

# THE BLESSINGS OF REPENTANCE

Text: Joel 2:18-27

**Key Word:** Blessings

**Key Thought:** God Blesses People, Places and Things When True Repentance Takes Place

Much has been documented to prove that God loves to bless those who repent. It is clear as well throughout Scriptures that God desires to bless those who walk in obedience of His Word. He has a heaven full of good things to pour out upon those who please Him. **No one will be exempted who qualify for these wonderful blessings.**

## What Are the Blessings of Repentance?

**I. PROTECTION FROM OUR ENEMIES (Joel 2:20,25)**

**II. PROVISION FROM ABUNDANT SHOWERS (Joel 2:23-24)**

**III. PRODUCTION FROM THE PARCHED LAND (Joel 2:21-22, 26)**

### **I. PROTECTION FROM THEIR ENEMIES (Joel 2:20,25)**

Anyone who has been sought after by their enemy realize the importance of this blessing. It is a fearful thing to wait and wonder when an enemy will strike. Sometimes the delay is worse than the actual attack. Silence is not always golden as the world is noticing in Taiwan.

**\*\*\*** I was told this week of a lady from Fort McMurray who was beaten many times but the last one almost killed her. Whenever she came to her senses, her assailant beat her again and again for 5 times one night. She should have died.

While in a comatose state she said that Jesus came and breathed His breath of life back into her. When she came back to her senses this time, she said to her abuser *“let me go!”* as God guided her to say. He let her go and she stumbled onto the street where she was quickly found and taken to the hospital. The doctors said there was no way she could walk even a short distance.

Some may not consider this as God’s protection. Yet many people witnessed this miracle and their lives have been touched in knowing that her life was spared.

This past Sunday Pastor Bev also told about the son-in-law (common-law husband to her daughter) of a lady in their church who had 75% of his brain removed. He could move, couldn’t talk and didn’t know them. He came to MGA on Feb 27, 2022 without telling her. He came running to her and said *“mom, I love you mom.”* He also was a medical miracle. **\*\*\***

## I. PROTECTION FROM THEIR ENEMIES (Joel 2:20,25) (Contd.)

King David had many enemies who tried to destroy him.

*“Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal.”*

*Psalm 69:4*

King David often called upon the Lord for protection from his enemies.

*“I have done no wrong, yet they are ready to attack me. Arise to help me; look on my plight!*

*Psalm 59:4*

*“You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.”*

*Psalm 32:7*

In the book of Joel their enemy was likened to the locusts that devoured everything in the land. No destruction could match that of a locust plague. Nothing was left but complete barrenness when these ravenous eaters finished their course of action. Yet God was able even to bless in the future offering them a protection from further destruction.

## II. PROVISION FROM ABUNDANT SHOWERS (Joel 2:23-24)

We can all relate to the effects of drought. I can never remember hearing news reports of a national drought across our entire country. The news/weather channels have been informing us of record cold temperatures and snow accumulations being broken regularly across our great nation.

### **International water crisis looms as Canada waffles on selling water**

**\*\*\*** Just over 20 years ago 450 million people faced water shortage problems and scientists said that number will skyrocket to 2.7 billion by 2025. Today 750,000,000 people lack access to clean water.

Scientists, environmentalists and agricultural groups are meet in Stockholm to discuss the growing problem of water scarcity that threatens the world's food supply.

## II. PROVISION FROM ABUNDANT SHOWERS (Joel 2:23-24) (Contd.)

Most of the people affected by this crisis live in the Mediterranean region, including some parts of southern Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Pakistan, parts of India and China, most of sub-Sahara Africa and parts of North and South America.

Canada -- despite a summer plagued by water shortages where farmers across the country watched their crops and hopes for a profitable season wilt, suburbanites were asked to cut back on lawn watering but they didn't because they were not directly affected by a water shortage. \*\*\*

By Lorryne Anthony  
"The Canadian Press"  
Aug 19-26, 2001

*"But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose confidence is in him.*

*8. He will be like a tree planted by the water that  
sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear  
when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It  
has no worries in the year of drought and never  
fails to bear fruit."*

*Jeremiah 17: 7,8*

*"Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD  
your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in  
righteousness. He sends you abundant showers,  
both autumn and spring rains as before.*

*24. The threshing floors will be filled with grain;  
the vats will overflow with wine and oil."*

*Joel 2:23,24*

There was a cyclone that hit Japan a number of years ago that was a welcomed site because it broke the drought conditions that had plagued the area for months. Wells that once were running dry are overflowing. It is a small picture of what God can do in the spiritual realm that we are battling. **Kids love showers - rain showers that is.** They love to dance and play in the puddles it produces. Lets let them dance before the Lord for His abundant blessings.

### III. PRODUCTION FROM THE PARCHED LAND (Joel 2:21-22, 26)

Provision most often leads to production. So much can happen in short time when God sends His abundant showers into our midst. What was once parched and dry can quickly spring back to life. Israel is a modern miracle of God's abundant provision. God loves to send abundant showers in order to produce a wonderful crop. He loves to fill our threshing floors with grain and our vats with new wine and oil. He is the One who causes the trees to bear fruit and the vines to yield their riches so we have plenty to eat.

Exports of Israel grew 8.14 percent year-on-year to USD 4.8 billion in January of 2022, mainly pushed up by sales of manufacturing, mining & quarrying products (3.8 percent) and agricultural goods (50.14 percent). Did you know that Israel's main export is cut and uncut diamonds, pearls and other precious metals and stones that make up 33 percent of its total exports. God wants both His Church and His land to produce what they were designed to produce. It is clear that God is somewhere in the picture when we witness something being produced out of a parched environment.

\*\*\* It had been a hard winter in the Rockies. The snow piled deeper and deeper. The temperature dropped below zero and stayed there. The rivers froze over. People were suffering. The Red Cross used helicopters to fly in supplies.

After a long hard day, as they were returning to their base, the rescue team in a helicopter saw a cabin nearly submerged in the snow. A thin wisp of smoke came from the chimney. The men figured those people in that cabin were probably critically short of food, fuel, and medicine. Because of the trees they had to set down about a mile from the cabin. They put their heavy emergency equipment on their backs, trudged through waist deep snow, and reached the cabin exhausted, panting, and perspiring. They pounded on the door and a thin, gaunt mountain woman finally answered.

The lead man panted, *"Ma'am, we're from the Red Cross."* She was silent for a moment, and then she said, *"It's been a hard long winter, sonny. I just don't think we can give anything this year!"* \*\*\*

Isn't it great to know that God doesn't run out of resources even when we are in the worst of conditions. He doesn't come to request help from us – He comes to offer supplies that we have run out of not to take what we have.

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Date: Mar 6/22

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: "In Your Hands (I'm so Secure) - F, G

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