

Joel 2 – The Arc of Redemption

No Change, Loonies Only

The Book of Joel is an invitation to change & transformation.

We know little of when it was written and the details of Joel's life.

But this prophesy is a timeless one.

It follows a very simple story line that can be expressed by four movements.

Desolation, Return, Restoration, Grand Finale

Desolation (v1-11)

Bad times,

Locust Hoards

Assyrians?

Suffering, devastation.

There is always a reason for suffering – sin.

Our own sins, the sins of others, the systemic bondage.

A Life, a world, a society devoid of God.

Or even worse, one of self-righteous religion or secular morality.

God opposes the proud for the proud vie with God.

And so we suffer and cause others to suffer.

It is the way of our world.

Lament.

Return (v12-17)

Repentance

A desire to turn to God.

A cry for him.

Letting go of your control or illusions.

To confess your brokenness, your sin, your desolation and your need.

To be undone.

To admit it and to want forgiveness, redemption, mercy, grace, salvation.

To want it with all your heart to cry and weep for it.

Rend Your heart.

It is the greatest risk you take.

Restoration (v18-27)

Renewal, refreshing, healing, courage, comfort, rest, peace, contentment, strength.

But most of all, you will know God.

None of this pretend religion, the trappings of power and meaning.

Intimacy, favour, awe.

Grand Finale (v28-32)

This is a repeated pattern through the ages: Desolation, Return & Restoration.

Every age, every people and every person.

And there is a divide between those of the Kingdom, the redeemed and those who are not, the lost.

The curiosity of this is that those of the Kingdom will always love the lost, while many of the lost will either ignore and deny the Kingdom at best or mock and hate it at worst.

Whatever it is, there will be a finale when the cycles end.

The border between the two sides will no longer be porous.

It is a great day because justice will be served.

It will be a terrible day because justice is served.