

**Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 2006: Review of OT books: Joel: Sign; Salvation; Spirit: 2:12—32**

**The book of Joel.....not easy.....Present it as the book of the 3 S's**

**Just finished**....Jeffrey Archer → **9/11** immediately knew what he meant...Twin towers

**Following on from that terrible day**.....Lot of spiritual soul searching<sup>(whole world)</sup>  
(pic on overhead)  
**and many preachers in USA**....were saying it was a sign....Should act on b4 too late

**All very interesting**.....BUT what does it have to do.....book of Joel  
Well the Prophet Joel ..... 835 bc.....Does something very similar

**His country**

Was experiencing a most dreadful time

A plague of locusts was decimating the land...and a great famine...adding to destruction

**Look at Joel 1:2-4.....6-7.....**

**Locust** is a very large grasshopper.....and I do recall isolated plagues in Australia  
(broke windows...blotted out the sun...)

Joel further describes this Army of Locusts in chapter 2...Patterson v3—11

**The situation was so bad in Jerusalem.....that it was affecting the sacrifices  
1:9 says.....**

It was also affecting the drunkards whose supply of new wine was hugely depleted  
**Patterson paraphrasing 1: 5 writes.....**

**So the prophet Joel.....inspired by the Spirit.....**points to this natural disaster  
And proclaims it as a **SIGN**.....of God's anger at His people.....

**He calls upon the Elders**....the Drunkards....Priests....farmers

To see this natural catastrophe.....as a warning of the Day of the Lord

**This is a SIGN that we are travelling in a dangerous direction**

It's a chance.....for us to change our ways.....b4 the ultimate in judgment comes

**THE NT tells us often**.....that before the final day of Judgment.....Signs will abound  
Jesus even quoted from this book of Joel.....when He talked about the signs.....  
Would precede His Coming again

**We see such signs today**.....as wickedness and evil seem to be escalating  
**Yet**....even as it was in the days of Joel.....  
**Many may say how concerned**....but fall into the trap of thinking there is nothing...can  
do

**But as the book of Joel goes on to show**.....There is something each person can do  
And it begins with the Priests.....the religious ones....and spreads to all the people  
**IT IS THE** seeking from God His Salvation

**FOR GOD'S SALVATION.....is the second "S" in the book of Joel**  
SIGN then SALVATION

**Look at 2:12-17**.....

Can you honestly say that you personally have done just that  
Are you earnestly praying for others...to do so too

**You see the signs**.....**What are you doing to stay close to the Lord**.....  
And to help others gain His Salvation.

**Joel could see God's Salvation** .....just so close to the Nation.....

He talks about it in glorious terms in 2:18-27 :

**In regard to it** he uses that wonderful phrase in v25 where the Lord says

*I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten*

*Such a promise....shows us so much about the love of God.....shown in Salvation  
I have known several.....come to Jesus so regretful.....*

**What Joel did not realize**.....That this Salvation.....seemed so near.....

**Would not come in all its fullness**.....till God's Son came to earth.....

.....in order to bear the judgment that wrongdoing against.....deserves

**But what the Lord allowed Joel to see**.....was the new experience for God's people  
...that this coming Salvation would bring about

**FOR THE THIRD “S” IN THE BOOK OF JOEL.....STANDS 4 SPIRIT**  
SIGN                      SALVATION                      SPIRIT

**In a passage quoted by Peter.....**God says through Joel ....2:28—32.....

**The fulfillment of this promise.....**brought Joel’s 3 “S”s together again

The coming of the Spirit was a definite sign

Salvation was available that day for all.....and 3000 took that step then....millions since

**And esp.....The coming of God’s SPIRIT.....**is itself a sign...**Day of.....**next event...

**A Day when....** As Joel goes on to explain in chapter 3.....

God’s judgment will fall.....on the Nations and people who have .....

**What Joel writes about** ... the pouring out of God’s Spirit...is awesome....

**Esp** seeing he was an OT prophet.

**It would not be just on priests.....**men...But upon all...

**Joel predicted a Revolution in terms of relationship...between.....**

**We today....are more blessed than Joel.....**in that we are part relationship revolution

**As believers in Christ....**each of us has received

**But what Joel didn’t realise.....**is that God would allow us hinder the working

**You know you can grieve the Spirit.....**Are you making the Spirit sad

**You can quench the Spirit.....**is He seeking to lead you.....

**But the best thing....we can seek more of His filling**

