



The Prophet Joel

Joel 2:1-2, 13, 25, 28-32

“Time travel alert! Time travel alert!” the computer voice announced. A red light flashed overhead as a man wearing a purple and yellow tie-dyed shirt and bell bottom jeans slid down the tube and landed on the Love Sub’s metal Time Travel deck.

“Whoa! Dude! That was radical!” He looked around, the slightly rusted metal floor and the beaded curtains that covered the doorways were still there. “Dude, I’m not sure, but I think I just traveled through time.” He looked at his own reflection in the shiny sheet metal countertop. The shoulder length hair and groovy round glasses let him know he was still the same old Dr. Woodstock P. Havens, but somehow it didn’t feel like 1969 anymore. “Computer, what year is this?” he asked aloud.

“The year is 2012, Dr. Woodstock,” the computer responded.

“Whoa, groovy baby! Here I am, like, back to the future,” he exclaimed. “I built this submarine out of old sheet metal I found in the junkyard in 1969 so I could travel through time spreading the love of Jesus, and here I am! It worked! I’m, like, back to the future, man! I wonder if God has a special reason for bringing me here.”

Woodstock jumped as the red light flashed and the loud voice once again announced, “Alert! Alert! We have a visitor in 3-2-1!”

This time, Dr. Helga Sominex slid through the tube. “Whee! Uh-oh! Toto, I don’t think we’re in Kansas anymore,” she said, as she looked around the inside of the strange and colorful submarine.

Woodstock waved. “Greetings and salutations! Welcome aboard the Love Sub!”

Dr. Sominex rubbed her eyes and looked around. “Is that where I am? I should have seen this coming on my Time Screen.”

“Far out, man! You invented a time screen?”

“Yes, it helps me see the past and the future, but I don’t know how to get there.”

“Far out!” said Woodstock. “I invented the Time Tube! It lets me travel to the past and the future, only I can’t see where I’m going! Maybe God brought us together!”

“My name is Dr. Sominex. I’m a scientist!”

"I'm Dr. Woodstock P. Havens, man. I'm an inventor and I'm kind of like a modern prophet."

"A prophet! Like Elijah?" Dr. Sominex asked.

"Well, not quite," said Woodstock. "I mean, Elijah and Elisha and Moses they were, like, the first prophets. God gave those guys the power to work miracles. The prophets that came after that were given a message or a warning from God to the people."

"That's right!" Dr. Sominex replied. "Prophets are people who hear from God and then pass that message on to others. That is so amazing ..." Her voice trailed off as she fell into a deep sleep and began to snore.

Woodstock didn't quite know what to make of this sleepy stranger. "Dr. Sominex? Whoa, are you asleep?"

Suddenly a loud warning siren went off and red lights began to flash all around. "Wah! Air raid! Air raid! Run for cover!" Dr. Sominex shouted. She jumped under the counter and covered her head. "What was that?" she asked.

"That's the warning lights, man!" said Woodstock.

"Warning lights? What do they do?"

"They warn people, man! Here, let me get the power source and I'll show you," said Dr. Woodstock. He reached into a special porthole and removed a Bible with a multi-colored cover. "This is from the book of Joel," he said.

"I remember him," said Sominex. "He was a prophet."

"That's right, man!" Woodstock said. "God gave Joel this warning for the people of Israel: 'Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm in on My holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming.'"

As he read the Bible verses, the words appeared on the screen. "Look! It's up there on the Time Screen!" shouted an excited Dr. Sominex. "Yikes! What kind of day was God warning them about?"

"The 'day of the Lord' was what the prophets called the day when God will come to judge the world," Dr. Woodstock explained. "It says, 'all who live in the land will tremble.' It sounds like they're going to be in big trouble because they had turned away from God and were not obeying God's rules. But, there is good news! God loved His people, so He sent the prophet Joel to warn them and to give them a choice.

"A choice?" asked Dr. Sominex. Choices make me sleepy—" Once again, she dozed off and began to snore. Suddenly, a loud bell began to clang and yellow and green lights blinked wildly. "Wah! What is that?!" Dr. Sominex shouted over the ringing bells.

"Those are the choice lights, man, and there is the choice!" Woodstock pointed to the Time Screen where the scripture once again appeared.

Dr. Sominex read aloud, “‘Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity.’ That’s an easy choice!” she said. “Did the people return to the Lord?”

“They totally did,” said Woodstock, “and God kept His promise.” A series of lights began to twinkle and a loud trumpet fanfare played triumphantly as three verses appeared on the time screen.

“Those must be the promise lights!” Dr. Sominex squealed with delight.

“You got it, man,” laughed Woodstock. “Whoa, check it out! Joel gave three promises from God! ‘I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten. I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

“That’s excellent,” said Dr. Sominex. “I’ll take any one of those promises!”

Dr. Woodstock smiled and said, “God gave us all of those promises! All we have to do is listen to His warnings from the prophets and make the right choice to turn our hearts toward Him!”

“Wow! You sure know a lot about God and His prophets. Could you teach me some more?” asked Dr. Sominex.

“It will be my pleasure,” said Woodstock. “After all, we’ve got nothing but time. There’s one thing I’ve learned over the years, ‘No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!’” The two laughed and sat down to study God’s Word together.