

## JOEL

Written by Joel around 800 B.C.

- Even earlier than Hosea
- short book, only 3 chapters
- Like many others, Joel has a message of repentance for the children of Israel to avoid God's punishment
- it seems that the people are living in a time of prosperity, perhaps the same time that God referred to in Hosea

The book opens with a terrible plague of locusts

- it eats all the crops and leaves nothing for the cattle
- starvation and drought follow
- Joel's message is for the people to repent before God brings more discipline to them
  - What we see when we read these stories is God punishing His sinful people
  - it's easy to miss the bigger picture
  - God is bringing pain into their lives to try and bring them back to Him
    - just like a parent
    - a good parent doesn't punish their kids out of anger
    - but tries to correct behavior with pain
    - And when the behavior has been corrected, the parent and the child are both happier and have a better relationship
  - look what God does when people turn back to Him

**Joe 2:21** Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, For the LORD has done great things.

**Joe 2:22** Do not fear, beasts of the field, For the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, For the tree has borne its fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full.

Then He says:

**Joe 2:25** "Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

- 1<sup>st</sup> John says that God is Love
  - the more we understand the stories in the Bible, the more we see that everything God does is out of love.

Probably the most popular verses from Joel are 2:28-31

**Joe 2:28** "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.

**Joe 2:29** "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

**Joe 2:30** "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke.

**Joe 2:31** "The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

These were the famous words quoted by Peter in Acts Ch. 2

- The Spirit was poured out; the disciples spoke with new tongues
- Peter said this was a fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel
- but the last part has not been fulfilled yet

During his vision of the end times, John writes of the 6th seal that was opened:

**Rev 6:12** I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made* of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

Obviously, this is still to come

- these event occur in rapid succession during the end times

Joel closes with a blessing for God's people and promise of restoration

- and a description of how God will dwell with His people forever

Jesus Type:

These references are harder to see in these small, short books

- I will point out that it was Jesus who promised to send the Holy Spirit after His resurrection
- and this is exactly what Joel prophesied in ch. 2 would happen
- And it is Jesus who speaks to John the exact words concerning the end that was prophesied by Joel