
BOOK OVERVIEW

Joel

Author: Joel (means “Jehovah is God”)

Date: uncertain, but possibly early 837-756 B.C.

Recipients: the inhabitants of Judah

Key words: Day of the Lord (5 times)

Summary: After a plague of locusts, a sign of God’s impending judgement, the people are urged to turn back to God.

Key verses: Joel 2:28-32

Notes:

The utter devastation by the “army” of locusts is symbolic of the thoroughness with which God will judge in righteousness.

The invasion of locusts and severe drought are symbolic of the armies of Judah’s enemies that will invade and destroy the nation.

In Joel 1:4 four different Hebrew words are used to describe the locust. It is unknown whether these words describe different kinds of locusts or describe the locust at various stages in their development.

Joel 2:28-32 speaks of the outpouring of God’s Spirit which we see come to reality in the book of Acts—the beginning of the Church and the spread of the Gospel. It’s as if Paul in Acts 16:31 is quoting Joel 2:32A.

Chapter three foreshadows future deliverance and the millennial reign of Christ.

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