

Joel - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 10 (2:12-13)

“Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth Him of the evil”— Joel 2:12, 13.

THE only times that the Lord is spoken of as repenting, in connection with His own children, are when He turns from judgment to mercy, from chastening to restoring grace. He delights in manifesting the loving-kindness of His heart to His erring ones when they come to Him in self-judgment and contrition of soul, confessing their backslidings. Then His love can flow out freely and He can and will be a Father unto them who thus take the place before Him where they can appropriate His forgiving grace. A broken heart over sin, He will never despise.

Daily Sacrifice, May 13 (2:25-26)

“I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, My great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and My people shall never be ashamed”— Joel 2:25, 26.

THIS is God’s promise to the restored backslider, to the one who has left his first love, but who returns at last to the Lord in self-judgment, confessing all his past failures and pleading the value of the precious blood of Christ which settled for all his sins, past, present, and future. God has promised to make up in His own way for all the loss that came in through wandering from Him; the revived heart finding everything in God will confess at last that the Lord has dealt wondrously with him.

—Charles Wesley.

Daily Sacrifice, May 12 (2:21)

“Fear not O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things”— Joel 2:21.

THIS is a word of encouragement, not only for God’s earthly people Israel, but also for every child of His who is in any trouble or undergoing any kind of grief or sorrow. No matter how dark the sky at present may be, it is all bright ahead. The Lord has promised that He will do great things—things that are utterly beyond our comprehension now, but which, when accomplished, will fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving. He who has brought us thus far on our pilgrimage journey will see us through to the end, and when at last we behold the gates of pearl standing wide open we shall praise Him for all His wondrous care, and realize that at last we have entered triumphantly into the Father’s house to go no more out forever.

—C. Wesley.