

Welcome to

Book by book
Bible study



Journey
through
the Bible

**Joel: the great and dreadful
Day of the LORD is coming!**

“Blow the trumpet in Zion,
sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming.
It is close at hand—”
Joel 2:1

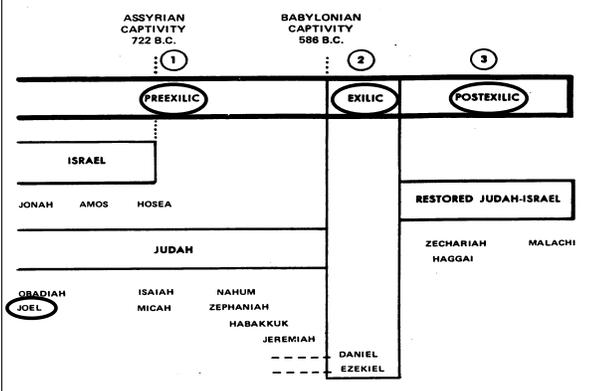
Joel: the Man



Michelangelo
Prophet Joel in
Sistine Chapel

The LORD is God!
Perhaps a priest
An ‘apocalyptic artist’
Focused on Jerusalem
Northern Army
Nations attack Israel
Known best as the
“prophet of Pentecost”

Periods of OT Prophets



Joel: distinctive features

- Locust invasion
- The Day of the LORD
- Pentecost—coming of the Holy Spirit
- “Northern” army invades the land
- International assault on Jerusalem
- Destruction of nations—deliverance of Jerusalem

Theme and Purpose of Joel

Theme: The Day of the LORD

Purpose: Using a recent drought and locust plague as an object lesson, Joel wrote in locust-like language of a future invasion of Israel in the Day of the LORD and of the blessing that would follow when Israel would repent and be restored by God.

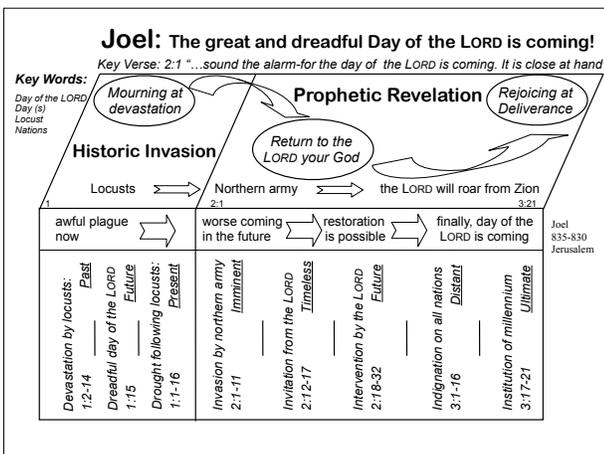
Overview of Joel’s message

The present locust plague (1) is a warning—repent for the day of the LORD is near!

In the future the Northern army will invade Judah (2:1-11), but will be destroyed (2:20)

Israel will be regathered, regenerated, and the Holy Spirit poured out (2:12-32)

Nations attack Jerusalem, but the LORD will intervene, He will judge the nations (3:1-16) and establish His kingdom (3:17-21)



Historic: Locust invasion, 1:2-20

- ☞ Devastation by locusts- past event- 1:2-14
Appeals to elders, drunkards, people and priests, to repent, cry out to the LORD
- ☞ Dreadful day of the LORD- future- 1:15
Nature of that day: dreadful, near,
Source: like destruction from the Almighty!
- ☞ Drought reinforced Joel's appeal- 1:16-20

The historic locust “invasion”

Hear this you elders,
listen, all who live in the land.
Has anything like this ever happened...?

What the locust swarm has left,
the great locusts have eaten;
what the great locusts have left
the young locust have eaten;
what the young locusts have left
other locust have eaten. (1:2-4)

Devastating results of the locusts

Grain offerings and drink offerings
are cut off from the house of the LORD.
The priests are in mourning,
those who minister before the LORD.
The fields are ruined
the ground is dried up;
the grain is destroyed,
the new wine is dried up,
the olive oil fails. (1:9-10)

The despair that is left behind

Despair you farmers,
wail, you vine growers;
grieve for the wheat and the barley,
because the harvest is destroyed
The vine is dried up
and the fig tree is withered; ...
all the trees of the field—are dried up
Surely the people's joy
is withered away. (1:11-12)

The call for national repentance

Declare a holy fast,
call a sacred assembly. ...
Summon the elders
and all who live in the land
to the house of the LORD your God
and cry out to the LORD.
Alas for that day!,
For the day of the LORD is near;
it will come like destruction from the Almighty.
1:14-15

Prophetic: Northern invasion, 2:1-3:21

🔊 Invasion by the Northern “Army” - 2:1-11
Day of the LORD described, devastation by a
“northern army,” sun & moon are darkened
“The LORD thunders at the head of His army”

🔊 Invitation from the LORD - 2:12-17
Call to repentance: *“Return to the LORD,
rend your heart not your garments*
Call to prayer: *“Spare your people, LORD”*

Future invasion by Northern “Army”

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming.
it is close at hand— ...
Like dawn spreading across the mountains
a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was in ancient times
nor ever will be in ages to come. 2:1-2

The devastation behind the invaders

Before them fire devours,
behind them a flame blazes.
Before them the land is like Eden,
behind them, a desert waste—
Nothing escapes them.
...
like a crackling fire consuming stubble
like a might army drawn up for battle.
Joel 2:3-5

God will then judge the nations!

At the sight of them, nations are in anguish;
every face turns pale. ...

the sun and moon are darkened,
and the stars no longer shine.

The LORD thunders at the head of his army.

...

The day of the LORD is great;
it is dreadful.

Who can endure it? (2:6-11)

God's invitation, call to repentance!

"Even now," declares the LORD,

"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, weeping and mourning."

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.

2:12-13

Israel's urgent call to repentance

Blow the trumpet in Zion,

declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly.

Gather the people, the elders, the priests,

...

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD

Do not make your inheritance an object
of scorn, a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,

"Where is their God?" (2:15-17)

God will restore Israel in the land!

Then the LORD will be jealous for his land,
and take pity on his people.

The LORD will reply to them:

"I am sending you grain,
new wine and oil,
enough to satisfy you fully;
never again will I make you
an object of scorn to the nations."

Joel 2:18-19

Israel will have reason to rejoice!

Surely He has done great things.

Do not be afraid, O land;

be glad and rejoice.

Surely the LORD has done great things. ...

Be glad, O people of Zion,

rejoice in the LORD your God.

2:20-23

God will once again dwell in Israel

You will praise the name

of the LORD your God,

who has worked wonders for you;

never again will my people be shamed.

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.

(Joel 2:26–27)

- 🕒 Intervention by the LORD - 2:18-32
- 1. Northern army removed- 2:18-20
- 2. Blessing restored to the land- 2:21-27
- 3. Spirit is poured out on Israel- 2:28-31
- 4. Israel saved, restored to the land- 2:32
- "On Mount Zion there will be deliverance"*
- 🕒 Indignation on the nations - 3:11-16
- 1. Nations are called to judgment: 3:1-2b
- 2. Cause for their judgment: 3:2c-8
- 3. Call to Armageddon: 3:9-16

Overview of Joel 2:28-3:21

☆ "Afterward, God's Spirit will be poured out on all flesh (2:28-29)

☆ The time of tribulation on earth (2:29-32)

☆ "In those days and at that time,"

Nations will surround Jerusalem, but the LORD will appear to judge (3:1-16)

☆ Jerusalem will be holy as the LORD dwells there (3:17-21)

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit!

And afterward,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.

Even on my servants,

both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

(2:28–29)

The initial fulfillment at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ...

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ... Peter said ...

“This is what was spoken by Joel the prophet: In the last days, God says, ...”

(Acts 2:1–21)

But, the tribulation before judgment!

I will show wonders in the heavens

and on the earth,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the

great and dreadful day of the LORD.

(2:30–31)

But, believers will be delivered

And everyone

who calls on the name of the LORD

will be saved;

For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem

there will be deliverance,

as the LORD has said,

among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

(2:32)

Nations will be gathered for judgment

In those days and at that time,
when I restore the fortunes
of Judah and Jerusalem,
I will gather all nations and bring them
down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.
There I will enter into judgment for what
they did to my people Israel,
because they scattered my people
among the nations, divided up my land.
(Joel 3:1–2)

The future and final war in Israel

Proclaim this among the nations:
Prepare for war!
Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men
draw near and attack.
Beat your plowshares into swords
and your pruning hooks into spears. ...
Come quickly, all you nations
from every side, and assemble there.
(Joel 3:9-11)

The future and final war in Israel

Let the nations be roused; let them advance
into the valley of Jehoshaphat,
for there I will sit to judge
all the nations on every side. ...
Come, trample the grapes,
for the winepress is full
and the vats overflow—
so great is their wickedness. (Joel 3:12-13)

Israel's future, final deliverance!

Multitudes, multitudes
in the valley of decision!
for the day of the LORD is near
in the valley of decision. ...
The LORD will roar from Zion
and thunder from Jerusalem;
the earth and the heavens will tremble.
But the LORD will be a refuge for his people,
a stronghold for the people of Israel.
(3:14-16)

God will rule in/from Jerusalem!

Then you will know that I, the LORD your God,
dwell in Zion, my holy hill.

Jerusalem will be holy;
never again will foreigners invade her.

In that day the mountains
will drip new wine, the hills flow with milk
all the ravines will run with water.

A fountain will flow out of the LORD's house
and will water the valley of acacias.

(3:17-18)

God will pardon the sins of His people!

But Egypt will be desolate,
Edom a desert waste,
because of violence done
to the people of Judah,
in whose land they shed innocent blood.
Judah will be inhabited forever
and Jerusalem through all generations.
Their bloodguilt, which I have not pardoned,
I will pardon.

The LORD dwells in Zion! (3:19-21)

Lessons to be learned!

- ★ God does not ignore sin in His people!
- ★ God is gracious and patient and may withhold discipline if/when we repent!
- ★ Repentance must be internal, heartfelt repentance, not superficial reformation!
- ★ God has a future for His people, Israel!
- ★ God is in control of men and nations!

See you next week!

**Read Amos,
Prepare to meet your God!**