

Series: The Day of the Lord

Title: Introduction to the Book of Joel

INTRODUCTION

- A. This is a brief, but dramatic book.
- B. It Relates Present Day locust plague to Future Invasion.
- C. It Relates Present Day Calamity to Future Tribulation Period.
- D. Judah is called to turn their hearts back to the Lord.

AUTHOR - JOEL

- A. His name means Jehovah is God.
- B. He was not a priest.
 - 1. He was entrusted with a revelation from God.
 - 2. He had an authority superior to that of the priests.
 - 3. God Uses Ordinary People: (1 Cor 1:26-29)
 - 4. God Uses Busy People:
 - 5. Uses Uses Imperfect People:

What Makes Joel A for God Champion?

- Knowledge of God: (Phil 3:10)
- Faith in God: (Heb 11:1-3, 6)
- God Can: (2 Chron 20:6-10)
- God Will: (2 Chron 20:14-15)
- God Wants To: Through Me! (Eph 6:10)
- Desire: (Eph 1:12-14)
- Motivated by a Cause (right): (1 Sam 17:29)
- Takes Initiative: (1 Cor 10:31, Col 3:23)
- Fearless: (Ezek 3:4-9)
- Dead to Self: (Job 13:15) “Not My Call” (Job 19:25-27)
- Follow Through: (2 Tim 4:6-8, Rev 2:10)

- C. He would be known only as the instrument of God.
- D. Had a strong devotion to spiritual values.

- E. He was a man of courage, of sincere faith in God.
- F. He demands that his message be followed by actions.
- G. His Father's name, Pethuel, name means persuaded of God.

Purpose:

To warn Judah of God's impending judgment because of their sins and to urge them to turn back to God

To Whom Written: The Southern Kingdom.

Date Written: 835 B.C.

Reign of King Joash - 7years old.

Mentored by High Priest Jehoiada

BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK

A. His prophecy declares the displeasure of God against all sin.

- 1. It begins in gloom but it ends in glory, with God in the midst, dwelling in Zion.
- 2. He foretells chastisement, and exhorts to repentance as the means of averting it, but does not specify any sins.

B. Period of devastation caused by the plague of locusts.

- 1. He saw in the locust plague a demonstration of human frailty and Divine omnipotence.
- 2. Behind the plague of locusts in the future lay the far more destructive “Day of the Lord.” (Joel 1:15; 2:1)

C. There is a demand toward sinners, to repentance, to abandon their iniquity and to walk in uprightness and loyalty to the Lord.

KEY VERSES: (Joel 2:13)(Joel 2:32)

KEYWORDS: “Locust” 3 times; “Day of the Lord” 5 times

Setting:

The people of Judah had become prosperous and complacent. Taking God for granted, self-centeredness, idolatry, and sin. Joel warns them about God's judgment.

A National Calamity: a ferocious Plague of Locust.
(Joel 1:4) (Joel 2:25)

Peter will use Joel as his text for his Pentecost Sermon.
(Joel 2:28-29)

THEME OF JOEL: “THE DAY OF THE LORD”

- A. The Day of the Lord is any day in which He avenges sin,
- B. Sequence of events associated with Christ's return
 - 1. Christ's coming to receive believers: (I Thess 4:16-18)
 - 2. Wonders in Heaven: (Matt 24:29-31)
 - 3. The Battle of Armageddon.

Outstanding Feature is Joel's View of God

- A. His God is Real: (Joel 1:19) “*O LORD, to thee will I cry*”
- B. His God is the enforcer of His laws: (Joel 2:11)
 - 1. Rewarding those who obey: (Joel 2:21)
 - 2. Punishing those who disobey. (Joel 1:15)
- C. His God is Gracious: Compassion for His erring people.
(Joel 2:13)
- D. His God will always have the last word. (Joel 3:16-17)
 - 1. His righteousness must ever be upheld.

2. He is a God of righteous judgment.

- E. His God is a speaking God. (Joel 1:1, 3:8)
- F. His God is the Owner of Everything.
 - 1. Owns House of Jehovah. (Joel 1:13-14)
 - 2. Owns His people. (Joel 2:17)
 - 3. Owns Mighty Ones. (Joel 3:11)
- G. His God is a God of Destruction: (Joel 1:15)
- H. His God is a God of hope. (Joel 3:16)
- I. His God is a jealous God and a God of pity. (Joel 2:18)
- J. His God is a mighty God. (Joel 2:21)
- K. His God is a God to whom man may cry. (Joel 1:14, 19)
- L. His God is an answering God. (Joel 2:19)
- M. His God is a Spirit-outpouring God. (Joel 2:28)
- N. His God is a delivering God. (Joel 2:32)