

Bible Snapshots



Joel – The goodness and severity of God Author – Joel

Facts

- The name Joel means “Jehovah is my God”
- Joel was a prophet of revival and this task was the aim of his words. He is also referred to as the “prophet of the Pentateuch,” since he refers the writing of Moses 25 times. Similarly, he is the prophet of Pentecost, quoted on that day of the founding of the church (Joel 2:28, 29).
- While his prophecy is not dated, most see generally taking place ca. 835-796 BC. Given the mentions of some of the southern kingdom’s enemies and that Amos prophesied after him (often quoting him), many scholars refer to Joel as the “Pioneer of the Prophets,” placing him first in the order of prophets. He would have known Elijah and Elisha in his youth.
- His ministry would have been solely to the southern kingdom

Contents

- There had been a great plague of locusts in the land of Judah that had devastated everything and left the people in poverty. Joel reveals that this is the judgment of God, which had fallen on Judah because of their sins. Moses had predicted this (Dt. 28:38, 39). Joel was to call them back to God by way of repentance.
- Joel also saw a bright side – the day in which the spirit would be poured out on all flesh and all of God’s people’s enemies would be brought into judgment.
- There are 3 chapters and 73 verses.

Key chapters/verse

- 2 – The day of the Lord / 2:12-14, 32

Key phrase / word / thought

- Repent, the Day of the Lord (1:15; 2:1, 2, 10, 11, 30, 31; 3:14-16 / Turn to me (2:23)

Prophecy

- The Spirit of God poured out (2:28-30 with Acts 2:1-20)
- Salvation by grace through faith (2:23 with Acts 2:21; Eph. 2:8, 9)
- Judgment of nations (3:1-17)
- Israel’s blessing after judgment (3:18-21)

Miracles or unusual events in Joel

The plague of locusts – to show how sin strips life of its goodness and blessings (1:4)

Joel in the New Testament

- Outpouring of the Holy Spirit – Acts 2:17-21
- Call on the Lord – 2:32 with Romans 10:13
- Companion references
 - Teeth as lion (1:6 and Revelation 9:8)
 - Locusts like horses (2:4 with Rev. 9:7)
 - Fountain of God (3:18 with Rev. 22:1)

Outline of the book of Joel

- Historical – 1:1 – 2:17
 - The fact of desolation – 1
 - The cause of desolation – 2:1-17
- Prophetic – 2:18-3:21
 - Promise of blessing