

The Restoration Cycle

The word “restore” has several definitions. For our purposes the word means “to put or bring back into a former or original state: renew.” Biblically, it refers to God’s ability and desire to return fallen or errant men to an approved state following repentance for sins.

The Bible is replete with examples of this process. It began in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve sinned when they followed the reasoning of Satan rather than heeding what God had told them. We know that some sort of sacrificial system was put into place when because of that which is revealed about the sacrifices of Cain and Abel. Under the Mosaic system the Law of Moses provided for a covering of sins until the perfect sacrifice was offered in Christ.

The example of David’s sin and ultimate repentance provides a classic example for us to emulate today. David sinned by having sexual relations with Bathsheba and compounded that sin by having Uriah murdered to cover that sin. When confronted by Nathan, David realized and acknowledged his sin and began the process established by God to return to an original forgiven state. David recognized that sin, confessed it, turned from it and moved on to a state of maturity.

Mankind today must follow this example. We must allow the “restoration cycle” to bring about a change in our life that results in a more mature state. If we will humble ourselves to God’s will, we will facilitate that change and God will restore us to an approved state. May we be honest enough with ourselves to realize when this must occur.

Outline: The Restoration Cycle

1. The “Sin Cycle” in Judges

- A. Seven different occasions
- B. Two different, yet powerful concepts

2. Today’s “Sin Cycle” (2 Cor. 7:8-11)

- A. Practiced by many today
- B. Repentance/Restoration is the answer...cycle is broken

3. The Restoration Cycle – Example of David

- A. The recognition of sin (Psa. 51:1-4)
- B. True regret for sin (2 Cor. 7:9-10)
- C. Turning from sin (Psa. 51:5-13; 1 Cor. 7:11; Acts 26:19-20)
- D. Moving on to maturity (Psa. 32:1-5; 1 Kgs. 9:4-5; Lk. 11:24-26)

Sunday P.M. – Joel

Joel

1. Introduction

- A. Author: Joel, son of Pethuel – eleven others bear the same name
- B. Date: Disagreement...early and late dates accepted

2. Summary of Joel

A. The Calamity of Judah (1:1-2:17)

- 1. The locust plague (1:1-4)
- 2. Joel's call for repentance (1:5-14)
- 3. The Day of the Lord (1:15-20)
- 4. A warning (2:1-3)
- 5. The locust plague described (2:4-11)
- 6. Another call to repentance (2:12-17)

B. Blessings for Israel (2:18-3:21)

- 1. Repentance and the removal of the locusts (2:18-27)
- 2. The outpouring of the Spirit (2:28-32)
- 3. God judges the nations (3:1-17)
- 4. God blesses the people (3:18-21)

3. Lessons Learned from Joel

- A. The continued need for “hard preaching (Matt. 19:9-12; 23:16; 23-28; Eph. 4:15)
- B. The danger of merely external religion (Matt. 22:36-40; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; Matt. 15:19)
- C. Sins tied to luxury and prosperity (Matt. 6:19-21)
- D. An important prophecy (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:15-16)
- E. A graphic illustration of God's judgment (Joel 1:2-4)