Let it Rain –

3rd Global Day of Prayer –

The outpouring of the Spirit was a promise that had been given to Israel –

Isa 32:15, Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field…

Isa 44:3, For I will pour water on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants

Eze 39:29 – And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord

The outpouring of the Spirit was part of Israel’s inheritance –And it gave them hope that if Jesus could pour out the Spirit, then He could also do everything else the prophets predicted for Israel

The fact that God poured out his Spirit first in Jerusalem is a statement of His commitment to that city. Jerusalem is where our story begins and where it will end. I believe God baptized a remnant in Jerusalem as a picture of a future baptism of the Spirit that is coming to the entire nation of Israel when He delivers them!

Pentecost was referred to as the Feast of Harvest because it celebrated the gathering of the harvest in Israel. Just as Israel began harvesting grain and barley at the time of Pentecost, the day of Pentecost reprints the beginning of God’s harvest in Israel and the nations.

When Peter stood up to explain the phenomena of Pentecost, he addressed “men of Judea and those who dwell in Jerusalem and ‘men of Israel’ Peter directed his sermon to Israel, and therefore his sermon interpreted the events of Pentecost in light of Israel’s promises and future.

Peter quoted Joel’s prophecy because he recognized the connection between Acts 2 and Joel’s prophecy that God would pour out the Spirit on Israel

Joel 2:28–29 (ESV), “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit”

Joel 2 predicts far more than what happened in Acts 2, but Acts 2 is the beginning of the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy. It has set the stage for the fulfillment of Joel 2. It is a guarantee of the greater outpouring Joel prophesied will come …

He promises to cloth us, or dress us with ‘power from on High.’ Therefore Jesus of Nazareth, God-in-flesh, redeems us from the power and grip of sin, baptizes us, immerses us, soaks us, dresses us, saturates us, drenches us, marinates us, overwhelms us with the very Life of the Living God! The first disciples were filled with the Spirit in Acts 2 at Pentecost and then these same disciples were filled again with the Spirit in Acts 4 – it is absolutely God’s will for us to be filled again and again and again with the Holy Spirit

I believe it is the nature of Jesus to keep on giving his life to us. He fills us and keeps on filling us in stages, ‘grace upon grace’ as John puts it. We are transformed from, ‘glory to glory’ as Paul teaches us…it is the nature of Jesus , Jesus the Baptist - to baptize and keep on baptizing, to immerse and keep on immersing, to soak and keep on soaking, to flood and keep on flooding, to fill and keep on filling, to infuse and keep on infusing. This is the One who baptizes not once, not twice, but again and again and again. Jesus keeps on infusing us His followers with divine life and will keep on doing so until every fiber of our being radiates with the very glory of God!

As Tom mentioned - Ancient Israel had early rains and latter rains – the early rains began the growing season and set the stage for the late rains which brought in the big harvest. Peter understood the connection between Joel 2 and Acts 2 according to Israel’s harvest cycle. Acts 2 was an early rain – the beginning of the growing and harvesting season – that would set the stage for Joel 2- the great harvest – when all Israel calls on the name of the Lord is saved!

This prophecy in Joel when know is a direct reference to the prophecy in Zechariah 12:10

And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced – they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only child -

**RAIN …**

**When I was there last year the Lord spoke to me and said he wanted to release a**

**Global Gift of Tears – Pleas for Mercy -**

We have come to believe that the true seedbed of awakening is the hearts of men and women willing to receive the gift of tears and travail….

Jesus as Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem

“Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy… He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him” (Ps. 126:5)

Crying out to God with tears is an act of desperation and total consecration. It is a fervent expression of faith in God and trust in His goodness and power to act on our behalf. As Spurgeon said, “tears are liquid prayer.”

As we are crying out for souls to be saved – the Lord asked me a powerful question – HELL

Paul shared in Romans 10:1 , “My hearts desire and prayer to God is that all Israel might be saved” Paul put his heart into praying – the salvation of the lost was the desired outcome of prayer … he loved the people he was praying for … it was a love motivated plea to a love Giving God on behalf of love needy persons who live in a love starved world – just one chapter earlier

“I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race” (Romans 9:2-3)….

he even says he is willing to go to hell if he fellow jews might be saved … wow … Think about what this really means. Are you willing to go to hell for the sake of your nation.

Tears … being in Israel -

Pray for the Lord to Rend the Heaven’s – Isa 64 –

Because of your sacrifice Jesus, as you were willing to be ripped open to pour out your love upon us – your heart pierced through that a river of glory might come forth from your side wound -

We rend our hearts that you might rend the heavens and come down upon the people of Jerusalem –

Name that is at stake

**It is his Name that is at Stake!**

“I had concern for My holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went.” (Ezekiel 36:21). Then he declares to Israel: “…not for your sake but for My holy name’s sake I will restore you… And I will sanctify My great name … the nations shall know that I am the Lord,” says the Lord God, “when I am **hallowed** in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land” (Ezekiel 36:23-24). 