

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Joel"
Book-29

Key Passage – Joel 2:11, 28-29

12 Minor Prophets Hosea- Malachi - Minor Prophets are "minor" only in size. However, when it comes to their messages, what the Minor Prophets wrote is of major importance.

Joel, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah have a peculiar character that marks them off from the rest. They speak of the end, the closing scenes, the great crisis toward which the world is fast hastening.

Joel – "*Yahweh is God*" God is in control.

The Author – Joel 1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel,

Pethuel – "*Persuaded of God*"

When Written – Joel—835-B.C. 795 B.C. During the reign of King Joash. It would have been about the time of Elisha. 835 B.C.

Where Joel Was Written – Was written in the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

Purpose – Joel looks back to a recent plague of locusts that had devastated the land and used it to describe the most terrifying of all days, "**The Day Of The Lord.**" **Day of The Lord – means both - Judgment and Salvation**

Theme – Joel – "*The Day Of The Lord*"

Key Words – "Lord" is used **31 times**, and "the Day of the Lord" is used **six times**.

Key Chapter – Joel 2 The prophet calls for Judah's repentance and promises that God will not follow through with His planned judgment. (Salvation) **Joel 2:13-14**

Key Passage – Joel 2:11, 28-29

Outline –

Joel 1:1–12 Plague of Locusts:

Joel 1:13–20 Call to Repentance:

Joel 2 Preview of Judgment:

Joel 3 Judah Restored:

Joel 1:1–12 Plague of Locusts: Joel 1: The word of the LORD that came to Joel,

It was the task of the **priests to teach the people the Law.**
The responsibility of the **prophets was to call the people back to the Lord**

Joel 1:2-4 Hear! (Elders, Citizens) Joel 1:2 O elders, They had lived through and seen the past. They were respected in that culture.

Joel 1:3-4

Yet very few people have asked, "What is God saying to us?"

Joel 1:5-7 Wake Up! (Drunkards) Joel 1:5

The term drunkards could be used to describe the sin of the people. It could describe the passions for desires and living for the flesh.

Joel 1:6-7 That the vine and the fig tree was a sign that you had made it.

Joel 1:8-12 Mourn! (Farmers) Joel 1:8

A young couple whose marriage had been dissolved because of the death of the new husband.

Joel 1:9

The sin has affected the very worship of the temple that God had prescribed because of the sin of the land.

Joel 1:10-12

The description of grain, lack of oil from the olives, figs, pomegranate, dates, and apples show that the **locust came for an entire season. They destroyed for an entire year!**

Joel 1:13–20 Call to Repentance: Joel 1:13

Wail, O ministers of the altar! Clearly, the clergy of Joel's day failed to interpret the locust plague correctly.

Joel 1:14 Consecrate a fast, Proclaim a solemn assembly;

The Jews were required to observe only one fast, and that was on the **Annual Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:29, 31)**. However, the religious leaders could call a fast whenever the people faced an emergency (**Judges. 20:26; 2 Chron. 20:3; Ezra 8:21; Neh. 9:1-3; Jer. 36:9**).

Joel 1:15-18

We need to note that earthquakes, volcanoes, tidal waves, droughts, and all other natural disasters are to get our attention.

Joel 1:19-20 Joel Intercedes For The Nation: Joel 1:19-20

It Was not enough for the people to stop and fast, but that the people would pray. That they would speak and seek Him in prayer.

Joel 2 Preview of Judgment: Now that Joel had their attention, Joel told the people to stop looking around at the locusts and to start looking ahead to the fulfillment of what the locust plague symbolized:

Joel 2:1-11 The Invading Army, like Locusts: Joel 2:1

Their weapons against the invading enemy would be repentance and prayer. The Lord would fight for them.

For the day of the LORD is coming;

Twice in this passage, Joel tells us that this invasion is "The Day of the Lord." (vv. 1, 11)

Joel 2:2

Each individual must face God, the Judge.

The time to make peace with God is now, not then!

Joel 2:3-10 This is Joel's way of saying that God is behind all of this. It is **God who is going to use the Assyrians.**

Joel 2:11 The prophet makes it clear that the Lord will be in charge of this invasion; this is His army fulfilling His Word.

Joel 2:12-17 Call To Repent: Joel 2:12-17

Joel, however, warned Judah that God is not interested in any superficial religious experience.

Joel 2:18-27 Promise of Restoration: Joel 2:18-19

Notice that when we get right with God, all our provisions will be met.

Joel 2:20 God would drive the invading army out of the land. In one night, God killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers, and Sennacherib went home a defeated king (**Isa. 37:36-38**). The corpses must have created quite a stench before they were buried.

Joel 2:21 Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, For the LORD has done great things.

Notice that when we are right with God, we are saved from our enemies.

Joel 2:22-23

Without the early rain (March-April) and the **latter rain** (October-November), the land could not bear its crops! One way God disciplined His people was to shut off the rain (**Deuteronomy 11:13-17**).

Joel 2:24

Psalm 126 grew out of this event, for it describes a sudden and surprising deliverance that startled the nations. (Judah's return from Babylonian Captivity was neither sudden nor surprising.)

Joel 2:25-27

Joel 2:28-32 The Spirit Poured Out: Joel 2:28

"And it will come about after this refers to the events described in **2:18-27**. When Peter quoted this verse in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit led him to interpret **"afterward"** to mean "in the last days" (**Acts 2:17**).

Joel 2:29-32

The locust plague foreshadowed the ultimate Day of the Lord, so events at Pentecost foreshadowed the ultimate outpouring of the Spirit.

Joel 3 Judah Restored:

Joel 3:1-8 "Nations, Prepare For Judgment!"

Joel 3:1 When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,

"Reverse the fortunes" or "restore the fortunes." God will deal justly with the nations of the world for the way they have treated His people, Israel.

Joel 3:2 This great battle will take place in **the valley of Jehoshaphat**. (vv. 2, 12), This site is mentioned nowhere else in Scripture.

In **Joel 3:14**, it's called **"the valley of decision."** **"Jehoshaphat"** means *"the Lord judges."* the name "Valley of Jehoshaphat" might well be symbolic of the Plain of Esdraelon, where the **"battle of Armageddon"** will be fought (**Revelation 16:16**).

Joel 3:3-8

Joel 3:9-15 "Nations, Prepare for War!" Joel 3:9-10 "the battle of Armageddon," when the armies of the nations unite against the Lord and His Christ (**Ps. 2:1-3**) and gather to destroy Jerusalem

(Joel 3:16; Zech. 12-14).

Isaiah 2:4 and **Micah 4:3** describe a different scene: **“they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks” (Isa. 2:4)**. Isaiah and Micah are describing the future kingdom, when people will learn war no more, and no longer need weapons, while Joel is describing the battle that ushers in that peaceful kingdom.

Joel 3:11-14 Joel compares the battle to the harvesting of grain and grapes, when God will defeat the enemy as easily as a farmer wields a sickle or plucks grapes and crushes them to make wine (Joel 3:13). You find a similar image in **Revelation 14:14-20** when God reaps “the harvest of the earth” and “the vine of the earth.”

Joel 3:15 **The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars lose their brightness.**

Joel 3:16 **“Nations, Prepare For Defeat!”** **Joel 3:16** Everything will change when the King comes back and begins His reign! Joel promises a holy city, a restored land, a cleansed people, and a glorious King.

Joel 3:17-21 **A Restored Land: Joel 3:17-21**

Personal Application:

1. When Humbling Ourselves Before God, God Is Most Concerned About Our Inward Heart Condition. It Is Not Merely The Rending Of Our Cloths But The Rending Of Our Hearts.
2. We Should Note That Earthquakes, Volcanoes, Tidal Waves, Droughts, And All Other Natural Disasters Can Be Used By God To Get Our Attention. They Are Small, No Matter How Great, Compared To The Day Of The Lord.
3. Each Individual Must Face God, The Judge, And The Time To Make Peace With God Is Now, Not Then.