

Outline of Joel

1:1-20	Past "Day of the Lord"
2:1-11	Near Future "Day of the Lord"
2:12-17	Renewed Offer of Repentance
2:18-3:21	Distant Future "Day of the Lord"

Author

The book itself names Joel the Prophet as its author. Joel's name means "Yahweh is God." It is believed based on what is and is not mentioned that the book covers the period of King Joash (835-796BC). Joel named enemies of Israel during this time which included Philistia, Sidon, and Tyre. Several comments concerning the Temple and Priests indicate his familiarity with the center of worship in Judah (Jl.1:13-14; 2:14, 17).

Summary

The book is highlighted with two major themes. That is, an invasion of locusts and the outpouring of the Spirit. A terrible plague of locusts is followed by a severe famine throughout the land. Joel uses these events as the catalyst to warn Judah. Unless they repent enemy armies will devour the land like the natural elements of the locusts recently did. The Day of the Lord is experienced by the plague of locusts upon the land in chapter 1. As a transitional section 2:1-17, Joel uses the metaphor of locusts as a call to repentance. Then in 2:18-3:21 he describes the Day of the Lord as a far future period calling for repentance and seeing national restoration.

JOEL

Joel records Israel's place in God's program from Babylon to the Millennial Kingdom. The clear theme is the Day of the Lord. God will judge Israel, then restore and bless her beyond what she has ever experienced.

The Prophets often warned Israel to repent, but even when they did, it was limited to law-keeping and works. When the Assyrians attacked Judah, they repented and the Lord delivered them. But when the Babylonians attacked Judah, they failed to repent and were defeated and deported (605BC). There will be an even more severe judgment in the distant future during the 70th Week of Daniel (3:1-17). Yet after that the Lord will bless and deliver them (2:18-32). At that time the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will be extended to all (3:28-29).

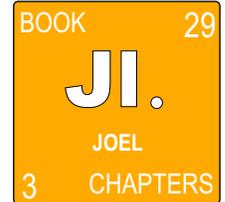
The "Day of the Lord"

The Day of the Lord refers to a time when

Joel and "The Day of the Lord"				
1:1-20	2:1-11	2:12-17	2:18-27	2:28-3:21
<i>Past: Day of the Lord</i>	<i>Near Future: Day of the Lord</i>	<i>Renewed Call to Repentance</i>	<i>Distant Future: Day of the Lord</i>	<i>Distant Future: Day of the Lord</i>
Recent locust event	The Human Invasion of Babylon (605; 597; and 586BC)	God's offer is real if they would repent	Another Human Invasion during Daniel's 70th Week	Millennial Kingdom blessings for Israel and the World

God will be controlling events for Israel in an unusual direct way. From Joel's perspective this "day" had a past, near future, and a distant future "day" fulfillment. The way Joel demonstrates the Day of the Lord helps us to understand it to be more of a period of time than a simple 24 hour day. There are 3 basic features of the Day of the

PROPHETS



Lord: (1) the judgment of God's people; (2) the judgment of Gentile nations; and (3) the restoration of God's people following intense suffering (Jl.2:1-11, 28-32; 3:1-16). In the New Testament Paul connects the Day of the Lord with the appearance of the Antichrist (2Th.2:1-3). This distant future "day" will begin in the middle of Daniel's 70th Week (Da.9:27). It will extend to the blessings of the Millennial Kingdom (Ob.15,21), even to the destruction of the present heavens and earth till they are created anew (2Pe.3:10-13).



CHRIST IN JOEL

- "The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem" (3:16) not from heaven. Christ, the Deliverer will be present and seen ruling in Jerusalem (Jl.3:17-21).