those angels are dynamically involved, and there's a conflict between the angels and demons. The only difference is that they're in the spiritual realm and we can't see them. In the age to come, the demons will be in prison. Angels and the saints with resurrected bodies will be openly seen. Those angels are here right now, but we don't see them. They're involved in the government of cities. If we pray, they're more involved; if we don't pray, the demons are more involved. Those personalities are involved over natural leaders. The reality of supernatural beings engaging in government in relationship with natural beings has been happening throughout all human history; that's not a new idea. The new idea is that the veil lifts and those natural leaders will be able to see the angels and the saints with resurrected bodies.

### **THE PEOPLE OF THE NATIONS WILL KNOW, LOVE, AND WORSHIP THE LORD**

But there are some people with natural bodies who haven't died yet, who don't have a resurrected body, but who love Jesus and are born again. They're born in sin; they have to get saved, but all the nations will get saved. In the environment of the earth at that time, there will be no pornography; there will be no drunkenness; there will be no this, that, and the other. There will be purity in the laws and society worldwide. People will still have sinful hearts and still have to choose the Lord, and the nations will in a dynamic way. In a very dramatic way, the vast majority, if not all, will say yes to the Lord. They'll still have pride in their heart and they'll still fall into sin and get tempted and need forgiveness and have to live in discipline. They'll talk to you and say, "What was it like when you had a natural body?" You'll literally be involved in ruling the nations by training them in righteousness. You'll even use your own story. You won't just rely on verses from the Scriptures; you'll actually tell them your own story. That's how I see it. Whatever is true, whatever you found to be true in your life is what you'll use to rule the nations: the testimony of what you experienced when you had a natural body and had to appropriate the grace of God.

I went way off the subject on all that, but it was fun. In Zechariah 14:17, we see that there will be some families of the earth who will say, "You know what, we don't want to go to Jerusalem. It's a long way away; we don't want to go all the way there for the worship festival at the Feast of Tabernacles."

The Lord says, "Well I think you do. Remember, I'm the Genesis 1 God. I'm a man, but I'm still God. I have power over the sun. Remember that transition time? The Great Tribulation, the sun, the stars, remember how I had power? I still have that power. If you don't come, if it's not a priority to you, there will be no rain in your geographic area." You can be sure that whatever families are holding out, they'll figure out who they are. Some people aren't going to like it if there's no rain in their area. There really is a dynamic relationship between obedience and the physical realm. Of course that relationship is true even now: When nations obey, there are physical blessings that hit nations. Yet it will be even more pronounced in the millennial kingdom.

### **"THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD'S HOUSE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED"**

The point I'm really making isn't all that—it's that the Gentiles will pass through Jerusalem. I went way off the subject. Here in Isaiah 2, we read that the Lord's house shall be established (Isaiah 2:2). That's the temple of the Lord; it will actually be built in the millennial kingdom. "All nations shall flow into it" (ibid). Many people will come, because out of Zion, or Jerusalem, will come forth the laws—the ways of God for government, for police enforcement: because there will be policemen, there will be law enforcement. Just like in society now, there will be the manifestation of sin. But it will be far lower and the standard of what's required will be far higher. We will have education, economics, media, transportation, sports, gardening, agriculture, science, media, just as we

do now. Only think, where will we be with technology 500 years into the millennial kingdom with Jesus teaching us about technology? Where are we going to be in twenty, thirty, forty years? Where will it go when the demons are out of the way and there's righteousness and creative wisdom flowing? In terms of people with resurrected bodies, where is technology going? Who knows? All I know is that the Gentiles will flow to the city of Jerusalem to get that information; that's the point I'm making.

### **SUPERNATURAL BLESSINGS ON THE AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK OF ISRAEL**

Top of page 142. Roman numeral II. Joel 3:18. Now Joel points to the agricultural blessing. He only highlights two dimensions of the agriculture, along with the livestock, in the whole realm of farming and food industry, so to speak. Whatever is true of these two categories would be true of the whole realm of food, and whether it's the cattle, whether it's the milk, whether it's the wine, whether it's the fruit trees, whatever the case, it's still true. "It shall come to pass in that day, that mountains shall drip with new wine" (Joel 3:18). Hills will flow with milk, and all the brooks of the Judah shall be flooded with water. "A fountain shall flow from the house of the Lord"—the temple in which Jesus has His throne—"and shall water the valley of Acacias" (ibid).

### **AN ABUNDANCE OF THE MILK-PRODUCING ANIMALS THAT GRAZE ON THE HILLS**

Paragraph A, Joel is prophesying the supernatural blessing on the agriculture and livestock in Israel. This dimension will happen worldwide as well. Israel is a prototype of the type of blessings God will be releasing. Remember, what God does in that age in fullness, He will do in part now. We know it's in His heart to bless these areas. Of course the reason it will go to this degree is because Jesus personally lives in the land. There will be no demonic interference; all the demons are in prison. What he's saying is that there will be exceptionally large grape harvests in the mountain regions. "The mountains shall drip with wine." Joel describes them as dripping: he means the production of the new wine will be so abundant; that's what it's talking about. He's using poetic language to say, "The grape harvest will be so dynamic on those mountain vineyards that it could be said it's flowing with wine." He doesn't mean it's flowing down the mountain in an open way. He's using poetic language to talk about the abundance of the grape harvest, but all the other types of harvests as well; *grapes* are just an example of that. Joel made the same point when he said the hills will flow with milk. He's talking about milk-producing animals like cattle and sheep. They will multiply at such a level, instead of having diseased flocks that are infertile, they will produce quickly and create a huge supply of milk. That's what he's talking about: those milk-producing animals that graze on the hills. There will be unusual quantities of milk, which means the livestock, the agriculture, all of it will be blessed of God. The other hundred areas that Joel could have picked out will be under the blessing of God as well.

Paragraph B. Amos made a similar point in Amos 9. He said, "Behold the days are coming... when... the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it" (Amos 9:13). Don't think of it as dripping; think of it as the vineyards being exceptional in their productivity. That's what Amos is talking about, agricultural blessing.

### **THE BROOKS OF JUDAH WILL FLOW WITH WATER, AND DROUGHT WILL BE NO MORE**

Paragraph D. The brooks of Judah will flow with water. That's a powerful reality. We don't think much in this moment in this hour of history here in America about drought, because there's modern technology that stirs and transports water. However, drought, I believe, is going to affect this nation and the nations of the earth. Drought will be a problem technology cannot solve. Modern technology has reduced the peril of drought because of storage and transportation of water, etc., but in Israel's day and even today, they have a greater problem with water supply than many other nations. In their history, the brooks of Judah were often dry because of drought

because of judgment. What Joel is saying is, there won't be drought. This was a huge problem that the people faced regularly, and they would die. If you had a drought in those days, you died. Like in other parts of the earth, particularly Africa, where people really do die of starvation because there's famine, there's disease, there are all kinds of things that come with a drought.

Paragraph E. This will be particularly important because in the final three and a half years, and even in the years before, as the birth pangs get more intense, there will be troubles in the water and agriculture, etc., in the area of Jerusalem and Judah. Look at what John says happens in that day. "They"—the two witnesses—"have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls" (Rev. 11:6)—for three and a half years. They're in Jerusalem and they do to Jerusalem what Elijah did. Because when Elijah was in Israel, he commanded the heavens and the rain stopped for three and a half years. It was a picture of what would happen at the end of the age. The two prophets will do the same thing. There are so many water problems going on in Israel during this period. Even when that drought is occurring, the prophetic Church can say, "Hang in there, because in a moment there will be an abundant water supply when the source of life Himself comes and lives in that city."

Another thing is that the water supply will be defiled by poison and by blood in the trumpets: In the third trumpet and in the third bowl the water will become poisoned or turned to blood. This is literal. Pure water will be a major issue, because for the final three and a half years of natural history, the water will be disrupted. People will still be able to drink, but it will be hard and it won't be an issue that they can just take for granted. It will be a blessing to have clean water in that hour.

### **"A FOUNTAIN SHALL FLOW FROM THE HOUSE OF THE LORD"**

Let's go to the top of page 143. Paragraph I. Joel said this: "A fountain shall flow from the house of the Lord and water the valley of Acacias" (Joel 3:18). A fountain of water will flow from the Jerusalem temple. Typically water flows from a well or from a river, but Jesus is going to build a temple. It says in Zechariah 6:12-13 that He Himself will build it. I don't know how a man with a resurrected body does that. Does He get people to hammer it? Because it will be a temple that has both a supernatural and a natural dimension to it on the earth. It will be the most glorious building ever built and it will be built under His leadership. It says in Zechariah 6:12 that He will build the temple at the very beginning of the millennial kingdom. He won't wave His hand and produce it; it will be built. That's the way He likes to lead the earth, through the partnership of His people obeying Him, and then anointing them to do it. This building will be the most dynamic building in history. This natural building will have a supernatural quality. Jesus' throne of glory will be in that building. We're talking about the eternal God. He's the uncreated God who became a man, there on His throne of glory. In Matthew 19:28 and 25:31 Jesus called it the throne of His glory. It's a pretty dynamic throne. It's not just a throne with some expensive gold adorning it; it's called the throne of glory. I don't know what's involved with it, but it's pretty intense. There will be a supernatural water supply coming out of that throne. It will water the Valley of the Acacias, which is right next to the city in the Kidron valley. But, as we shall see, it will reach out far beyond that.

### **"IN THAT DAY... LIVING WATERS SHALL FLOW FROM JERUSALEM"**

Paragraph J. Zechariah talks about this water. This water has a supernatural quality; it's natural but it has a supernatural quality as well. "And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem" (Zech. 14:8). We know it flows from the temple of Jerusalem, from Jesus' throne. It's related to that living water that flows from the throne of God in heaven; because in heaven, in the New Jerusalem, the water of life flows out of the throne through the city. In the millennial kingdom, down here on the earth, there will be a supernatural

quality in the water that comes out of the temple of the throne of God. There's a bit of mystery to it; we don't know how it works, we just know that it happens. In that day there will be living water, or water with a property of life that's unusual, the ability to impart life and to bring life. "Living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea" (ibid). Half of it will flow toward the Dead Sea; the other half will flow toward the Mediterranean Sea. When that water flows to the sea, it heals the sea and everything in the sea. That's good water!

### **LIVING WATER WILL FLOW INTO THE DEAD SEA AND RESTORE IT TO PLENTIFUL LIFE**

Look at Ezekiel 47, the famous passage that many of us have read through the years. This is the passage where the water flows in the millennial kingdom. It's talking about actual, physical water that has a supernatural quality to it, flowing from Jesus' throne to the earth. First it goes through the land of Israel, but it affects the earth.

Ezekiel says in verse 1, "There will be water flowing from under the threshold of the temple" (Eze. 47:1, paraphrased).

Then this angel says to Ezekiel, "This water will flow toward the eastern region and enter the Dead Sea. When that water reaches the Dead Sea, the stagnant dead water of the sea will be healed" (Eze. 47:8, paraphrased). This new water will heal the old water. "It shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live" (v. 9, NKJV). It will create life. "There will be a very great multitude of fish"—again, this is natural fish—"because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes" (ibid). This is physical water with a supernatural quality to it.

### **THE RIVER WHOSE STREAMS MAKE THE GLAD THE CITY OF GOD**

It goes on and on. My point is that in telling you what Joel is talking about, he only gives a sentence. He says, "A fountain shall flow from the house of the Lord," which means the temple. That fountain will go out, but Zechariah and Ezekiel go far beyond and develop that river in a far greater way. The point I want you to see is that this river is real; it's not figurative. You'll read some commentaries that say it's symbolic, and no, it's a real river. That river of life flows from the throne right now up in heaven in the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem is coming down to earth. Jesus' throne will have water flowing out of it.

The reason that's so exciting is because it tells us more about how dynamic this Man is and how great His plan is to restore the whole earth. When I read this, it just makes me like Him more. I read this and say, "You're so awesome: You're brilliant, You're powerful, You're scary, You're cool, You're everything. Look at You." That's what these verses do to me. It's not just me; if you look at Psalm 46:5, there's a river that will make everyone glad. I'm not the only one who's glad! Everyone will be glad when they understand the power of this river and the Man from whom this river comes, the Man who is responsible for this river. When it says, "There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God" (Ps. 46:5), that's talking about the Ezekiel 47 river that Joel says comes out of the house of God. It's not figurative; it's a real temple.

### **RESTORATION OF EGYPT AND DESTRUCTION PROPHESED ON EDOM**

Roman numeral III. What about the enemies? Joel only highlights two of the enemies. Because there are many, many nations that are enemies; they're different types of enemies. Egypt and Edom. Edom is in modern-day Jordan. During the Great Tribulation it will be a desolation, but so are Jerusalem and so are many nations of the earth. The Lord is saying that He will confront sin in whichever nation refuses to repent of it. There will be

national consequences for that nation. Egypt and Edom are very different. Egypt is a picture of a nation that resists the Antichrist. In Isaiah 19 and Daniel 11:43-44, Egypt says no to the Antichrist. The Egyptians don't want the Antichrist; they resist him, cause him trouble, and make him mad. Edom is in the favor of the Antichrist. These are nations in two very dramatically different categories. They both hated Israel throughout history. One of them resists the Antichrist and gets completely saved; that's Egypt. The other one, Edom, assists the Antichrist and is made totally desolate. It's two very different categories that Joel highlights here.

### **“BLOOD WILL HAVE BLOOD”: THE CALAMITY THAT BLOODGUILT INCURS ON A NATION**

The reason that there's national desolation is because of bloodguilt. Bloodguilt is so serious. The nations don't take bloodguilt seriously. One of the reasons Israel has had 2,000 years of desolation is because of bloodguilt. They haven't received the atonement of the Only one who can offer it. At their national salvation, when the Lord returns, they finally receive His blood as a nation. They don't have to pay the judgment of their sin. Egypt will do the same thing. Edom doesn't do it. Edom isn't the whole nation of Jordan, just a part of it. Ancient Edom was only a section of modern-day Jordan. We don't know how far this judgment on Edom goes in the age to come. We don't know that. The real point that Joel is making is that bloodguilt really matters. God remembers the blood; blood has to be answered. The blood cries out from the ground.

Lou Engle has one of the best messages on bloodguilt I've ever heard. The reason Lou gives it is because America is in big trouble with God because of bloodguilt. It's terrifying to me that fifty million babies have been killed in America. This isn't OK; it's a terrifying fact. Because the righteous and the unrighteous will be troubled; when there are both righteous and unrighteous people living in a nation, that nation will be shaken whenever there's bloodguilt at this level. I'm convinced that the Civil War was the fruit of the bloodguilt of the Americans against the African slaves. The Americans for 300 or 400 years, depending on how you trace it back, killed the slaves, or shed their blood, and God finally said, “America, the day is coming when you will answer in blood because you haven't cried out in repentance and asked for My blood to cover your national sins.” There were great revivals. Many believers died in the Civil War. Both the righteous and unrighteous are troubled when a nation is shaken because of bloodguilt.

### **THERE IS NO CHANCE OF ESCAPING BLOODGUILT APART FROM THE BLOOD OF JESUS**

That's what Joel is saying: Bloodguilt has a memory. It doesn't go away, unless there's repentance and the claiming of the blood of Jesus. Our national government must face this reality, or trouble is coming. You never want to just conclude we're at that level, but maybe we're at the level where the trouble is already coming because of bloodguilt. I think there's already trouble in the land. I think we can lessen its impact by continuing to cry out against this.

Then we ask, “But what about Israel?” Because while Israel hasn't killed as many people, Israel has killed the holy people through history. Israel has killed the prophets. The other nations, as a rule, just killed ordinary people; they didn't kill the servants of the Lord on whom God specially put His Spirit, those who had been given a message to deliver from the Most High, but Israel did that. They killed the Messiah. The Lord says, “How far will the bloodguilt go? I will acquit a nation if they'll turn to Me. I will forgive her the bloodguilt. For a season, yea, for 2,000 years, I hadn't acquitted her, but now she is acquitted because she has accepted Me.”

### **EDOM AND EGYPT WILL SHOW THE NATIONS THAT JESUS MUST BE OBEYED**

Paragraph A. Two of Israel's fiercest, most long-term enemies, Edom and Egypt. These nations are in two different categories completely. Their agriculture becomes desolate because of national sins, even though there

are godly people in those lands just as there are in every other nation. The righteous and unrighteous are troubled when there are national shakings. Just so you get the right perspective on the Egyptians, Isaiah 19:16-25 describes how gloriously God is going to redeem Egypt. It's a very dynamic passage. I've spent many hours in that passage, because it's not just about Egypt; it gives you insight into what God will do to a sinful Gentile nation, how far He will go in redemption. I say, "If that's the kind of God You are, You can do it for other nations; but if that's the kind of God You are, You'll do it for individuals as well." When I hear someone has gone too far, I say, "I don't know; look at how God treats these wicked nations. He gives them another chance, another chance, and another chance. He suddenly reverses all the negative and makes it positive.

Paragraph C. Egypt is a prototype of other nations. In other words, God says, "What I'm doing to Egypt is a picture of what I'll do to the Gentile nations." What happens to Egypt is going to happen to other nations, whether they disobey like Edom or obey like Egypt. Egypt and Edom serve as prototypes, as witnesses to other nations that Jesus must be obeyed.

### **ISRAEL WILL SURVIVE AND PROSPER FOREVER IN THE FAVOR OF GOD**

We come to the end here, to verses 20-21, this great crescendo, "But Judah shall abide forever" (Joel 3:21). You think she is on the brink of destruction, as she has been so many times throughout history, but she made it and it's forever. The Jews read that and say, "Ah, this is a great verse." Why? Because the Messiah lives there in that land forever and there will be nothing but favor for billions and billions and billions and billions of years. Favor!

Paragraph A. Though Israel's history is filled with judgment and military conflict, Joel assures them they will survive; they will prosper forever in the favor of God. We can comfort Israel according to the commandment of God in Isaiah 40: "Comfort Israel; comfort them" (Is. 40:1). We can tell Israel, "Though the trouble is real, though your bloodguilt is real, as is the bloodguilt of our nation, goodness is coming. Call on the name of the Lord, turn to Him, and goodness will come your way."

We need to prophesy these things to Egypt, to Edom, to Israel, these prototype nations that give us insight on how God will deal with all the nations of the earth. Amen.