



# The Book of JOEL

BIBLE PROPHETS SERIES

# Introduction...

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- The name JOEL means Yahweh is God.
- Joel prophesied to the southern kingdom of Judah.
- There is no way to pinpoint the date of this book and scholars vary in their opinions.
- However there are reference in both Amos (1:2) and Isaiah (13:6).
- It is the thinking of most conservatives that Amos and Isaiah borrowed from Joel, making him one of the earliest of the Minor Prophets.
- So roughly, this book was written around 800 BC.



- Joel prophesied at a time of great great devastation to the entire land of Judah.
- An enormous plague of locusts had stripped the countryside of all vegetation, destroyed the pastures of both sheep and cattle and even removed the bark from the fig trees.
- The plague was greater than anyone had ever seen. All crops were lost and the seed crops for the next planting season were destroyed.
- It was so profound and disastrous that the Prophet had only one discerning conclusion; The Judgement of God!



# Introduction...

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- The Book comes in two key sections.
- The first part (1:1-2:27) is about the disaster, a call to repentance and a promise of restoration.
- The second part projects into the future. That even though the plague of locusts was terrible, what was coming – The Day of the Lord would be far worse!
- In the middle of this futuristic part is the wonderful prophecy about the outpouring of God's Spirit on all flesh which finds its fulfilment 800 years later at Pentecost!!



# Chapter 1....

- Hear this you Elders
- Tell your children..
- Awake you drunkards
- Lament like a Bride...
- Be ashamed you Farmers
- Gird yourselves...priests
- Consecrate a Fast
- Sometimes a disaster happens in the natural because God wants our attention!
- This is a biblical and balanced view.
- NOT every disaster or famine etc is God's judgement!
- We are to discern when God is speaking through the natural.

# Chapter 2

- The Day of the Lord is Coming. It is at Hand!
- This phrase like in the book of Obadiah is both a current and futuristic in meaning.
- It applied to the current disaster of Joel's day but it also applies to our own future.
- It calls for the people of God to be prepared through repentance, fasting and crying out.
- Everyone from the young to the old and every situation including those who are getting ready for their wedding day!
- In other words nobody is exempt from seeking the Lord in preparation for His Coming.



# And It Shall Come to Pass...

- Right in the middle of all of this, we find this amazing prophecy:
- *“And it shall come to pass afterward  
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your old men shall dream dreams,  
Your young men shall see visions.  
29 And also on My menservants and  
on My maidservants  
I will pour out My Spirit in those days Joel 2:28-  
29*
- This is fulfilled about 800 years later in the Book of Acts 2



# And It Shall Come To Pass...

- *<sup>14</sup> But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. <sup>15</sup> For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only <sup>[e]</sup>the third hour of the day. <sup>16</sup> But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*
- *<sup>17</sup> ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;...Acts 2:14-21*
- This means that if the first part of Joel’s prophecy came to pass, then the other part about the terrible Day of The Lord will also come to pass!





# And It Shall Come To Pass...

- *I will show wonders in heaven above  
And signs in the earth beneath:  
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.  
<sup>20</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness,  
And the moon into blood,  
Before the coming of the great and awesome  
day of the LORD.  
<sup>21</sup> And it shall come to pass  
That whoever calls on the name of the LORD  
Shall be saved ' Joel 2:29*
- These signs shall come to be fulfilled at the appointed time.
- Some time in our own future.



# And It Shall Come To Pass...

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- *“For behold, in those days and at that time,  
When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,  
<sup>2</sup> I will also gather all nations,  
And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;  
And I will enter into judgment with them there  
On account of My people, My heritage Israel,  
Whom they have scattered among the nations;  
They have also divided up My land.  
<sup>3</sup> They have cast lots for My people,  
Have given a boy as payment for a harlot,  
And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink. Joel 3:1-3*
- If Joel’s first prophecy came to pass, then this passage will also come to be fulfilled too!!



# The Day of the LORD...

- Isaiah 24:21-22
- So it will happen in that day, That the Lord will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth.
- They will be gathered together Like prisoners in the dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished.



# The Day of the LORD...

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- Zephaniah 1:14-18
- Near is the great day of the Lord, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the Lord! In it the warrior cries out bitterly.
- A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom,
- A day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of trumpet and battle cry Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers



# The Day of the LORD...

- 2 Peter 3:10-12
- But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense
- heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,
- looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!



# The Day of the LORD...

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- Zephaniah 2:3
- Seek the Lord, All you humble of the earth Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the Lord's anger



# The Day of the LORD...

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- 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4
- Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.
- For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.
- While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labour pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.
- But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief



# In Summary...

- The Book of Joel is a very accurate book of the past, present and future.
- 1. Be Vigilant - Awaken to Danger **Joel 1:5-7**
- 2. Mourn in Humility **Joel 1:8-10**
- 3. Be Convicted of Sins **Joel 1:11-12**
- 4. Repent **Joel 1:13-18**
- 5. Call on God **Joel 1:19-20**
- 6. Seek God's Mercy **Joel 2:12-14**
- 7. Seek God's Grace **Joel 2:15-17**
- 8. God's Blessing to a Repentant People **Joel 2:18-27**
- 9. God Will Pour Out His Spirit **Joel 2:28-31**
- 10. God Will Save All Who Call On Him **Joel 2:32**
- 11. God Will Judge **Joel 3:1-8**
- 12. God's People Find Peace in The Kingdom **Joel 3:17-21**

