

INTRODUCTION TO Joel

READ ALONG

06/25 Hosea 1-14

WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 26. EZEKIEL
- 27. DANIEL
- 28. HOSEA
- 29. **JOEL**
- 30. AMOS
- 31. OBADIAH
- 32. JONAH

MESSAGE

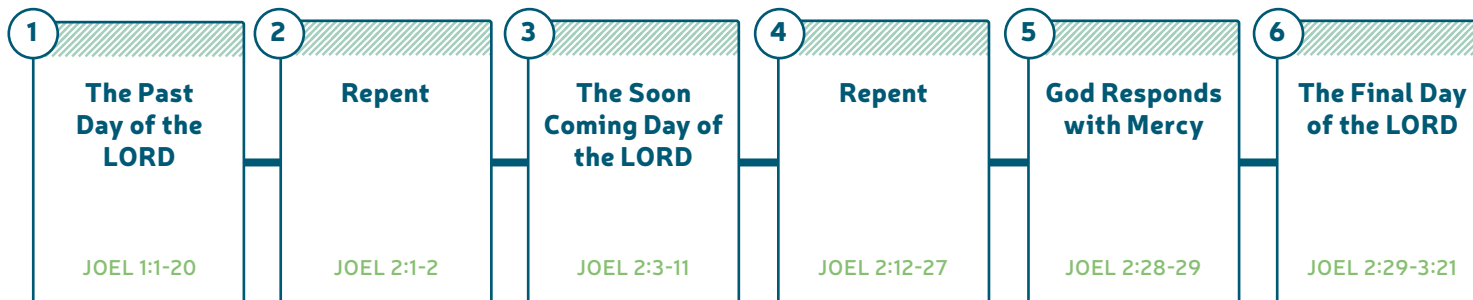
Joel uses this natural disaster as a backdrop of God’s judgment. The phrase “the day for the LORD” is used five times in the book. “Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.” (1:15) As the message unfolds, Joel moves from the immediate judgment to the ultimate end times judgment. “Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.” (3:14) The sobering warning is seasoned with the promise of salvation and the presence of God’s Holy Spirit giving hope to all who repent and believe.

KEY THEMES

- The day of the LORD is the overarching theme in the book of Joel. Joel’s focus moves from the present calamity of a locust invasion, to the pending invasion of local enemies, to the final invasion of God’s immediate presence.
- Amid the calamities is the theme of repentance. Joel provides specific actions Israel should take to display a repentant heart. Specifically, they should call a fast, gather the elders and cry out to the LORD. (1:14)
- The book of Joel contains a direct connection to the New Testament book of Acts. Joel 2:29 prophesies that God will one day pour out His Holy Spirit on “your sons and daughters” and they shall prophesy. In Acts 2, we find the disciples filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaiming the gospel on the day of Pentecost.
- A final theme in this minor prophet is the gift of God’s grace. Sprinkled among the many verses warning of judgment are words of hope. “And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved” (2:32a).

BASIC STRUCTURE

3 CHAPTERS



BOOK BASICS



DATE
Unknown



TYPE
Prophecy



AUTHOR
Joel

While the exact date of this book is unknown, it was possibly written in 800 BC during the reign of Joash.

The book of Joel clearly identifies its author by name but little more is known of this Old Testament prophet. His father is mentioned in the introduction but there are no cross references to Joel or his family elsewhere in the Bible. Joel’s familiarity with agriculture and the charges he brings against the priest suggest he was of Israel’s laity. It appears he was a resident of Judea where his message is aimed.

OCCASION

The land of Judea had experienced a cataclysmic invasion of locust. The pestilence had devastated the crops and livelihoods of the people. 1:16 declares, “Is not the food cut off before our eyes, Joy and gladness from the house of our God?” It appears the situation worsened by a corresponding drought and wildfire.