



Caught in the
downpour



A time of despair

- There are times in history when a nation or people seem headed down an inevitable path



A time of despair

- There are times in history when a nation or people seem headed down an inevitable path
- Self-centered choices lead to calamity



A time of despair

- There are times in history when a nation or people seem headed down an inevitable path
- Self-centered choices lead to calamity
- Events beyond human control make the situation worse



A time of despair

- There are times in history when a nation or people seem headed down an inevitable path
- Self-centered choices lead to calamity
- Events beyond human control make the situation worse
- And in anguish, people ask
 - Where is God?



Reasonable question

- Where is God?
 - Are certain things beyond His control?
 - Is He punishing people?
 - Has He forgotten them?
 - Does He have a purpose in all this?



Reasonable question

- Where is God?
 - Are certain things beyond His control?
 - Is He punishing people?
 - Has He forgotten them?
 - Does He have a purpose in all this?
- In the midst, no, maybe, no, yes



We live in a fallen world

- The wages of sin is death
 - Romans 6:23



We live in a fallen world

- The wages of sin is death
 - Romans 6:23
- There are consequences for actions
 - God explains those on a mountain
 - Exodus 20



God comes first

- “No other gods, only me. No carved gods of any size, shape, or form of anything whatever, whether of things that fly or walk or swim. Don’t bow down to them and don’t serve them because I am God, your God, and I’m a most jealous God, **punishing** the children for any sins their parents pass on to them to the third, and yes, even to the fourth generation of those who hate me. But I’m unswervingly loyal to the thousands who love me and keep my commandments.”
 - Exodus 20:3,4 *The Message*



Collateral damage

- The consequences of sin spills over into lives
 - Which causes more sin...
- The penalty is death



Collateral damage

- The consequences of sin spills over into lives
 - Which causes more sin...
- The penalty is death
- The remedy is the sacrifice of Christ
 - Which brings hope into all situations



An ancient time

- The temple is already on Mt Moriah
- The people have turned to idols

An ancient time

- The temple is already on Mt Moriah
- The people have turned to idols
- God has spoken through the prophets and the people have turned deaf ear

An ancient time

- The temple is already on Mt Moriah
- The people have turned to idols
- God has spoken through the prophets and the people have turned deaf ear
- And so the consequence of this sin (and other sin) means there must be a drastic response from heaven

An ancient time

- The temple is already on Mt Moriah
- The people have turned to idols
- God has spoken through the prophets and the people have turned deaf ear
- And so the consequence of this sin (and other sin) means there must be a drastic response from heaven
- God allows/sends calamity in order to get the attention of the people and turn their hearts back to Him



Joel 2

- The locusts come
 - Nothing is spared
 - “God Himself bellows in thunder as he commands his forces. Look at the size of that army! And the strength of those who obey Him! God’s Judgment Day—great and terrible. Who can possibly survive this?” Joel 2:11 *The Message*



But God is also kind

- There is a purpose to the pain



But God is also kind

- There is a purpose to the pain
- “Don’t you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can’t you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?” Romans 2:3-4 *NLT*



Interior rot causes exterior damage

- The hardness of hearts results in the difficulties encountered in life

Joel 2

- “That is why the Lord says, “Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Don’t tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.” Return to the Lord your God, for He is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish. Who knows? Perhaps he will give you a reprieve, sending you a blessing instead of this curse. Perhaps you will be able to offer grain and wine to the Lord your God as before.”” Joel 2:12-14 *NLT*



Exterior damage requires internal rebuilding

-



Exterior damage requires internal rebuilding

- You can't just slap a coat of "holiness" on it



Exterior damage requires internal rebuilding

- You can't just slap a coat of "holy" on it
- Are you broken because you got caught or are you broken because you sinned against God?



Exterior damage requires internal rebuilding

- You can't just slap a coat of "holy" on it
- Are you broken because you got caught or are you broken because you sinned against God?
- Are you serious about change or are you just wanting the hurting to stop?



Exterior damage requires internal rebuilding

- You can't just slap a coat of "holy" on it
- Are you broken because you got caught or are you broken because you sinned against God?
- Are you serious about change or are you just wanting the hurting to stop?
- Do you want to be made comfortable or made new?



Joel 2

- “Blow the ram’s horn in Jerusalem Announce a time of fasting; call the people together for a solemn meeting. Gather all the people—the elders, the children, and even the babies. Call the bridegroom from his quarters and the bride from her private room. Let the priests, who minister in the Lord’s presence, stand and weep between the entry room to the Temple and the altar.”



All hands on deck

- If you understand what is going on, then it's your job to get serious about going to God



All hands on deck

- If you understand what is going on, then it's your job to get serious about going to God
 - And we do it together
 - Praying
 - Seeking forgiveness
 - Repenting
 - Interceding for others



Pray for ourselves

- “Let them pray, “Spare your people, Lord! Don’t let your special possession become an object of mockery. Don’t let them become a joke for unbelieving foreigners who say, ‘Has the God of Israel left them?’”



Pray for ourselves

- Ask for mercy
- Ask for deliverance and favor
- Ask for His defense and purpose
- Ask Him to demonstrate His faithfulness so that unbelievers will see who He is



God will take pity on us

- The Lord says, “I will give you back what you lost...Never again will my people be disgraced. Then you will know that I am among my people Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and there is no other. Never again will my people be disgraced...”



Lesson learned...

- Small price to pay?



Lesson learned...

- Small price to pay?
- It wasn't for Jesus...



Lesson learned...

- Small price to pay?
- It wasn't for Jesus...
- And it isn't for us either
- Or for those around us



Lesson learned...

- Small price to pay?
- It wasn't for Jesus...
- And it isn't for us either
- Or for those around us



Lesson learned...

- Small price to pay?
- It wasn't for Jesus...
- And it isn't for us either
- Or for those around us
- We need to learn to live putting God first – and all else second
 - Repenting
 - Tearing our hearts, not our garments



A people prepared for His presence and purpose

- “Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike...”



Joel 2

- “And I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth— blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and terrible day of the Lord arrives. But everyone who **calls on** the name of the Lord will be saved...”



Some point on the timeline

- From Mount Moriah to Mount Sinai



Some point on the timeline

- From Mount Moriah to Mount Sinai
- From the Temple to the Cross



Some point on the timeline

- From Mount Moriah to Mount Sinai
- From the Temple to the Cross
- From the sin to the calamity



Some point on the timeline

- From Mount Moriah to Mount Sinai
- From the Temple to the Cross
- From the sin to the calamity
- From the calamity to the cry



Some point on the timeline

- From Mount Moriah to Mount Sinai
- From the Temple to the Cross
- From the sin to the calamity
- From the calamity to the cry
- From the cry to the Response



Some point on the timeline

- From Mount Moriah to Mount Sinai
- From the Temple to the Cross
- From the sin to the calamity
- From the calamity to the cry
- From the cry to the Response
- From the Response to the repentant



Some point on the timeline

- From Mount Moriah to Mount Sinai
- From the Temple to the Cross
- From the sin to the calamity
- From the calamity to the cry
- From the cry to the Response
- From the Response to the repentant
- From the repentant to the restored



Some point on the timeline

- From Mount Moriah to Mount Sinai
- From the Temple to the Cross
- From the sin to the calamity
- From the calamity to the cry
- From the cry to the Response
- From the Response to the repentant
- From the repentant to the restored
- From the restored to the intercessor



Our response matters

- Lay down our idols now
- Let our children and generations to come be among the blessed



Our response matters

- Lay down our idols now
- Let our children and generations to come be among the blessed
- Intercede for those who are dealing with the curse of sin in the lives before them



Our response matters

- Lay down our idols now
- Let our children and generations to come be among the blessed
- Intercede for those who are dealing with the curse of sin in the lives before them
- Intercede for those in calamity
- Intercede so they may call on the name of the Lord and be saved



He pours out His Spirit today

- Let your heart be the altar where you sacrifice the idols that keep you from what He has for you



He pours out His Spirit today

- Let your heart be the altar where you sacrifice the idols that keep you from what He has for you
- Ask to be caught in the downpour