



Joel 1:18-20
God Answers the Call of His People

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Joel Calls Out to Yahweh

Joel 1:18-20

How the beasts groan! The herds of cattle wander aimlessly because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep suffer. **19 To You, O LORD, I cry**; for fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness and the flame has burned up all the trees of the field. **20** Even the beasts of the field pant for You; for the water brooks are dried up and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

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To Whom Will You Call?

Pagans cried out to Baal:

"To you Baal, I cry"

Joel cried out to Yahweh:

"To You Yahweh, I cry"

Joel 2:32a

And it will come about that **whoever calls on the name of the LORD** will be delivered...

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Does God Always Hear His People?

Psalm 34:17-19

The righteous cry, and **the LORD hears** and **delivers them out of all their troubles.** **18** The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. **19** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD **delivers him out of them all.** **20 He keeps all his bones, not one of them is broken.**

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How Does God Answer Our Cry?

1. Yes, I will act now.
2. Yes, I will act later.
3. No, My grace is sufficient for now.

Revelation 6:10

...**they cried out** with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

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His Grace Is Sufficient

2 Corinthians 12:7-9b

Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! **8** Concerning **this I implored the Lord three times** that it might leave me. **9** And He has said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you**, for power is perfected in weakness."

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When God Says Wait

Job 19:7-10

Behold, I cry, 'Violence!' but I get no answer; I shout for help, but there is no justice. 8 He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass, and He has put darkness on my paths. 9 He has stripped my honor from me and removed the crown from my head. 10 He breaks me down on every side, and I am gone; and He has uprooted my hope like a tree.

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The Dilemma

Because evil exists, either God can't do anything about it, or He is unloving to allow it.

1. God uses evil for good.
2. God will overcome all evil in the future.

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God Overcomes Evil

Revelation 21:3-5

"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." 5 And He who sits on the throne said, "**Behold, I am making all things new.**" And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true."

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God Overcomes Evil

Job 19:25-27

"As for me, **I know that my Redeemer lives,** and at the last He will take His stand on the earth. 26 Even after my skin is destroyed, yet from my flesh I shall see God; 27 Whom I myself shall behold, and whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!

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