

Restoring the Years the Locusts Have Eaten

Joel 2:18-27
April 28, 2024

Covenant Theology revisited

Prophets were covenant prosecutors.

A return to the blessings of the covenant promised/guaranteed.

Prophets were also preachers of restoration.

God's Motivation for Restoration v. 18

Jealousy and Pity

Their relationship to God was restored!!

What is the Prophetic Perfect tense?

Do you stop and notice answers to prayer?

Grain, New Wine, and Oil will be Restored v. 19

To have sufficient food was a sign of God's blessing. *It still is.* (Deuteronomy 11:13-15)

The Garden of Eden will sustain your life again.

The Covenant Curse is Removed v. 20

The enemy from the north will be destroyed.

Locusts will divide into three groups and be destroyed.

Banishing Fear v. 21-24

From the Land

From the Beasts

From the Sons of Zion

What are the early and later rains? (Deuteronomy 11:13-15)

Rain given for your vindication, what does that mean?

Grain, new wine, and oil restored in abundance. (Psalm 104:15; Jeremiah 31:12)

Full Restoration Assured v. 25

Restoring the years the locusts have eaten.

Upon repentance; a restoration is promised.

God is going to bless and it will more than make up for the past.

Never be put to shame.

Meditation

A Prayer for Hope. For those in desperate need of it.

Heavenly Father, My hope is faint today. Help me. Help me to endure when I feel no hope. Forge a hope-producing character in me. Do not let me be ashamed. By Your Scriptures, give me hope and grant that I would be saved by hope. "My hope is in the Lord who gave Himself for me" – help me to believe that. Today. Right now.

Lord, You are my hope. I am so often sorely tempted to look for hope in something, someone, anything else. But, by Your grace, make me to hope only ultimately in You. When You saved me, when You gave me new life, when I was born again by the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit, I was born to hope. I need that hope, more than ever, as an anchor for my soul today. I need to enter into the inner sanctuary, where my Savior has gone before, and to know the presence and favor and communion of the One who is my hope. My only hope.

Remind me again, and teach me to believe, and live out the gracious truth and reality that Christ in me gives me the sure and certain hope of glory. Don't allow me (fickle as my heart is) to shift my soul's hope away from the hope of the Gospel.

"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand. His oath, His covenant, His blood support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand."

Lord, I need to believe that now. But my faith is weak and my strength is small and the fire is almost out. I hang by a thread, but that thread is of Christ's spinning. Do not let me go. The full assurance of hope until the end. How inestimably precious that phrase. How comforting the prospect. Make me earnest to seek and find and have and hold it. All by Your grace.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Ligon Duncan