

RESTORED! | GOD CAN RESTORE YOUR PAST

We all have seasons we wish we could reclaim — years lost to pain, fear, rebellion, or regret. But Joel 2 declares a promise only God can make: “I will restore the years the locusts have eaten.” God doesn’t just redeem people; He redeems time. He can do in one year what you couldn’t do in ten. Let’s see what God’s Word has to say!

Joel 2:23-27, 32

Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you— the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. 2The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. “So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame. Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the Lord your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

Additional Verses:

Judges 6:1-6 | The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.

John 10:10 | The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

1 Peter 1:6-9 | In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an

inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

2 Peter 3:8 | But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

Ecclesiastes 3:11 | He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

Bible Refs: [Acts 3:19-21](#); [Joel 2:18-32](#); [Luke 15](#); [Judges 6:1-7](#); [John 10:10](#); [1 Peter 1:3-9](#); [Acts 2:16-21](#); [2 Peter 3:8](#); [Ecclesiastes 3:11](#) [[SPANISH](#)]

Questions for Reflection

1. What speaks to you the most? What words stand out to you? Is there a key verse?
2. What are some losses or wasted seasons in your life that you feel God has specifically seen and understands? How does that change your view of your past? How have you experienced restoration in your life or others? What does this teach you about God's heart toward those who turn back to Him?
3. What are some things in your life that you feel God needs to remove in order for restoration to begin? How can you invite God into these areas practically?
4. What areas in your life feel barren or dead right now? How can you trust God to bring new life and fruitfulness in those places? How have you seen God multiply fruitfulness in your life or the lives of others? What does this teach you about trusting God with lost time?
5. How has your relationship with God been restored or deepened during difficult seasons? What steps can you take to cultivate greater intimacy with Him moving forward?
6. What insight did you gain from this lesson? Identify a few takeaways from this lesson.

A Few Takeaways

- God restores years you thought were lost.
- God can restore your past... lost time, regrets, & wasted years.
- God can do in one year what you couldn't do in ten.
- Restoration ends in abundance, not scarcity... abundant joy!

In Closing

God can restore lost years by multiplying your fruitfulness and faithfulness. God restored the years that the locusts had eaten by providing bumper crops. God can restore lost years by bringing long-term gain from short-term loss. God redeems past regrets, lost time, and wasted years. Christ's death on the cross and the salvation purchased by it are the ultimate fulfillment of Joel 2:25. Jesus is the exact means by which God "turns back" and redeems the years the locusts have eaten.