

PULPIT MINISTRY 2009

FEBRUARY Theme: “Cry out to the LORD”

MORNING WORSHIP

1 February 2009

Title: “Has anything like this happened in your days?”

Text: Joel 1

(I) IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE OF FAITH: SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES

1. In search of knowledge and understanding of life (general)
2. In search of relevant principles to understanding difficult times (specific)
3. In search of a stronger faith in God

(II) IMPORTANT PRACTICE: UNDERSTANDING “TOUGH TIMES”

1. Sometimes touted as “unprecedented”
2. Some seasons of life may seem harder than most

*“Is there anything of which it may be said,
‘See, this is new?’
It has already been in ancient times before us.” **Ecclesiastes 1:10***

(III) IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES OF UNDERSTANDING HOW GOD SEEKS TO TEACH US ABOUT LIFE: LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF JOEL

1. God will give us a special word

*“The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.” **Joel 1:1***

- a) It is wise to search the Scriptures to discover a word from the Lord
- b) It was a practice from days of old
 - i) The search for answers by people (Israel)
 - ii) The search for answers from servants of God (prophets/priests/wise men)

c) That search must be characterised by:-

- i) Diligence
- ii) Sincerity
- iii) Faith
- iv) Humility
- v) Obedience

2. God's word is powerfully relevant

*"Tell your children about it,
Let your children tell their children,
And their children another generation." Joel 1:3*

- a) God's answers are for the present generation
- b) They are also for the next generation
- c) They are important for all generations
- d) God seeks to teach deep life-principles through "unprecedented events"

(IV) IMPORTANT CANDIDNESS ABOUT LIFE'S CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Natural Disaster

- a) A locust plague (**Joel 1:4-5**)
- b) Agrarian disaster (**Joel 1:4-5**)
 - i) Economic
 - ii) Social

2. Impending War

- a) Powerful enemies (**Joel 1:6**)
- b) Aftermath of war (**Joel 1:7-12**)

(V) IMPORTANT CALL TO SPECIAL PRAYER EFFORTS

*“Consecrate a fast,
Call a sacred assembly;
Gather the elders
And all the inhabitants of the land
Into the house of the LORD your God,
And cry out to the LORD.” Joel 1:14*

1. A call to ALL (elders and inhabitants)

2. A call to fast

3. A call to cry out to the LORD

(Cf. **2 Chronicles 6** - The Prayer of Solomon is directly applicable)