

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

2:15 "For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

2:16 "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

2:17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

2:18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

2:19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

2:21 And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.'

2:22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-

2:23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

2:24 "whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

### **【From Today's Sermon】**

In Acts 1, there was this heart-wrenching cry from the disciples:

"Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

The people of God, Israel, had become a Roman province, and there was a Roman governor in Jerusalem.

There were voices calling for the independence and restoration of the nation, and there were voices eagerly awaiting the coming of the Savior (Messiah).

In today's sermon, Peter quotes from the Old Testament book of Joel, which also prophesies the tragic plight of God's people under attack from a foreign nation.

"Wake up, you who are drunk; weep bitterly... A nation has come up against my land; its people are strong, and there are many of them. Their teeth are like the teeth of a lion, and they have the horns of a wild donkey." However, Joel also prophesies that God will protect His people.

"Do not fear, O land; be glad, O inhabitants of the world, for the Lord has done great things. Do not be afraid, O beasts of the field. ... O children of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for the Lord your God has given you the early rain in the season, and He has not withheld the rain from you. ... You will know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and there is no other. My people will never be put to shame. After that, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. ... Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Peter accurately quoted the Bible to describe the situation in which God's people found themselves at that time, and he proclaimed that the name that must be called upon is none other than the name of Jesus.

Good morning, everyone.

Last week was Pentecost.

Acts 1:4 While they were eating, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for what my Father has promised, which you have heard from me.

1:5 For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

As Jesus had foretold, the disciples became witnesses of Jesus to the ends of the earth, testifying in other languages about the great works of God.

Acts 2:11 "We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues! We are all men who have come from every nation under heaven."

This was a situation that left people speechless, astonished, and wondering, "What is this?" They could do nothing but say, "What is this?"

2:13 But others mocked them and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Whether it be new wine or old wine, even with all the scientific and technological advances of the 21st century, no one possesses the ability to instantly speak fluently in a language they have never learned. In other words, it is impossible for humans to understand or achieve such a thing.

2:2 Suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were sitting.

2:3 Then there appeared to them what seemed to be tongues of fire, which separated and came to rest on each of them.

2:4 All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

By the power of God, when the Spirit of God, who is the tongue of language, dwells within us, we are able to speak with power, using any language we choose, to praise and glorify God's wonderful works and bear witness to them. This is also the support that enables us to keep the commandment of Jesus recorded at the end of Matthew.

Matthew 28:18 Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

28:19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

28:20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Now, when the people began to mock and say, "He is drunk on new wine," Peter's sermon began.

The fact that he first says, "We are not drunk," and then quotes Joel sounds like a pun to us who speak Japanese, but that is a quirk of the language, so let us set that aside. In Joel, we find the following passage:

1:1 The word of the Lord came to Joel, the son of Pethuel.

1:2 Hear this, you elders; listen, all who dwell in the land. Has such a thing been in your days or in the days of your fathers?

1:3 Tell your children about this, and let your children tell the next generation.

1:4 What the locust swarm left, the grasshopper ate; what the grasshopper left, the locust ate; and what the locust left, the locust swarm ate.

1:5 Wake up, you who are drunk, and weep! All you who drink wine, cry out in bitterness, for the sweet wine has been taken from your mouths.

1:6 A nation has come up against my land, strong and numerous; its teeth are like those of a

lion, and it has the horns of a young wild ox.

1:13 Priests, gird yourselves with sackcloth and mourn. Servants of the altar, weep. Servants of God, come, gird yourselves with sackcloth and spend the night. For the grain offering and the drink offering have been cut off from the house of your God.

1:14 Sanctify a fast, call a sacred assembly, gather the elders of the people, and assemble all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.

1:15 Alas, for that day is bitter! The day of the Lord is near, it comes as destruction from the Almighty.

1:16 Food is cut off before our eyes; joy and gladness have been taken away from the house of our God.

This is a warning of the misery of God's people who are about to fall into the hands of a powerful enemy, urging them to repent before God. Do not be drunk with wine, for great misery is waiting for you. Repent. Wait for God's salvation. That is the message.

#### The Book of Joel

2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain. Let all the people of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming. It is near.

2:2 It is a day of darkness, a day of gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness. Many people come like the mountains, many as the sand on the seashore. Such things have never been seen before, nor will they ever be seen again in the generations to come.

2:3 Fire goes before them, and a flaming torch burns behind them. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them, it is like a desolate wilderness. Nothing escapes them.

2:4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and they run like war horses.

2:5 The sound of their leaping on the mountain tops is like the rumbling of chariots. It is like the sound of burning fire consuming stubble, like a mighty army preparing for battle.

2:6 Before them all the people are in distress; all faces are pale.

2:7 They run like warriors, they scale walls like soldiers. Each follows his own course and does not turn aside.

2:8 They do not jostle one another; each follows his own course. Even when they rush into the weapons, they are not disoriented.

2:9 They rush into the city, run on the walls, climb up houses, and enter through the windows like thieves.

2:10 The earth trembles before them, the heavens shake, the sun and moon grow dark, and

the stars lose their brightness.

2:11 The Lord raises his voice before his army, for his army is very great. Those who carry out his word are powerful. The day of the Lord is great and terrible; who can endure it?

2:12 The Lord says, "Even now, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, mourning, and weeping.

2:13 Tear your hearts, not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in love, and relents from sending disaster.

2:14 Who knows? Perhaps God will relent and leave a blessing behind him, so that you may offer the grain offering and the drink offering to the Lord your God.

2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a sacred assembly.

2:16 Gather the people, sanctify the assembly; gather the elders, gather the children, even those who suck the milk. Call the men from their homes and the women from their bedrooms.

2:17 The priests who minister to the Lord shall weep as they stand in the porch of the temple and say to the people, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a reproach, a byword among all the nations. Why should they say among all the nations, 'Where is their God?'"

The message of the Book of Joel was precisely in line with the context of that time, when Rome was a province of Rome and, forty years later, in 70 AD, Rome invaded Jerusalem and destroyed the temple. However, the people were complacent. How many people understood that they should not just wait passively for the Savior Messiah, but should repent and return to the Lord?

Joel 2:18 At that time the Lord was jealous for his land and had pity on his people.

2:19 The Lord answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending you grain, new wine, and oil, and you shall eat and be satisfied. I will not make you suffer reproach among the nations.

2:20 I will drive the people from the north far away, and I will bring them from the east, and those who were in the east will come to the west. The stench will rise, and the smell will go up. This is because of the great things I have done.

2:21 Do not fear, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things.

2:22 Do not fear, O beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are filled with grass, and the trees bear their fruit, the fig trees and the vines yield their full weight.

2:23 Rejoice, O children of Zion, for the Lord your God has done good to you; He has sent you the rain of the former season, and He will cause the rain to come down on you, the rain

of the former season, and the rain of the latter season, as before.

2:24 The threshing floors shall be full of grain, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

2:25 I will repay you for the years that the locust swarm, the grasshopper, the caterpillar, and the locust swarm that devoured your crops.

2:26 You will eat in plenty and be satisfied, and you will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has done wonders for you. My people will never be put to shame.

2:27 You will know that I am in Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and there is no other. My people will never again be put to shame.

2:28 After that, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.

2:29 On that day I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.

2:30 I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

2:31 The sun will be darkened and the moon will turn to blood before the great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.

2:32 Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. For as the Lord has said, there will be those who escape in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, as the Lord has said. Among the remnant, there will be those whom the Lord calls.

Peter quoted these words.

Do not be afraid, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things. Rejoice in your God, O children of Zion, for the Lord your God has done great things. The Lord will give you the rain for your right, the early rain for your seed, and the late rain for your harvest. You will eat and be satisfied, and you will praise the name of the Lord your God. My people will never be put to shame. You will know that I am in Israel, that I am the Lord your God and there is no other. My people will never be put to shame. This salvation was accomplished through the redemption of Jesus Christ on the cross.

2:28 After that, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.

2:29 On that day I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Even the weakest among you will speak as though you were a prophet, and your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.

2:30 I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

2:31 The sun will be darkened, and the moon will turn to blood, before the great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.

2:32 Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

On this day of Pentecost, before the end of time, the prophecy of Joel was fulfilled. The words, “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,” were fulfilled. It was by the power of God alone that the disciples prophesied in languages they had never learned, and this event had already been prophesied in the Bible.

Peter's sermon continues from here.

No matter what terrible future may lie ahead of us, if there is One who has prepared redemption and forgiveness for us sinners in advance, why should we harden our hearts and insist that we are righteous and have no need to repent?

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

5:2 And not only that, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering is producing endurance,

5:4 and endurance is producing character, and character is producing hope.

5:5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

5:6 But while we were still weak, Christ died for the ungodly.

5:7 For one will hardly die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone would dare to die.

5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” And this is the name in which we are saved—the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, but it has become the cornerstone.

4:12 There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for today's worship. When our joy and pleasure are taken away, when we are trampled underfoot by the powerful, when our faces lose their color, when our hope is taken away, and when we experience despair, "Do not be afraid, O land; be not dismayed, O city in the wilderness of Judah. Do not let your hands be weak, for your God is your God. ... You will know that I am in the midst of you. I am the Lord your God; there is no other. ... All who call on the name of the Lord will be saved." We give thanks for these words of God. We thank you for giving us the name of Jesus, whom we should call upon in our misery and hardship. Please lead all those who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and our neighbors. Use us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.