





# THE LAND IS LAID WASTE

-JOEL 1:1-2:17

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- **Joel – “Jehovah is God”**
  - **The son of Pethuel is all we know about the prophet**
- **Date of the book is uncertain:**
  - **Early (900 B.C.)**
    - **No reference to Assyria or Babylon**
    - **Old enemies mentioned: Philistines, Egyptians and Edomites**
  - **Later (400 B.C.)**
    - **Uses “Israel” and “Judah” interchangeably**
    - **No king is mentioned**

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*“Though the date of its composition may be uncertain and beyond our ability to determine, the message of the book is **immortal and timeless**. It can teach us today as it did when it was spoken.”*

**- Homer Hailey**

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    - No reference to Assyria or Babylon
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  - **Later (400 B.C.)**
    - Uses “Israel” and “Judah” interchangeably
    - No king is mentioned
- **Message: Repentance**
  - “the day of the Lord” (1:15; 2:1, 11, 3; 3:14)
  - “the day of the Lord is great and terrible” (2:11)

# **JOEL (1:1-3)**

- 1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel:**
- 2 Hear this, you elders; give ear, all inhabitants of the land! Has such a thing happened in your days, or in the days of your fathers?**
- 3 Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation.**

# A “NATION” HAS COME UP (1:1-12)

- **Like nothing your ancestors ever saw** (2)
  - **Something you will tell your descendants** (3)

# **JOEL (1:4-7)**

- 4** What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten, and what the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten.
- 5** Awake, you drunkards, and weep, and wail, all you drinkers of wine, because of the sweet wine, for it is cut off from your mouth.
- 6** For a nation has come up against my land, powerful and beyond number; its teeth are lions' teeth, and it has the fangs of a lioness.
- 7** It has laid waste my vine and splintered my fig tree; it has stripped off their bark and thrown it down; their branches are made white.

# A “NATION” HAS COME UP (1:1-12)

- **Like nothing your ancestors ever saw (2)**
  - **Something you will tell your descendants (3)**
- **There will be nothing left (4)**
- **Destruction is a wake-up call (5)**
- **The land is laid waste... (6-7)**

# **JOEL (1:8-12)**

- 8** Lament like a virgin wearing sackcloth for the bridegroom of her youth.
- 9** The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off from the house of the LORD. The priests mourn, the ministers of the LORD.
- 10** The fields are destroyed, the ground mourns, because the grain is destroyed, the wine dries up, the oil languishes.
- 11** Be ashamed, O tillers of the soil; wail, O vinedressers, for the wheat and the barley, because the harvest of the field has perished.
- 12** The vine dries up; the fig tree languishes. Pomegranate, palm, and apple, all the trees of the field are dried up, and gladness dries up from the children of man.

# A “NATION” HAS COME UP (1:1-12)

- Like nothing your ancestors ever saw [2]
  - Something you will tell your descendants [3]
- There will be nothing left [4]
- Destruction is a wake-up call [5]
- The land is laid waste... [6-7]
- Mourn like a young widow [8]
- Mourn like a priest with nothing to offer [9-10]
- Mourn like a farmer who lost his crop [11-12]

*“gladness dries up from the children of man” [12]*

# **JOEL (1:13-14)**

**13 Put on sackcloth and lament, O priests; wail, O ministers of the altar. Go in, pass the night in sackcloth, O ministers of my God! Because grain offering and drink offering are withheld from the house of your God.**

**14 Consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD.**

# **CRY OUT TO THE LORD (1:13-20)**

- **You priests put on sackcloth and mourn (13)**
  - **There is nothing left to offer the Lord**
- **Assemble, fast and pray (14)**

# **JOEL (1:15-18)**

- 15** Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.
- 16** Is not the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God?
- 17** The seed shrivels under the clods; the storehouses are desolate; the granaries are torn down because the grain has dried up.
- 18** How the beasts groan! The herds of cattle are perplexed because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep suffer.

# **CRY OUT TO THE LORD (1:13-20)**

- **You priests put on sackcloth and mourn (13)**
  - **There is nothing left to offer the Lord**
- **Assemble, fast and pray (14)**
- **The day of the Lord is near (15-20)**
  - **Destruction from the Almighty**
  - **Food, joy and gladness have been cut off**
  - **Drought follows the desolation**
  - **Even the livestock suffers**

# **JOEL (1:19-20)**

**19 To you, O LORD, I call. For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flame has burned all the trees of the field.**

**20 Even the beasts of the field pant for you because the water brooks are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.**

# CRY OUT TO THE LORD (1:13-20)

- **You priests put on sackcloth and mourn** [13]
  - There is nothing left to offer the Lord
- **Assemble, fast and pray** [14]
- **The day of the Lord is near** [15-20]
  - Destruction from the Almighty
  - Food, joy and gladness have been cut off
  - Drought follows the desolation
  - Even the livestock suffers

***"to You, o Lord I call"*** [19]

# **JOEL (2: 1-3)**

- 1 Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,**
- 2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.**
- 3 Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.**

# THE DAY OF THE LORD (2:1-11)

- **Sound an alarm! (1)**
  - Tremble. For the day of the Lord is coming. It is near.
- **It will be a day of darkness and gloom (2)**
- **Fire devours the land, and nothing escapes (3)**

## **JOEL (2:4-9)**

**4** Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses they run. **5** As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle. **6** Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale. **7** Like warriors they charge; like soldiers they scale the wall. They march each on his way; they do not swerve from their paths. **8** They do not jostle one another; each marches in his path; they burst through the weapons and are not halted. **9** They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls, they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief.

## **JOEL (2:10-11)**

- 10** The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.
- 11** The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?

# THE DAY OF THE LORD (2:1-11)

- **Sound an alarm! (1)**
  - Tremble. For the day of the Lord is coming. It is near.
- **It will be a day of darkness and gloom (2)**
- **Fire devours the land, and nothing escapes (3)**
- **Like a powerful army drawn up for battle (4-11)**
  - Like warhorses and chariots
  - All grow pale before them
  - They “leap” upon the walls and “climb” into houses
  - The earth quakes before “His” army
  - The day of the Lord is great and terrible

*“Who can endure it?” (11)*

## **JOEL (2:12-14)**

**12** "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

**13** and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

**14** Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

# RETURN TO THE LORD (2:12-17)

- **Still... even “now” the Lord will forgive (12-14)**
  - **Repentance must be heartfelt, total and genuine**
- **God is gracious, merciful, patient and loving**
  - **He is willing to forgive**

# **JOEL (2:15-16)**

**15** Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;

**16** gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

# RETURN TO THE LORD (2:12-17)

- **Still... even “now” the Lord will forgive (12-14)**
  - Repentance must be heartfelt, total and genuine
- **God is gracious, merciful, patient and loving**
  - He is willing to forgive
- **Assemble, fast and pray more fervently (15-16)**
  - Let the older set the example
  - Set aside the concerns of this life to get right with God

# JOEL (2:17)

**17** Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

# RETURN TO THE LORD (2:12-17)

- **Still, even “now” the Lord will forgive (12-14)**
  - Repentance must be heartfelt, total and genuine
- **God is gracious, merciful, patient and loving**
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- **Assemble, fast and pray more fervently (15-16)**
  - Let the older set the example
  - Set aside the concerns of this life to get right with God
- **Seek the Lord’s mercy and forgiveness (17)**
  - The consequences of sin among God’s people reflects on Him

***“Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” (17)***

# LESSONS FROM **JOEL 1:1-2:17**

- **Adversity in life is a wake-up call**
  - **Or should be...**
- **In response to difficulty we ought to turn to God**
- **Tragedy should serve to remind us of ultimate judgment**
- ***“The day of the Lord is both great and terrible”***
- **Judgment is not just for “them”**
- **Sin among God’s people is reproach upon Him**
- **Yet... even now... the Lord will forgive**

**Will you call out to the LORD?**

