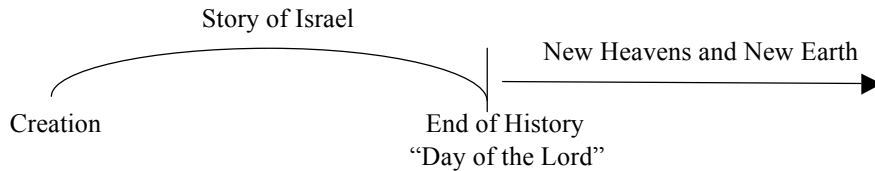


BOOK OF JOEL II

What is eschatology?

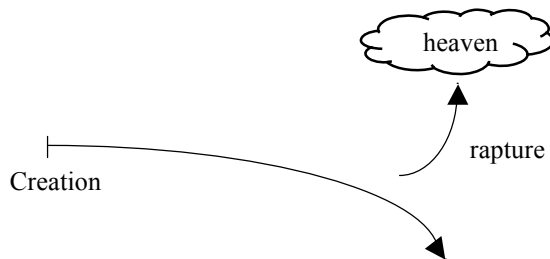
- eschatology is how the Bible's story ends
- story ends with beautiful renewal of all things



Two-Age eschatology

- “this present evil age” (Gal. 1:4) and the “age to come” (Lk. 18:30)

Not Two-World eschatology



Redemption is *ahead of us* (new Earth) not *above us* (heaven)

- our rescue is not *going to* Jesus, but Jesus *coming to* us
- not us abandoning Earth, but renewal of Earth

What is “heaven” then?

- heaven is where we wait for our final destination – New Earth

Revelation 21

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”

So what about the people in heaven?

1 Thessalonians 4

¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

If our final destination is New Earth – then *this life* matters

1 Corinthians 15

⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

The Last Battle by CS Lewis

“You need not mourn over Narnia, Lucy. All of the old Narnia that mattered, all the dear creatures, have been drawn into the real Narnia through the Door. And of course it is different; as different as a real thing is from a shadow or as waking life is from a dream.”

Joel and the “Day of the Lord”

- “Day of the Lord” is the event that will end history
- we are presently inside “the Day of the Lord”
- analogy of mountain range and peaks

Therefore, we are already at the End of History

- the “end times” is not ahead of us, but presently happening

Hebrews 1:1-2 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

1 Corinthians 10:11 They were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

Structure of Joel

First half: *Doom*

1:1-20 – First Poem of Doom

- locust plague | call to repentance

2:1-17 – Second Poem of Doom

- invading army | call to repentance

Second half: God’s grace

Immediate relief

2:18-21 – God will defeat the invaders

2:22-26 – God will restore the land

2:27 – God will draw near to his people

Greater salvation – future “Day of the Lord”

2:28-32 – God will pour out his Spirit

3:1-16 – Judgment on nations

3:17-21 – Renewal of all things

Book of Joel

Invading Army

^{2:1} Blow a trumpet in Zion;
sound an alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,

² a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful people;
their like has never been before,
nor will be again after them
through the years of all generations.

³ Fire devours before them,
and behind them a flame burns.

The land is like the garden of Eden before them,
but behind them a desolate wilderness,
and nothing escapes them.

⁴ Their appearance is like the appearance of horses,
and like war horses they run.

⁵ As with the rumbling of chariots,
they leap on the tops of the mountains,
like the crackling of a flame of fire
devouring the stubble,
like a powerful army
drawn up for battle.

⁶ Before them peoples are in anguish;
all faces grow pale.

⁷ Like warriors they charge;
like soldiers they scale the wall.
They march each on his way;
they do not swerve from their paths.

⁸ They do not jostle one another;
each marches in his path;
they burst through the weapons
and are not halted.

⁹ They leap upon the city,
they run upon the walls,
they climb up into the houses,
they enter through the windows like a thief.

¹⁰ The earth quakes before them;
the heavens tremble.
The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.
¹¹ The LORD utters his voice
before his army,
for his camp is exceedingly great;
he who executes his word is powerful.
For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome;
who can endure it?

A Call to Repentance

¹² “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God?
¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.
¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

God will defeat the invaders

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.
¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.
²⁰ “I will remove the northerner far from you,
and drive him into a parched and desolate land,
his vanguard into the eastern sea,
and his rear guard into the western sea;
the stench and foul smell of him will rise,
for he has done great things.
²¹ “Fear not, O land;
be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!

God will restore the land
²² Fear not, you beasts of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit;
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
²³ “Be glad, O children of Zion,
and rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the latter rain, as before.
²⁴ “The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
²⁵ I will restore to you the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent among you.
²⁶ “You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

God will draw near

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am the LORD your God
and there is none else.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

God will pour out his Spirit

²⁸ “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,
and your young men shall see visions.
²⁹ Even on the male and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

The New Covenant

Ezekiel 36

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.
And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of
flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my
statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Jeremiah 31

³¹ Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new
covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the
covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the
hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke,
though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant
that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD:
I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will
be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one
teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,” for they
shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD.

Acts 2

¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.
² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind,
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues
as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were
all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the
Spirit gave them utterance.

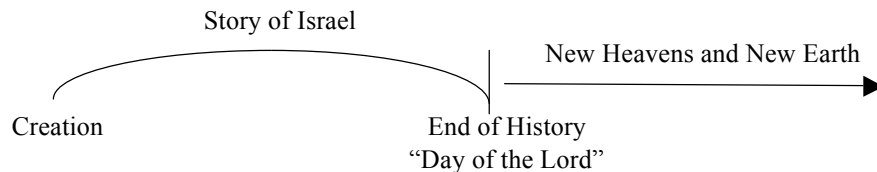
¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:
“Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and
give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose,
since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered
through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;
¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

Book of Joel II -- Notes

What is eschatology?

- eschatology is how the Bible's story ends | not esoteric
- story ends with beautiful renewal of all things



“Two-Age” eschatology

- “this present evil age” (Gal. 1:4) and the “age to come” (Lk. 18:30)
- not abandon creation, but a renewed and restored creation

Not “Two-World” eschatology

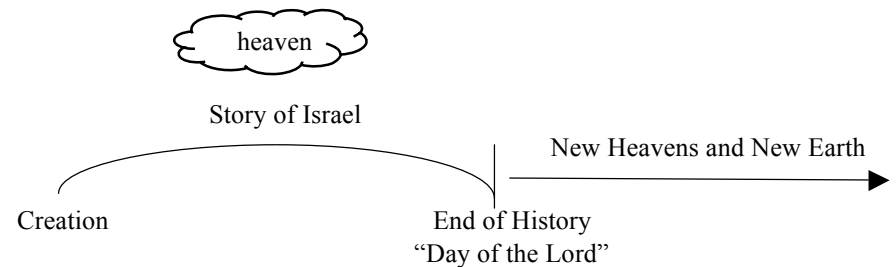


Redemption is *ahead of us* (new Earth) not *above us* (heaven)

- our rescue is not *going to* Jesus, but Jesus *coming to* us
- not us abandoning Earth, but renewal of Earth

What is “heaven” then?

- heaven is dwelling place of God
- after die, our spirits go to heaven | but temporary waiting place
- heaven is where *we wait* with Jesus for the end of history and our final destination – the New Earth



The end of the Bible is ‘heaven’ coming down to us

Revelation 21

¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”

The story ends with the marriage of heaven and earth

- no longer will God dwell apart from his creation, but in and with
- v. 10 – “holy city Jerusalem *coming down* out of heaven from God”
- this is why Jesus’ resurrection is the “firstfruits”
 - our future is resurrected, bodily future, not spirit floating in clouds
 - the resurrection tells us our final hope is physical and bodily

I tell Judah and Noah – “God’s New World”

- it’s going to be a physical world, a physical existence

So what about the people in heaven?

1 Thessalonians 4

¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

“Fallen asleep” – Christians who have died

- Christians who still alive on earth when Jesus returns not “precede”
- dead in Christ will rise first – resurrection (waiting is over)
- then we who are alive will be “caught up” to meet the Lord in air
 - Latin: rapere, rapture
 - question: what happens after we’ve been “caught up”?
- “coming of the Lord” = *parousia*
- parousia = visitation of king | like triumphal entry
- Matthew 24, Luke 17 – “two men in field, one taken, one left”
 - “days of Noah” reference to Judgment Day

If our final destination is New Earth – then *this life* matters

1 Corinthians 15

⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Because the story ends, not with Earth abandoned, but renewed

- everything good and beautiful you do in this life will last forever

The Last Battle by CS Lewis

“You need not mourn over Narnia, Lucy. All of the old Narnia that mattered, all the dear creatures, have been drawn into the real Narnia through the Door. And of course it is different; as different as a real thing is from a shadow or as waking life is from a dream.”

This life is a like a shadow of what is to come

- if visited someone dying of cancer, they shadow of their former selves
 - right now, we are a shadow of our future selves
-

Joel and the “Day of the Lord”

- Day of the Lord is the event that will end history
 - God draw near: judgment day for evildoers, salvation for God’s ppl
- we are presently inside the Day of the Lord
 - inaugurated by ministry of Jesus Christ
- analogy of mountain range and peaks

Therefore, we are already at the “End of History”

- the “end times” is not ahead of us, but presently happening

Hebrews 1

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

1 Corinthians 10

¹¹ They were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

Structure of Joel

First half: *Doom*

1:1-20 – First Poem of Doom

- locust plague | call to repentance

2:1-17 – Second Poem of Doom

- invading army | call to repentance

Second half: God's grace

Immediate relief

2:18-21 – God will defeat the invaders
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Greater salvation – future “Day of the Lord”

2:28-32 – God will pour out his Spirit
3:1-16 – Judgment on nations
3:17-21 – Renewal of all things

Second poem

Invading army

^{2:1} Blow a trumpet in Zion;
sound an alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,

“Trumpet” sound is associated with the Day of the Lord

- because, in ancient world, trumpet sounds an alarm – invading army

² a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!

“Day of clouds and thick darkness”

- clouds and darkness are theophanies of God
– in wilderness, “a pillar of cloud and darkness” | on Mt. Sinai
- clouds indicate God's fearful presence drawing near

Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful people;
their like has never been before,
nor will be again after them
through the years of all generations.

³ Fire devours before them,
and behind them a flame burns.
The land is like the garden of Eden before them,
but behind them a desolate wilderness,
and nothing escapes them.

Comparison to *Garden of Eden* is significant

- Promised Land was Eden restored | people back in Eden
- but invading army destroys Eden and turns into desolate wasteland

⁴ Their appearance is like the appearance of horses,
and like war horses they run.

⁵ As with the rumbling of chariots,
they leap on the tops of the mountains,
like the crackling of a flame of fire
devouring the stubble,
like a powerful army
drawn up for battle.

Joel is poetically describing invading army like locust plague

- they march in formation – disciplined, veteran soldiers

⁶ Before them peoples are in anguish;
all faces grow pale.

⁷ Like warriors they charge;
like soldiers they scale the wall.
They march each on his way;
they do not swerve from their paths.

⁸ They do not jostle one another;
each marches in his path;
they burst through the weapons
and are not halted.

⁹ They leap upon the city,
they run upon the walls,
they climb up into the houses,
they enter through the windows like a thief.

¹⁰ The earth quakes before them;
the heavens tremble.
The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.

¹¹ The LORD utters his voice
before his army,
for his camp is exceedingly great;
he who executes his word is powerful.
For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome;
who can endure it?

Remember – “Day of the Lord” has already begun

- signs – earthquakes, sun and moon darkened
- signs of judgment and end of world
 - world is falling apart | creation is being undone

So, when did this already happen?

- at Jesus’ crucifixion
- sun is blotted out, 3rd hour to 6th hour | earthquake
- judgment of God is poured out on Jesus

- but final judgment, fuller judgment is still to come
- “Day of the Lord” is past | currently in | and still awaiting

Call to repentance

¹² “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

“rend your hearts and not your garments”

- not mere outward show, but genuine, heart-felt repentance

Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the LORD your God?

“Who knows whether he will not turn and relent?”

- does not mean it is doubtful or unknowable that God will forgive
- Hebrew expression affirming divine freedom | God is not obligated
- but we know God’s character is merciful and full of compassion

- 1 John 1:9 – “if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.

This is corporate repentance

- not just individuals, but everyone is obligated to join in

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.

Even most important and momentous event cannot be an excuse

- necessity of repentance is of highest urgency

¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,
“Where is their God?”

Why should peoples say, “where is their God”

- basis of God’s forgiveness is not our worthiness
- but unbreakable promise to Abraham and his glory among nations

God will defeat the invaders

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

“Then” signals a shift in attitude

- God’s jealousy is the jealousy of a husband for his wife

¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you

grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.

²⁰ “I will remove the northerner far from you,
and drive him into a parched and desolate land,
his vanguard into the eastern sea,
and his rear guard into the western sea;
the stench and foul smell of him will rise,
for he has done great things.

²¹ “Fear not, O land;
be glad and rejoice,
for the LORD has done great things!

God will overthrow the invaders and provide relief for people

God will restore the land

²² Fear not, you beasts of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit;
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

²³ “Be glad, O children of Zion,
and rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the latter rain, as before.

²⁴ “The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

Pastures green; trees bears fruit; abundant rain, overflow harvest

- to an agricultural society – these were words of life and prosperity
- reversal of curse and healing of land

²⁵ I will restore to you the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent among you.

“I will restore to you the years lost”

- in end, nothing will be lost | everything will be made up for
- somehow, God’s people will be made whole
- all suffering and evil will be undone | “mourning into joy”

This is a major theme in Bible’s eschatology

- end will not just happy in spite of sadness, but because of sadness
- somehow, sadnesses and suffering woven into very fabric of joy

<p>2 Corinthians 4:17 For this light momentary affliction is <i>preparing</i> for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.</p>

²⁶ “You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

On the Day of the Lord – God’s people will eat and be satisfied

When Jesus feeds 5,000, it evoked eschatological expectations

- this is why people wanted to make him king
- expecting – defeat of northern invaders (Romans), restoration of land
- this is why the cross was so crushing for Jesus’ followers

God will draw near

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am the LORD your God
and there is none else.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

This is greatest blessing – that God will draw near to his people

²⁸ “And it shall come to pass afterward,

This is after the events already described – so, a future event

- this is pointing forward to *the* “Day of the Lord”
- a greater and fuller realization of God’s mercy and grace

that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

This is most famous portion of Book of Joel – cited in Acts

“I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh”

- understand why *new expression* of God’s grace | what makes new?

Joel is talking same thing Ezekiel and Jeremiah – New Covenant

- what is difference between the Old Covenant and New Covenant?

Old Covenant given at Mt. Sinai through Moses

- “obey and you will live; disobey and you will die”
- problem of Old Covenant – people continually disobeyed
– story of OT, people repeatedly rebel and ignore God’s laws
- Old Covenant failed – failed to produce true holiness in people

But in New Covenant, God will put his law into our hearts

- law not just external rules and threats to keep us in line
- but an inward heart change | inner desire and motivation

Ezekiel 36

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Jeremiah 31

³¹ Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD.

Joel speaking of same thing – “I will pour out my Spirit”

- notice, God’s Spirit will be “poured out”
- not drizzle or drops | but to pour is abundant profusion

Joel speaks of a new age of the Spirit

- compare to 1 Sam. 3:1, Spirit was absent and rare
- abundance of gifts and prophesy and visions and dreams
- ministry of Spirit such as never happened before
- not just to few, but to all God’s people – without social distinctions

See fulfilled in ministry of Jesus

- John the Baptist – “I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

Fulfillment in Acts 2 – directly quotes Joel 2

¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.

² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;
¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

Notice – Peter changes words at the beginning

- in Joel 2, “and it shall come to pass afterwards”
- but Peter, “and in the last days it shall be”

The Day of the Lord has already begun

- we are now inside the “Day of the Lord”
- not some future event awaiting us
 - but already happened and it continuing to happen

What do we learn?

- the “Day of the Lord” – end of the God’s story
 - God will draw near to his people
 - so close, he put his Spirit within us
 - Spirit will create what law could not do – true holiness
- the end of the story – last days
 - are already upon us | we’re inside the “day”