

**Joel 2:28–29**  
*The Day of the Spirit*



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**Main idea:** The day of the locusts, the day of repentance, and the day of restoration all looked forward to the coming day of the Spirit—when there would be an outpouring of gospel grace, and God’s people of all sorts from all nations would have His Word and both understand and use it to announce salvation in Christ.

<sup>28</sup> “And it shall come to pass afterward  
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your old men shall dream dreams,  
Your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup> And also on My menservants and on My maidservants  
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

**Introduction:** Who can endure the great and very terrible day of the Yahweh? Can you? How does salvation in the Day of Yahweh come? This passage tells us about an age of salvation that is coming, and we are in it. The question is: are you being saved? This salvation comes...

1. **By God’s Spirit, v28b.** The repentance of the heart (v12), that responds to Yahweh’s grace (v13), by calling upon Yahweh’s Name (v32), is a work of the Holy Spirit.
2. **By a pouring out on all flesh, v28b.** Not just a trickle but a pouring out. Not to a narrow cross-section of Adam’s children but to all flesh. Jew and Greek, young and old, male and female, slave and free.
3. **By the Word, v28c–29.** Note the words ‘prophesy’, ‘dreams’, and ‘visions’. The Lord spoke to the fathers at many times in many ways (cf. Heb 1:1). But in the last days, He has spoken to their children by His Son (Heb 1:2).

The coming of Christ and completion of the Scriptures puts a slave-girl’s covenant child, with an open Bible, in a better position than the prophets of old. When the apostle explains the phenomenon of tongues at Pentecost, he announces the gift of repentance and the Spirit that is for believers and their children. Not all were called to be apostles then, just as not all are called to be pastor-teachers then or now.

But the work of the Spirit is for all. Giving us the Word. Giving us light to respond to it. Employing us in one another’s salvation. Filling us and making His Word to dwell in us richly, etc. But especially in granting unto us repentance and making us to call upon the name of Yahweh.

**Conclusion:** How have you availed yourself of the day of the Spirit?

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

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As we come now to worship God in the hearing of His word preached. Invite you to turn in a copy of the word of God to Joel chapter 2. Verse 28 through 32. Joel chapter 2. Verse 28 through 32, let us ask God for His help.

Lord. Who have appointed to all men the times and boundaries of their dwelling. We thank you for giving us. To live in the time. Of the age of your spirit. The pouring out of your spirit the calling upon your name. The age of your church.

And we pray that you would help us now. That. He would give light. To our hearts to our minds. That by this illumination we might see and know. What your word teaches. That we might see Christ. And the great day of his atonement and resurrection. And that we might see the greatness of the gospel day in which you have made us to live.

Help your servant we pray.

Grant that the preaching would be faithful. So that we who have come not to hear the voice of a man. But to hear our good shepherd whom you have made us to know. That we might hear him who speaks from heaven not only him who speaks on earth.

We pray that in that spiritual warfare that takes place. When the enemy comes to snatch the seeds away. Or to dry them up or to choke them out. That your spirit would grant victory this day. That we would hear well and that the seed would go in deeply and that it would find good soil.

And that you would help us to put away the the thoughts. That come with the troubles of this life and the pleasures of this world. That we would not be hindered. From having sown in us the good seed of our Lord Jesus.

That your spirit would make that seed to bear fruit. By making it take root. Help us in this marvelous part of the worship with which you have given us to magnify your name. In which also we ask it amen. And it's rise.

Joel chapter 2. Verses 28 through 32, these are the words of God. And shall come to pass afterward. That I will pour out my spirit. On all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your old men shall dream dreams your young men shall see visions. And also online men's servants and on my made servants.

I will pour out my spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens. And in the earth. Blood. And fire. And pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness. And the moon. Into blood.

Before the coming of the great. And awesome day of Yahweh. And it shall come to pass. That whoever calls on the name of Yahweh shall be saved. For in Mount Zion. And in Jerusalem. There shall be deliverance. As Yahweh has said. Among the remnant. Whom Yahweh. Calls. Come in thus ends this reading of God's inspired and inherent word were rejoiced to know that he promises to add his blessing to it, please be seated.

We heard about the locust plague. That was looking forward to that great and very terrible day of the wrath of the lamb but just the locust plague in verse 11 Yahweh gives voice before his army for his camp is very great for strong as the one who executes his word the day of Yahweh is great and very terrible.

And that passage concluded with this question. Who can endure it. Who can endure the day of the wrath. Of the Lord. Well it expected the answer it implied the answer no one. That's why he went on and verses 12 through 17 to say turn to me. Because only in the Lord Himself is there the ability to face the day.

Of the wrath of the Lord. But if that was true with respect to the locust plague. How much more is it true with respect to that great and very terrible day of the Lord that will be hearing about next Lord's Day in chapter 3. When the next couple of Lords days in chapter 3 that very great and very terrible day of the Lord that we heard about in our call to worship just this morning when the day of the wrath of him who sits on the throne and of the lamb had come.

And the through can endure it was not anyone on earth. Not anyone without the land. Now anyone without God even if you were a king even if you were wealthy even if you were almighty warrior. You say oh a social justice the the great ones are being destroyed and he says no.

They're the slaves. There's no no condition of man no power of man, no resources a man no status of man. By which he can endure. The great and very terrible day of the Lord. And so this passage before us this morning answers that question. With another great day of the Lord.

A day of the Lord in which whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved because the phrase the day of the Lord is being used about a lot of different days in the Book of Joel.

It's being used about the day of the locusts. And it's being used about the day of repenting before God because of the locusts and is being used of the day of the restoration that God would give and it's being used in our passage this morning of the day of the atonement of Jesus Christ.

That brings in the day of the pouring out of the spirit and the day of the spread of the gospel to all nations and the giving of the light of the spirit to understand the word of God and the privilege in the spirit of speaking the word of God in his church.

And that's the day that we are in. We're here this morning the Holy Spirit has been poured out and on Pentecost, he is still being poured out upon the nations. Men and women and boys and girls are being given eyes to see and ears to hear and hearts to understand we have a completed Bible many of us with them on the desk in front of us or in our lap right now our houses filled with them, there's gospel preaching.

There's the gathering of the church. If you have been singing this morning. You have been prophesying admonishing one another with the word of Christ that dwells in us richly as the spirit who has been poured out upon us even fills us by the mechanism of one to another admonishing one another with the word of God in song.

In a moment we're going to gather at the table and many of us will eat the bread and drink the cup and proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. All of us who have come to God by faith in Jesus Christ together this morning have gone into not only the whole of holies on earth.

But that holy of holies and glory of which the one on earth was just a shadow copy. And we have all them and not just once a year and with confidence and boldness by the blood of Christ knowing that our resurrected redeemer sits on the throne. And that he himself is the mercy seat so that there's no box there's a lamb on the throne.

So of all the days of the Lord. That the Book of Joel talks about. You and I. Want to pay careful attention this morning because we're in one of them. We're in this one. In this chapter. So the question. Who can endure it is whoever calls upon the name of the Lord.

Therefore if there is salvation, that is possible and the question is who can be saved. Then for each of you personally individually. The question must be or you saved. Are you saved in the way that this passage describes? God giving sinners salvation in the great and very terrible day of the Lord.

Now there are many things that this passage tells us about the salvation of God many enough that. We probably will have to finish this portion of Scripture next week with God helping us will do as much as we can. First that that salvation comes by God's spirit. Second that this salvation comes by a pouring out.

Of His Spirit that is on all flesh and so it's not just a day of God's Spirit but a day of this gospel flood as it were. Second or third that it is by the pouring out of God's Spirit on all flesh giving us understanding of His word. Giving us understanding of His word and the privilege of telling.

His word. Fourth that the salvation comes by God in the midst of Israel. Having atoned for her on a cross or atoning for her on a cross. Fifth and the most obvious one, but one that Nessus needs some necessary opening up and understanding the old in light of the new.

That this salvation comes by calling upon the name of the Lord and recognizing who that Lord is. Sixth that the Salvation comes in the context of the church seventh that it comes as prophesied and promised by the Lord Himself and finally. That it comes to those whom the Lord has selected and therefore whom the Lord effectually calls.

First then he says and it shall come to pass afterward. So the day of the Lord in which the the Lord has brought his people to repentance by sending the plague of locusts by calling them to repent by giving them that repentance and by restoring them. That's where we are so far in the book of Joel right he sends a flag of Locust he announces to them that they are to wake up he calls them to repentance he gathers them, they do repent and then he restores them.

And then he says at the end of verse of last week's passage, then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel. I am know how your God there is no other my people shall never be put to shame and he says and it shall come to pass afterwards.

There is another day coming of which the restoration that God gives Israel and their repentance and his response to that repentance is a small picture a foreshadowing. There's another day coming and it shall come to pass. After. World that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh your sons and your daughters so sons and daughters is there's a way of talking historically about the future in the Old Testament but especially this at shall come to pass afterward he's teaching them to hope for and expect another day and when the the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost and you remember they start preaching the gospel of the kingdom and they're preaching and languages that they don't.

Know so that there's Jews who are gathered in Punta Cost for one of those three feasts of the year that they're supposed to be in Jerusalem from all of these different lands and each of them, here's gospel preaching and his own language but it's nine in the morning and they say they're drunk Peter gets up and he says yeah, even the drunkiest drunk has a hard time making it there by nine in the morning these men are not drunk as you suppose.

The day of Joel chapter three has come. You see they would have known this as Joel chapter three the passage that we had before us and this morning is in the Hebrew Bible the Hebrew understanding a passage on its own now when the numbering was done later there had been a divergence and the the numbering that comes down to us comes with this being the last portion of Joel chapter 2, and we only have three chapters in Joel.

But in the Hebrew mindset these five verses were their own chapter and they have four chapters in the book of Joel this stood out to them this was a day to which they were looking forward a day

that they were wondering about this great restoration that had happened in Joel's time which we don't even know what time it was was especially looking forward to a greater restoration.

And so when Peter stands in the day of Pentecost and he says, it's Joel three times. He's not just giving an explanation of the fact that this isn't drunken, you know, lucky gibberish. In which you know, they're just babbling drunks and accidentally preaching the gospel in multiple languages. He's not just giving an explanation of verbal phenomenon.

He's announcing the arrival of an age of the spirit and an age of the gospel going out to all flesh and an age of the proclamation that Jesus Christ is Lord. To the glory of God the Father. And then age in which they can believe in their hearts and confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord and that an age in which everyone who calls on the name of this Lord.

Shall be saved. That's the glorious message of the day of Pentecost. It's saying. The spirit is being given that the repentance of heart that the spirit must give. Now therefore verse 12 now therefore says Yahweh turned to me with all your heart and the responding to Yahweh's grace recognizing that Yali is gracious and merciful and slow to anger and of great kindness you hear those who heard the sermon on the day of Pentecost and they call out what shall we do to be saved?

He says repent and be baptized and you receive the Holy Spirit. So the Holy Spirit hasn't just come to produce the preaching that you hear of the Lord Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit has come to produce the repenting that you read of in jaw chapter 2. The Lord has sent himself not furious in the day of the Lord that came with the cross.

He is furious, but in the cross, he has sent himself not merely furious, but especially merciful and gracious the time of repenting has come. The spirit gives that repentance. So the repentance of heart that responds to the Lord's grace by clawing upon the Lord's name is a work of the Holy Spirit.

It shall come to pass afterward. I will pull up my Spirit on all flesh and what will the result be of the Poland out of the Spirit. Well in the preaching of the world and the illumining of hearts and the giving of repentance. The giving the faith in Jesus Christ, the result will be the result of the pulling out in verse 28 will be the calling on the name of verse 32 that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

So this salvation comes. By God's spirit. That means it doesn't come by your spirit. That means that the new birth doesn't come by blood that doesn't come by water, it doesn't come by your will it doesn't come by the way of another. There's nothing I can do to will you into being born again into believing in the Lord Jesus Christ?

But it does come by the will of God. God the Holy Spirit and so you might be sitting under these sermons weak by weak or maybe it's by now. And you hear about these these rejectings and hatings of your sin and these these see the love of God and Jesus Christ to who loved the world so much that he gave his son or the love of God the son who loved us so much that he gave himself up for us he laid down his life for us.

And it's never moved the needle for you you've never hated your sin you've been amused at the man who speaks so earnestly about it, you've you've never seen an embrace the Lord Jesus. You sit there with a sneaking suspicion that it's all just put on. There's still hope for you.

Because this salvation comes not by what you've been doing so far and not by what I've been doing so far, these are just means that preaching and hearing our means. But it is the spirit who gives the salvation.

And we cry out to him to give it. And you may cry out to. And find that he is giving it. The salvation comes in the first place by God's spirit and second place by a pouring out on all flesh, there's marvelous expansion language here. You see no one has ever believed in the promised Messiah.

Except by the work of the Holy Spirit. A dead man can't hope and the promised Christ any more than a dead man can hope in the Christ who has already come and died and risen again. The Holy Spirit was active throughout the Old Testament.

And yet. And yet it seems that we see so few. Who are genuinely converted. In the Old Testament they are a great many but comparatively few. And even then it was to this narrow slice of humanity, wasn't it? This. Numerically, you know, small for the most part a couple of spikes and population or power.

Ethnic group. In Palestine ancient. Erased. Now he says, I will pour. My spirit on all flesh not just a trickle but a pouring out not just to a narrow cross section.

Jew and Greek young and old male and female slave and free. The apostle there is is not talking about. A cultural accommodation of the message. The message itself is culturally accommodated because it is a salvation for all not just Jews. It is a salvation for all not just young grow old.

It is a salvation for all not just male or female. It is a salvation for all not just slave or free. Absent and fallen short of the glory of God. And the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved. The all is in the sin and in the gift and in the atonement and in the forgiveness and in the glory.

So that you don't modify the message. But you proclaim a message that needs no modification. Because it applies to all.

Comes for the pouring of. On all. Flesh Salvation that comes by God's spirit of salvation that comes by pouring out on all flesh a salvation that comes especially by the word. Note the verbal revelation language. To come to pass afterward. I'll pour out my spare all flesh your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.

Your old men shall dream dreams your young men shall see visions. So this prophesying and dreaming and visions many times in many ways. Has God spoken to his people. What when the scripture tells us about the coming of Christ and his attorney for sin and his. Rising and descending and sitting down at the right hand of God.

He says the many different ways time is over. There's a better thing that has come. He has spoken to us in these last days by his son. A son who speaks by apostles and who promises his apostles and John chapter 16 that the coming of the Holy Spirit would lead them into all the truth.

He tells them in John chapter 16, there are things that remain to be said that you can't bear now but the spirit will come and he will tell you the things that remains the promise of a completed revelation, there's the promise of a completed Bible and there's a fulfillment of prophecies and dreams and visions that is better than prophecies and dreams and visions.

It's a completed scripture in your life with the Holy Spirit given you the ability to understand it right in the heart and in the mind. So that God doesn't need the wise God doesn't need the philosopher he chooses those that are foolish to shame them because he gives spiritual words to a spiritual people and the apostle Paul when first Corinthians is saying that the day of Pentecost answers in not a day of the multiplication of forms of revelation.

But where the covenant daughter of a slave girl in Corinth. Is superior in the history of the revealing of the word of God is in a superior position. To the prophets of old. Who wondered about whom the spirit of Christ was speaking. And about when the Spirit of Christ was speaking.

And she knows Jesus and she knows when.

God saves by his word because he saves by his son, he doesn't say by the feelings that you get of of an experience at a point in time in your life. He saves by sending his son coming as his son God with us Emmanuel the virtually seven God in the midst of Israel and he came at a particular time and he lived a righteous and obedient life and he died an attorney death.

And he swallowed up the wrath of God.

He was not consumed the wrath was consumed. He rose again from the dead. And he is sitting right now at the right hand of the Majesty on high and there is an historical day coming. These are truths about a reality and you believe in Jesus by means of words that are factual.

The historicity of it matters the feel logical accuracy of understanding what those words mean matters. And a fool without repentance in faith without the Holy Spirit making the plain word of God clear to him may multiply PhDs and do all the archaeology in the world and get advanced degrees in ancient near eastern languages and study all that the theologians have written in Latin and German and French.

Over a thousand years. And may be further from knowing Jesus Christ as God who died for you. Then you children in this room who have a completed Bible in your lap. And not just mommy and daddy telling you that Jesus is God who died for you but you've come to believe that in your heart because God the Holy Spirit whom Jesus gifts, not just to old.

But to young not just to girls but the boys not just the boys, but girls. Jesus gives that spirit. He has poured out this. Says the apostle. And he does it by his word. We come and we read and we preach and we hear preaching in part first and foremost always the best answer to the why question because Jesus said so.

But one of the reasons he said so. Is because he uses the words of his completed Bible. To make you to know him. And to trust in him. So that he will be yours his sacrifice yours for wiping out your sin his righteousness yours for earning your standing with God your heaven.

And so the day of salvation today of this pouring out of an all-flash of God's spirit who saves by his word. He even uses you doesn't he? You don't in an ecstatic moment outside of yourself beside yourself moment, that's ecstatic means, you know, start channeling new words from the God the Holy Spirit why?

Because you've already got all the words. The God the Holy Spirit has for his church. All these prophets and people who spoke in tongues and maybe had a word of marriage yeah first Corinthians 13 or 14 back into 12, they all had little pieces they all had part. The whole has come.

And so you learned Psalm 23, some of you 23 is your favorite some of you 32 is your favorite some of you the last section of 119 is your favorite some of you 98 is your favorite we get a whole list of favorites and the other saw and the other building, don't we?

God the Holy Spirit gives to you to sing his word and he admonishes your mom and dad and he admonishes your elders and your pastor. And he gives us repentance and faith together as we allow another with his word from a completed Bible.

And then you have those who call themselves Pentecostals or call themselves scarismatics. And it's so small and so partial. And it doesn't have what they. Believe in doesn't have the authority and the power and the repentance getting in the fifth giving and the salvation giving. So that we sing to one another Psalm 32.

And we call again together upon the name of the Lord. Who gives repentance to those whose bodies and life is drying up inside themselves. And we admit sin we confess it and we trust in Jesus and we sing of the joy that we will have together forever with Him.

And we call upon the name of the Lord.

What is a good break between verse 29 and verse 30. Pick it up next week. This is the day of salvation. This is a day in which there's not just a trickle but the pouring not just on the Jews but on all flesh. Not just on those who are old and aged and in their context before we had this learned behavior of thinking of the olders as tools and the young as wise God help our help us when he says old and young says you don't have to be all you know, one of these old wise geezers who yeah the the wispy beard in the wind God gives his wisdom even to little children even to the young.

By his spirit. This is the age that's being described here, you're in it.

But there are many in this age who don't call upon the name of the Lord. There are many in this age who dress up body for church, but not heart. There are many in this age who don't turn from their sin, but feel okay about it. There are many in this age who have learned to use the name of Jesus as a talisman or a charm but haven't realized the greatness of the mercy of God in Jesus Christ, and so have not turned for that great saving love.

This is the age of calling upon the name of the Lord and being saved.

But the scripture also defines. What that calling upon the name of the Lord looks like. Pray the Holy Spirit. That. He who has given us the Word would give you the light. Would make you to see your sin. Make you to see your danger. Make you to see His love.

So that you have all upon the name of the Lord Jesus. And be saved. Amen. Let's pray.

Lord we thank you. That even though we do not even know when Joel lived. We may know that the great things that you did in his day. Were because of the greater things that you would do in the day of Christ. In the day of the Spirit. In a day of the Spirit that continues even now.

And we pray Holy Spirit to. Fulfilled the promise of the Lord Jesus.

And the telling of those things that remain. That you would lay hold of our hearts and our minds and give us light remove our barriers. Grant that we would not be those wise of the world. Who are foolish unto perishing.

We'll holy spirit we have. Spoken to and thought of the children much. But we confess that many of us are older and in sat patterns and in some ways it's much more difficult for us because of what we think we know. But you are all powerful. And so we pray that you would give us light that you would give us life.

That you would make to shine in our hearts through the plains speaking of the truth the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

And Grant that Christ would be glorified not only in the preaching and in the hearing but now in what we do with that word. For we ask it in his name. Amen.