

Joel

Breakdown

- The book of Joel is named for the prophet, Joel, who ministered to the southern kingdom of Judah. Joel's name means "the Lord is God".
- Joel doesn't give us any specific dates for his book, but scholars believe it was written around 800 B.C.
- Joel's book is short (only 3 chapters) but includes a powerful message about the importance of repentance before "the day of the Lord" comes.

Main Points

- A terrible plague of locusts was followed by a severe famine throughout the land. Joel used these happenings as a preview to warn Judah of the coming judgment that would take place on the day of the Lord. Joel appealed to all the people and the priests of the land to repent, fast, and humble themselves as they seek God's forgiveness. On that day, God's wrath, power, and holiness will be unbelievably terrible for the enemies of God.
- Although the day of the Lord will be devastating for God's enemies, those who are wholeheartedly committed to God have absolutely nothing to fear on the day of the Lord. For God's people, that day will be a day of rejoicing as we are completely reunited with our loving, merciful Father who will joyfully welcome us to live with Him forever.

Did you know?

- The book of Joel talks a lot about the day of the Lord. What exactly is the day of the Lord?
- Joel prophesies about several different things that will happen before and during the day of the Lord. What is the first thing he mentions happening?
- Joel describes an invading army coming to wipe out the land of Judah. What does he compare the army to?
- Even though the judgment that will come on the day of the Lord will be "an awesome, terrible thing", there is hope for the people of God. What does God ask His people to do?
- God will restore His people, and at the same time, He will also gather His enemies and judge them for harming His people. How did God say the enemies had harmed His people?
- God told Joel to prophesy to His enemies to get ready for battle. What does Joel tell them to do to prepare for battle on the day of the Lord?
- God said He will make His eternal home with His people. How will God prepare His people so that He can live with them forever?

Further Thought

- The people lost pretty much everything they had in the locust invasion, but God said He would give them back what they lost. What does that mean for us today?
- God promised that He would pour His Spirit out upon all people. In Acts 2, the Apostle Peter said that was what happened on the day of Pentecost. How does that affect us?
- God said that after the day of the Lord, foreign armies would never conquer His people again. How does that apply to us, and when will that happen for us?