

## **Session 14 Israel's Victory in the Millennial Kingdom (Joel 3:17-21)**

<sup>17</sup>*“You shall know that I am the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again.”* <sup>18</sup>*And 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; a fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Acacias.* <sup>19</sup>*“Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom a desolate wilderness, because of violence against the people of Judah, for they have shed innocent blood in their land.”* <sup>20</sup>*But Judah shall abide forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.* <sup>21</sup>*For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted; for the LORD dwells in Zion.”* (Joel 3:17-21)

### **I. ISRAEL WILL ENJOY INTIMACY WITH GOD**

<sup>17</sup>*“You shall know that I am the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again.”* (Joel 3:17)

A. In Joel 2:27, Joel quoted God’s promise to Moses that Israel would know God. This was spoken to Moses in the context of God delivering Israel from her oppressors by releasing ten plagues of judgment on the Egyptians. Joel again quotes this great promise. God wants His people to know of His desire to walk in an intimate relationship with them.

<sup>7</sup>*“I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.”* (Ex. 6:7)

B. Jesus will literally live or dwell in Zion—Jerusalem—in the Millennium with the Israelites. Joel emphasized this again in Joel 3:21. This is the greatest privilege that God could give Israel. After the Armageddon campaign, Jesus will win Jerusalem back from the Antichrist and make it a city devoted to God’s plan. Jesus will rule the earth from Zion during the Millennium.

C. Jerusalem will be holy because the presence of God will be manifest in it in an unprecedented way, because it will be filled with holy people, governed by holy laws that will be taught to all nations, and because it will host holy gatherings of people who come from all nations.

<sup>2</sup>*In the latter days...the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established...and all nations shall flow to it.* <sup>3</sup>*Many people shall come and say, “Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD...He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.* (Isa. 2:2-3)

<sup>16</sup>*It shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.* (Zech. 14:16)

D. No alien armies will ever pass through Jerusalem again in military conflict. However, Gentile worshipers will regularly pass through Jerusalem (Isa. 2:1-4; Zech. 14:16-18; Ps. 48:2-5).

## II. ISRAEL'S FULL MILLENNIAL BLESSINGS

<sup>18</sup>*And 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; a fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Acacias. (Joel 3:18)*

- A. ***Mountains shall drip with new wine:*** Joel prophesied supernatural blessing on the agriculture and livestock in Israel. He re-emphasized what he spoke of in Joel 2:21-27. This blessing will occur because Jesus will personally live in the land. There will be an exceptionally large grape harvest on the vineyards in the mountain regions. Joel describes them as dripping with new wine. This means that the production of new wine will be very abundant in those areas.
- B. ***Hills shall flow with milk:*** Joel makes the same point when he says that the hills shall flow with milk. In other words, milk-producing animals such as cattle and sheep will multiply on the luxuriant pastures in the hills of Israel. They will produce such unusually large quantities of milk that the hills are said to be flowing with milk.
- C. Amos also prophesied of the abundant grape harvest in Israel in the millennial kingdom. In the Millennium, there will be great agricultural abundance in Israel as well as other nations.  
<sup>13</sup>*“Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “When...the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it.” (Amos 9:13)*
- D. ***Brooks of Judah:*** They will be flooded with water (Joel 3:18). This will be a contrast to the brooks throughout Israel's history, which have often been empty due to drought.
- E. In the Tribulation, the water supply in Israel will be diminished as the two witnesses call forth drought (Rev. 11:6). The water will be defiled by poison and blood (Rev. 8:7-9; 16:4).  
<sup>6</sup>*These [two witnesses] have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy [3½ years]; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood. (Rev. 11:6)*  
<sup>10</sup>*The third angel sounded: and a great star...fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. <sup>11</sup>...And many men died from the water, because it was made bitter. (Rev. 8:10-11)*  
<sup>4</sup>*The third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers...and they became blood. (Rev. 16:4)*
- F. There will be blood flowing throughout the land of Israel, which will defile the agriculture.  
<sup>20</sup>*Blood...up to the horses' bridles, for 1,600 furlongs [184 miles]. (Rev. 14:20)*
- G. The fire that is thrown down from heaven will damage the agriculture (Rev. 8:5) and will burn the trees (Rev. 8:7). The sun will scorch men and agriculture with fire (Rev. 16:8; 7:16).
- H. Jesus will correct these problems in Israel's depleted water supply after He returns and heals the land. He will provide Israel with such abundant rainfall that the brooks will be flooded with fresh water. This will enrich the ground and cause the vegetation to be blessed.

- I. ***A fountain shall flow***: From the house of the Lord, the Jerusalem temple, a fountain of water will flow to water the Valley of Acacias. This water will cause the acacia trees to flourish. The Valley of Acacias probably refers to the acacia trees in the Kidron Valley.
- J. Zechariah prophesied that a river of “living water” would flow out from the temple to the Dead Sea. The “living water” speaks of water that is powerful enough to heal the defiled land from the effects of the fire, blood, and poisoned water supply that killed the agriculture.

***<sup>8</sup>In that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea [Dead Sea] and half of them toward the western sea [Mediterranean Sea]; in both summer and winter it shall occur. (Zech. 14:8)***

***<sup>1</sup>There was water flowing, from under the threshold of the temple [in millennial Jerusalem] toward the east...<sup>8</sup> Then he [angel] said to me: “This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea [Dead Sea]. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. <sup>9</sup>And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes...<sup>12</sup> Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.” (Ezek. 47:1-12)***

***<sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved... (Ps. 46:4-5)***

### III. GOD JUDGES ISRAEL'S PAST ENEMIES (EGYPT AND EDOM)

***<sup>19</sup>Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom a desolate wilderness, because of violence against the people of Judah, for they have shed innocent blood in their land...<sup>21</sup> For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted... (Joel 3:19, 21)***

- A. Two of Israel's most fierce and long-term enemies are Egypt and Edom (modern-day Jordan). The agriculture of Egypt and Edom will become desolate and parched during the Great Tribulation. Isaiah prophesied that Egypt will be blessed by God (Isa. 19:20-25).

***<sup>20</sup>It will be for a sign and for a witness to the LORD of hosts in the land of Egypt; for they will cry to the LORD because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them. <sup>21</sup>Then the LORD will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day...yes, they will make a vow to the LORD and perform it. <sup>22</sup>And the LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike [Joel 3:18] and heal it; they will return to the LORD, and He will be entreated by them and heal them. (Isa. 19:20-22)***

- B. This judgment on Egypt and Edom will happen because they shed the innocent blood of Israelites throughout their history and may do it more during the Great Tribulation.

- C. God will pay back the nations for bloodguilt, which speaks of taking the blood of innocent people by murder or war, etc. God will avenge the innocent blood of the Jews. In Joel's last prophetic utterance, he emphasized that God would not forget to pay back the unrepentant enemies of Israel. Jesus will do this from His throne in Jerusalem.
- D. The Egyptians and Edomites will become prototypes of God's judgment for the other nations that sinned against Israel. They will serve as a witness to all the nations in the Millennium that all must obey Jesus' government.

***<sup>18</sup>If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. (Zech. 14:18)***

***<sup>1</sup>Who is this who comes from Edom...traveling in the greatness of His strength...<sup>2</sup>Why is Your apparel red, and Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? <sup>3</sup>...“I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. <sup>4</sup>For the day of vengeance is in My heart...” (Isa. 63:1-4)***

***<sup>7</sup>“I will make Mount Seir [Edom] most desolate, and cut off from it the one who leaves and the one who returns. <sup>8</sup>And I will fill its mountains with the slain...<sup>9</sup>I will make you perpetually desolate, and your cities shall be uninhabited; then you shall know that I am the LORD.” (Ezek. 35:7-9)***

#### **IV. ISRAEL WILL BE BLESSED IN CONTRAST TO EGYPT AND EDOM**

***<sup>20</sup>But Judah shall abide forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. <sup>21</sup>...For the LORD dwells in Zion. (Joel 3:20-21)***

- A. Israel's history is filled with God's judgment and military conflict. Joel assures them that they will survive and will even prosper forever in God's favor. This will be an important prophecy to proclaim to Israel in the Tribulation, when Satan and the Antichrist will seek to annihilate Israel (Rev. 12). Judah's eternal existence as a blessed nation implies that they will always obey Jesus, thus, removing her reasons for being judged and annihilated like other nations will be.
- B. Jesus living in Jerusalem (Zion) is the ultimate vindication and privilege for Israel.