

STUDIES IN THE MINOR PROPHETS

JOEL

Outline of the book

- I. **The Harbinger of the Day of the Lord: the judgement of God and the prophet's call to repentance (the prophet speaks), 1:2 - 2:17.**
 - . Devastation of Judah: scourge of locusts, drought, and fire, 1:2 - 20.
 1. Graphic description of the locust scourge, vv.2-4.
 2. Call to various classes to mourn (repent), vv.5-14.
 - a. Drunkards - all luxuries are cut off, vv.5-7.
 - b. Whole nation - means of the sustenance of life is lacking, vv.8-12.
 - c. Exhortation to repentance, vv.13,14.
 3. The awful calamity: "day of the Lord" - prayer for mercy, vv.15-20.
 - . A more urgent summons to repentance and prayer: for the scourge is a forerunner of the day of judgement, 2:1-17.
 1. The urgent summons, vv.1-11.
 - a. The trumpet of warning, vv.1-3.
 - b. A more vivid description of the calamity, vv.4-11.
 2. A more urgent call to repentance, vv.12-17.
 - a. Rend the heart, not the garments, vv.12-14.
 - b. Sincerely repent and fervently pray, vv.15-17.
- II. **The Day of the Lord: a day of blessing to Israel, a day of terror to her enemies (The Lord Speaks), 2:18 - 3:21.**
 - . Blessings promised to Israel, 2:18-32.
 1. Repentance implied: the Lord's gracious change, v.18.
 2. The removal of the Lord's army; temporal blessings promised, vv.19-27.
 3. Outpouring of the Spirit and approaching judgment, vv.28-32.
 - a. Outpouring of the Spirit, vv.28,29.
 - b. Judgment upon the wicked parallel to blessings on Israel, vv.30,31.
 - c. The escape of a remnant in Zion, v.32
 - . Judgment on the nations, 3:1-16a.
 1. All wrongs committed against the people are to be avenged, vv.1-3.

2. Neighbor nations will suffer the severe judgment of slavery in a far land, vv.4-8.
 3. Destruction of all heathen powers by a divine decree, vv.9-16a.
- . Glorification of the people of God; Israel's final happiness and peace contrasted with the desolation of her enemies (the world powers), 3:16b - 21.

Questions on the book of Joel

1. What is the meaning of the name, Joel? v.1 _____

2. Give the meaning also of the name Pethuel. v.1 _____

- I. **The Harbinger of the Day of the Lord: the judgement of God and the prophet's call to repentance (the prophet speaks), 1:2 - 2:17.**
 - A. Devastation of Judah: scourge of locusts, drought, and fire, 1:2 - 20.
 1. Graphic description of the locust scourge, vv.2-4.
 3. In the King James version, there are 24 references to Locusts [32 in the New King James]. From these references, give a Bible view of the devastation of locusts and relate it to that which Joel is describing in our context. 1:4 _____

 4. Why does the prophet call on the "old men" ["elders" NKJV] to consider what was to happen? 1:2 _____

 5. Who is to be told about this calamity? 1:3 _____

 6. Discuss the FOUR types of locust mentioned and the significance of each. 1:4 _____

2. Call to various classes to mourn (repent), vv.5-14.

a. Drunkards - all luxuries are cut off, vv.5-7.

7. Why would the people mentioned in verse 5 "weep" and "howl?" 1:5 _____

8. What is the significance of the "teeth" and "fangs" which the prophet says the invaders will have? 1:6,7

b. Whole nation - means of the sustenance of life is lacking, vv.8-12.

9. Please discuss the reason why the prophet used the analogy of the new bride mourning the loss of her husband here. 1:8 _____

10. For what reason does the prophet say that the priests were mourning? 1:9 _____

11. List all of the types of food crops which are mentioned in verses 10-12. _____

c. Exhortation to repentance, vv.13,14.

12. The prophet first calls upon the _____ to wear sackcloth and lay all night before the altar. Then they are to call a general _____ which would include all of the people. What is this a sign of as it relates to their relationship with God? 1:13,14 _____

3. The awful calamity: "day of the Lord" - prayer for mercy, vv.15-20.

13. Briefly recall what is meant by "the day of the Lord" as we have already discussed it in Obadiah 15. 1:15 _____

14. The word Almighty is used here with respect to God. It is found some 48 times in the Old Testament, and 9 times in the New Testament. Which book of the Old Testament has the *most* references to the Almighty, and which book of the New Testament uses the word 8 of the 9 times in occurs? _____

15. Why is this word used to describe God, and under what circumstances is it used most often in the Scriptures? _____

16. Of what was the invasion of the locusts a warning? 1:15 _____

17. What does it appear followed the destruction caused by the locusts? 1:17,19,20 _____

18. Besides the people, who else suffered this calamity? 1:18 _____

B. A more urgent summons to repentance and prayer: for the scourge is a forerunner of the day of judgement, 2:1-17.

1. The urgent summons, vv.1-11.

a. The trumpet of warning, vv.1-3.

19. In the Bible, what were some of the ways in which the Trumpet was used? Exodus 19:13,16,19; 20:18; Leviticus 25:9; Joshua 6:5,20; Judges 7:18; Amos 3:6; Matthew 6:2; 1 Corinthians 14:8; 15:52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Joel 2:1. _____

20. The prophet uses descriptive terms of what is to transpire on the "day of the Lord," but what is the meaning of these word pictures? 2:2,3 _____

b. A more vivid description of the calamity, vv.4-11.

21. Several terms are used to describe the way the locusts are to invade the land of God's people. Fill in the blanks below with the appropriate words: (2:4,5)

Appearance as *horses*
noise of *chariots*
noise of the *flaming fire*
as a *strong people*

so they _____.
so they shall _____.
_____ the stubble.
set in _____.

22. How might we understand the look on the faces of the people described here as they watch their crops being totally destroyed? 2:6 _____

23. In describing this invasion of the locusts, the prophet uses the picture of an army. What defense is there against such an adversary? 2:7-9 _____

24. In 2:10, we find terminology which is peculiar to prophetic writing and speech. Consider the context of other places where this symbology is used, and then relate it to the setting in Joel. (See Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24,25; Luke 21:25-28.) _____

25. What is the Lord's army here, and what is the answer to the question posed at the end of 2:11? _____

2. A more urgent call to repentance, vv.12-17.
- a. Rend the heart, not the garments, vv.12-14.
26. The definition of a word found in connection with our salvation in the New Testament is defined in 2:12. What is it, and how does each part of this verse relate to its meaning? (*Hint: Acts 2:38; 17:30*)

27. Explain the reasoning behind the statement in the first part of 2:13. _____

28. What does the prophet propose as a possibility *IF* they will repent? 2:14 _____

- b. Sincerely repent and fervently pray, vv.15-17.
29. For what purpose was the trumpet to be sounded in 2:15? _____

30. Who is to be in the solemn assembly which is called? 2:15,16 _____

31. What are the priests to do and say in this assembly? 2:17 _____

32. Should God bring an invasion of foreign armies to capture Israel, why would the foreigners say: "Where is their God?" 2:17 _____

II. **The Day of the Lord: a day of blessing to Israel, a day of terror to her enemies (The Lord Speaks), 2:18 - 3:21.**

A. Blessings promised to Israel, 2:18-32.

1. Repentance implied: the Lord's gracious change, v.18.

33. Explain what is meant by the Lord being "jealous for His land." 2:18 _____

2. The removal of the Lord's army; temporal blessings promised, vv.19-27.

34. How would God show His pity and compassion on His people if they repented? 2:19 _____

35. Who is the Northern Army spoken of and what was to become of them? 2:20 _____

36. Why were they to be "glad and rejoice?" 2:21 _____

37. Other than the people, what else would be benefited by God whenever they repented? 2:22 _____

38. What is meant by the "former" and the "latter" rains, and why is it significant here? 2:23 _____

39. How much would God bless them if they repented? 2:24-26 _____

40. What universal principle do we find stated in 2:27, and how might we apply it to the people of God (i.e. Christians) today? _____

3. Outpouring of the Spirit and approaching judgment, vv.28-32.

a. Outpouring of the Spirit, vv.28,29.

41. Compare Acts 2:17 with Joel 2:28. What are the differences if any? _____

42. When did Joel say this "outpouring" was to occur? 2:28 _____

43. What does the term "all flesh" tell us about the scope of this promise? 2:28,29 _____

b. Judgment upon the wicked parallel to blessings on Israel, vv.30,31.
44. Within this context, what would be the apparent meaning of "blood and fire and pillars of smoke," and "the sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood?" 2:30,31 _____

c. The escape of a remnant in Zion, v.32
45. Who will be delivered and upon what conditions will they be delivered? 2:32 _____

B. Judgment on the nations, 3:1-16a.

1. All wrongs committed against the people are to be avenged, vv.1-3.
46. In what time where the things contained in the third chapter of Joel to take place? 3:1 _____

47. What is meant by Judah and Jerusalem here? 3:1 _____

48. What is the "valley of Jehoshaphat" and who does God say He will gather there, and what will happen? 3:2 _____

49. The heathens' cruel treatment of God's people is described in 3:2b,3. What specifically are they charged with? _____

2. Neighbor nations will suffer the severe judgment of slavery in a far land, vv.4-8.

50. In 3:4, the Phoenicians are identified as having wronged the people of God, and thus wronged God. What offenses are specified? 3:4-6 _____

51. How does God say the Phoenicians would be repaid for their shameful treatment of His people? 3:7,8

3. Destruction of all heathen powers by a divine decree, vv.9-16a.
52. What is the striking difference between the "nations" here and the way the people of God are portrayed in such places as Isaiah 2:1-4 and Micah 4:1-4? 3:9,10 _____

53. The prophet asks for God to do something here. What is it and why does he make such a request? 3:11

54. Explain the significance of "be wakened" here and what is meant by "coming up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat?" 3:12 _____

55. What two physical events are used here by the prophet and what do they mean in this context? 3:13

56. Why does the prophet use the word "multitudes" twice here? 3:14 _____

57. Again, what is the significance of the statement in 3:15? _____

58. What does the prophet say about the source of this judgment in 3:16a? _____

- C. Glorification of the people of God; Israel's final happiness and peace contrasted with the desolation of her enemies (the world powers), 3:16b - 21.

59. What two things does the prophet promise the people with regard to God, and how does this relate to us today? 3:16b _____

60. How does the prophet contrast spiritual Zion with temporal Zion? 3:17 _____

61. What is "that day" referred to in 3:18? _____

62. Explain the spiritual significance of the things described by the prophet in 3:18. _____

63. Who is symbolized by the nations mentioned here, and what is to become of such? 3:19 _____

64. In the final two verses of this book, Judah, Jerusalem and Zion are mentioned. Where is it that God dwells today, and how does this relate to what God will do about the blood guilt? 3:20,21 _____

