

Joel

66 Books in 52 Weeks

(A Book-by-Book Overview of the Bible)

Summary & Structure

JOEL

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

29

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

3

TYPE

PROPHECY, MINOR



OVERVIEW

Joel was a prophet of Judah who foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and other events, futuristic by today's standards. The book speaks to all generations, encouraging all to be ready for the "Day of the Lord." Terms like "the latter rain" and "approaching darkness" come from its texts, which are used by Christians to describe current and near-future trends.



WRITTEN

BC, date unknown



TIME PERIOD COVERED

Unknown; sometime between 835-450 BC



AUTHOR

The Prophet Joel

Key Verse

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.
Joel 2:13.

Background

The Minor Prophets: Beginning with Hosea and concluding with Malachi, there are twelve short prophetic books called "minor prophets." They deal with the same issues as the 'major prophets.'

The Author: Nothing is known of Joel except what is given in the opening verse.

His name means _____.

Time of Service: Considered one of the earliest of the writing prophets. Likely served around the time of Joash, king of Judah.

KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

Saul (40)
David (40)
Solomon (40)

Kingdom of Judah

Rehoboam (17)
Abijah (3)
Asa (41)
Jehoshaphat (25)
Jehoram (8)
Ahaziah (1)
Athaliah* (6)
Joash (40)
Amaziah (29)
Uzziah (52)
Jotham (16)
Ahaz (16)
Hezekiah (29)
Manasseh (55)
Amon (2)
Josiah (31)
Jehoahaz (3 months)
Jehoiakim (11)
Jehoiachin (3 months)
Zedekiah (11)

Kingdom of Israel

Jeroboam (22)
Nadab (2)
Baasha (24)
Elah (2)
Zimri (7 days)
Omri (12)
Ahab (22)
Ahaziah (2)
Jehoram (12)
Jehu (28)
Jehoahaz (17)
Jehoash (16)
Jereboam II (41)
Zechariah (6 months)
Shallum (1 month)
Menahem (10)
Pekahiah (2)
Pekah (20)
Hoshea (9)

Ministry of Joel

Themes

The Day of the Lord (Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14-16)
Plague of Locusts (Are they literal or figurative?)
Repentance
Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Outline of Joel

The Day of Locusts (Joel 1)

Warning of an unusual event. (Joel 1:1-3)

Effects of the Locusts

No vegetation (Joel 1:4)

No grapes to make wine (Joel 1:5-7)

No grain for temple offerings (Joel 1:8-9)

A barren land produces no Harvest. (Joel 1:10-11)

The people's joy is gone. (Joel 1:12)

Joel instructs the people to declare a fast. (Joel 1:13-14)

Joel predicts an even greater day of judgment (Joel 1:15)

More details about the damage from the locusts (Joel 1:16-20)

The Imminent Day of the Lord (Joel 2:1-11)

An army, resembling locusts, will assault Judah (Joel 2:1-4)

This army will completely invade the land. (Joel 2:5-11)

To what army is Joel referring?

The Assyrians that took Israel?

The Babylonians that took Judah?

The Greek or Roman conquests after the exile?

The Call to Repent (Joel 2:12-17)

Joel calls the people to repent. (Joel 2:12-13)

The repentance must include the entire nation. (Joel 2:14-17)

Renewal and Restoration (Joel 2:18-27)

If repentance occurs, God will do these three things:

Restore what has been lost (Joel 2:18-19)

Eliminate the enemy threat (Joel 2:20)

Cause the land to flourish (Joel 2:23-24)

The Ultimate Day of the Lord (Joel 2:28-3:21)

What is Joel predicting here?

Babylonian captivity and restoration?

Destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70?

The end of the world?

Compare Joel 2:28-32 to Acts 2:14-17

All references to the 'day of the Lord' point to God's righteous judgment and his gracious restoration. (Joel 3:12-14)

Lessons/Applications

God specializes in the _____.

God calls us to repent from the _____.

God's ultimate goal is _____.