

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo
Lead Pastor



1224 Hancock Drive
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: www.booneopenbible.com
E-mail: office@booneopenbible.com
pastor@booneopenbible.com

SERMON TITLE Restoration Plus

SERIES Godly Reset

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KEY SCRIPTURE Joel 2:25

SYNOPSIS

God isn't just planning to restore his people to what they once were. He is planning to make up for the time that was lost as well! God isn't planning on just getting back to normal. He is planning on more than normal. He is planning Restoration-Plus!

HIGHLIGHTS

The Book of Ruth shows this Restoration-Plus.



☞ Restoration-Plus

Last week we talked about God reviving and restoring again. He did it before; he will do it again. He will restore peace; he will restore his presence; and he will restore our privilege. And, the result will be praise and rejoicing! At the close of last week's message, I read from Joel 2:25 and even as I was reading it, I was energized by the promise it gives...

Joel 2:25-27

☞ **'I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten** — the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm— my great army that I sent among you. 26 **You will have plenty** to eat, until you are full, and **you will praise** the name of the Lord your God, who has **worked wonders for you**; never again will my people be shamed. 27 Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and that there is no other; **never again will my people be shamed.**

Typically, we would think of restoration as “getting back to normal.” So, in Joel's time, if there had been damage done, the restoration would mean that there will be no more damage. If the crops had been lost, then from now on the crops will be good. But God actually promises more than that. He says he will not only restore them to normal, but will repay them for the years the locusts have eaten. That's making up for lost time. God isn't just planning to restore his people to what they once were. He is planning to make up for the time that was lost as well!

With a year of disruption and lockdowns due to a pandemic a lot of people are anxious to get back to normal. But God isn't planning on just getting back to normal. He is planning on **more than normal**. He is planning Restoration-Plus! This is actually based on a principle that God established in the Old Testament law...

Leviticus 6:4–5: “then it shall be, because he has sinned and is guilty, that he shall restore what he has stolen, or the thing which he has extorted, or what was delivered to him for safekeeping, or the lost thing which he found, or all that about which he has sworn falsely. **He shall restore its full value, add one-fifth more to it**, and give it to whomever it belongs, on the day of his trespass offering.”

Joseph Prince calls this the principle of restitution and you can expect not just 100% restoration, but 120%. If you read the scriptures, I think you will find that is actually on the low side of what God intends...

☞ Job 42:10

10 After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD **restored his fortunes** and **gave him twice as much as he had before.**

That's not just 120%, that is 200%. I've been robbed before and I would have been happy to simply get my stuff back. But in God's economy he doesn't just give you your stuff back; he adds on to it and even doubles it.



Isaiah 61:4-7

They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations... Instead of their shame **my people will** ☞ **receive a double portion**, and instead of disgrace they will rejoice in their inheritance; and so, **they will inherit a double portion** in their land, and everlasting joy will be theirs.

If your house was damaged during the derecho, you'd be glad to have your insurance pay for the repairs and get back to normal. God promises that kind of restoration and more. Not only will the ruins be rebuilt and renewed, but there will be a double portion received.

God made a blood covenant with Israel and his promise to them was release and return, plus a 200% restoration. We also have a covenant with God through the blood of Jesus Christ. And because of the covenant, God promises Restoration-Plus to his people.

If you've had a year of setbacks, how would you like all of that returned, plus two more years of great success! Maybe you're at a place where your hopes have been crushed. Perhaps a series of events have shattered your dreams and left you with a bleak future. Maybe you're saying to yourself, "It's over for me!" Here's the truth: God wants you to know that it's not over. His powerful restoration is on the way!

--Joseph Prince... No man can do this but the Lord. He lives outside time, and can supernaturally restore to you all the wasted time you have spent in fear, worry, doubt, guilt, condemnation, sickness, and bondage. Whether you have lost precious time, a relationship dear to you, or if you've suffered a debilitating illness that has robbed you of your health or your youth, let His Word strengthen your heart today. Our God is a God of restoration, and He is most able and willing to restore whatever you have lost!

His basic principle is a 120% return of what was lost or stolen. But, we've already seen that he often exceeds that and actually does a 200% restoration. But, there's still more!

Exodus 22:1— "If a man steals an ox or a sheep, and slaughters it or sells it, he shall restore five oxen for an ox and four sheep for a sheep."

Do the math. Here we see a 400 to 500% restoration. **God is in effect saying, the greater your** ☞ **loss, the greater His restoration to you will be!**

God is a God of Restoration-Plus! If you have been ripped off because of what the enemy has done to you, God will restore, and then some. We've seen 120%, 200% and even 400 to 500% restoration. But, I'm not done yet...

Matthew 19:28-30

28 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at **the renewal of all things**, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or



☞ mother or children or fields for my sake **will receive a hundred times as much** and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

100 times as much!

☞ Twice as much is **200%**.

☞ Five times as much is **500%**. You add two zeros on to get the percentage.

☞ 100 times, then is **10,000%!** God is a God of Restoration-Plus!

It may be that you've kept things close to the vest and nobody knows about your situation. But God does. He keeps records of all those things. He knows what the enemy has stolen from you. He knows what you have been cheated and robbed of. He knows the losses you've incurred. And he will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten. He will restore as much as 10,000%!

We find this kind of restoration in the story of Ruth. Her husband had passed away and she went along with her widowed mother-in-law back to Judah. She was a Moabite by birth and the Jews were often in conflict with the Moabites. Here she was, in potentially hostile territory, with only her mother-in-law. In effect, she had lost her homeland and her husband and now was at the mercy of strangers. In fact, they were so poor, that they had to ask permission just to pick up the leftovers from the harvest fields. But God was looking out for Ruth.

First, God gave Ruth favor to glean the barley harvest in the field of Boaz, a wealthy man who happened to be a close relative of her late husband. So, by working all day long, she was able to glean about one ephah, equivalent to a ten-day supply, which was actually pretty good for a day's work. But God had more in mind than mere survival or even a good day's work for Ruth. The story goes on to show how Boaz took an interest in Ruth and ultimately married her. She went from barely scraping by, gleaning leftovers, to marrying the owner of the fields. That's a Restoration-Plus deal. How did that happen?

Ruth took the advice of Naomi, her mother-in law, to "sit still" and wait, after Boaz had ☞ promised to redeem her. Listen to what **Naomi said to Ruth: "Sit still, my daughter, until you know how the matter will turn out; for the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day" (Ruth 3:18).**

☞ **If you look at the word "restore," it starts with four letters that spell "rest." In other words, restoration comes as you rest in the Lord and in His finished work.** This was what happened for Ruth. When you rest in God, He goes to work on your behalf and you end up with more.

As long as Ruth rested, Boaz would not rest until he resolved her situation. The result? Instead of just getting a small portion of the barley from the fields, Ruth got the owner of the fields himself, as well as the entire yield of his barley fields! It is the same for us today. When we rest, Jesus, our heavenly Boaz, goes to work. When we choose to "work" by striving, worrying and trying to make things happen by our own strength, He rests until we see our need for Him and invite Him into our situation.



Sometimes Naomi needs help opening a jar. She'll try, but when she can't get it, she'll ask for help. Now, what's the first thing she does? She hands me the jar. As long as she's holding the jar, I can't really help.

☞ **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **my power is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. **10** That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Admit your weakness and rest in God. Now, in case you're wondering, rest is not doing nothing or being lazy in your situation. Do the practical that needs to be done—send out your résumés, attend interviews by all means, do your work—but do all that with a heart that is at ☞ rest. **Be at rest inwardly**, believing in your heart that our Lord Jesus has accomplished everything you need for every demand that comes your way. Rest in His faithfulness to fulfill His promises to you and to be your supply, strength, and peace while you are waiting on Him. Your restoration can happen when you least expect it.

If you have experienced years lost to addiction, sin or sickness, don't remain in discouragement ☞ or become bitter. **Choose to tell Jesus, "Lord, I cannot, but You can.** You can restore to me time that's been lost. You can restore to me everything the locusts have eaten." Whatever the enemy meant for your harm, God can take those experiences and turn them around for your good! Our Lord Jesus never brings us out the same. He will increase, improve, promote, and make everything better. Despite how impossible the situation looks, God is for you and will never give up on you! He does Restoration-Plus!

Whatever you have lost, don't give up—you can still win even after you've experienced loss. How? **Position yourself for victory by resting in the Lord's finished work, remembering that Jesus has accomplished everything for you at the cross.** Each time your heart is troubled, look to your unfailing Savior and say, "Lord, restore!"

I want to encourage you to **get ready for an incredible time of God's restoration! Instead of ☞ saying it can't be done, start saying, "Lord, restore!"** because **His sacrifice at the cross has qualified you to receive and enjoy His incomparable restoration.** Through the cross, He has restored to you at least 120 percent and as much as 10,000% of His health, protection, favor, wisdom, and provision. Like Ruth, who went from empty to full, I believe you will say in the days to come, "The Lord has turned my loss around with His restoration!"

God is a God of Restoration-Plus!