

Double Blessings of Joel

Quick Reference Guide

Purpose of the Time of Double Blessing

Joel 2:12-14 is a call to repentance and turning to God with all your heart because "...who knows? He may turn and relent and leave a blessing behind Him SO YOU CAN OFFER GRAIN AND WINE TO THE LORD YOUR GOD." The Time of Double Blessing is not about you and the things that you want or even need. It is about allowing God to bless you in excessive and miraculous ways for one purpose only – so that you can bring offerings to Him and Glorify His Holy Name.

The month of Elul is a time to pray for guidance; a time to hear the Lord speak of the gifts He has prepared for you. What gifts are waiting for you to desire them and believe Him enough to ask for them? What gifts, when added to those you already possess, will most increase your ability to glorify Him?

Do Not Come Empty-Handed

It is so human of us to get excited about blessings and forget that we are never to come before the Lord empty-handed. (Exodus 23:15)

When Jesus turned over the tables of the money-changers, He was indicting the open greed practiced within the temple walls. He never spoke against the offerings themselves, even though He knew they would soon be replaced by His own Offering.

Cain's choice offering was rejected because it was not the prescribed blood-offering of God's choosing. Yet the blood of calves and lambs is not mentioned in Joel's account. Instead, God required the offering of fasting and repentance. During the time of Elul, as you ask the Lord what gifts He wants you to request, ask also what gifts He wants you to bring. He may even impress you that the gift should be given somewhere other than your local church. Just remember not to come empty-handed.

Seven Areas of Blessings

1. Double Blessing
 - a. Joel 2:23
 - b. The former rain and the latter rain
 - c. Former rain is smaller blessings, enough to provide a seed for sowing and to watch it sprout.
 - d. Latter rain is a full-on harvest blessing, some five-fold, some ten-fold, some a hundred-fold
2. Financial
 - a. Joel 2:24
 - b. Harvest floors full; wine and oil vats overflowing
 - c. Grain Harvest Blessing is direct from the hand of God, with no human intervention other than nurturing the grain to harvest and then gathering in the blessings

- d. Wine and Oil Blessings require human ingenuity and effort, taking the grape and the olive that God provides and using the excess to create related but different blessings...all will overflow
3. Restoration
 - a. Joel 2:25
 - b. Restore the years that the locust ate
 - c. The Nation of Israel brought the plagues of locust upon themselves by blatant and repeated disrespect of God and disregard for His Commandments. Yet He still offered restoration.
 - d. If the Pillar of Fire says it's time to move on, then it is time. Don't let guilt, shame, regret, pride or independence keep you from receiving the restoration He promises. If you can't bring yourself to accept restoration, how ya gonna accept salvation?
 4. Special Miracles
 - a. Joel 2:26
 - b. The Lord has dealt wondrously with His people
 - c. Royal blood courses through your veins; you are grafted into the living Vine. Claim your inheritance boldly ("My people will never again be put to shame.")
 - d. Expect awe-inspiring, wondrous works, straight from the hand of your Star-Breathing God!
 - e. Don't be quiet about the wondrous works. God loves to bless us and loves for us to thank Him profusely and without reserve.
 5. Divine Presence
 - a. Joel 2:27
 - b. You shall know that the Lord is among you. This is three-fold.
 - c. The Divine is ever-present. He's not light-years away, sitting on a cold, golden throne playing games with human lives. The throne room is too lonely without us.
 - d. The Presence can be seen and felt. The Lord is not spying on you and me. He's whispering His love, carrying us through the bogs, illuminating the unfamiliar paths. With this blessing he promises that we shall KNOW He is there
 - e. I AM the Lord your God and there is none other. Remember your Source and accept no substitutes!
 6. Loved Ones
 - a. Joel 2:28-29
 - b. God's Spirit poured out upon all humanity.
 - c. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy
 - d. Your old men will have dreams, your young men will see visions
 - e. I will even pour out my Spirit on servants and handmaids
 - f. Pick anyone you care about here, the parameters are unlimited.
 7. Deliverance
 - a. Joel 2:30-32
 - b. Wonders in the heavens and the earth, sun turns to darkness, moon into blood before the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord.
 - c. We call: "Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
 - d. He calls: "There will be an escape...as the Lord promised, among the survivors the Lord calls.