

Joel: From Repentance to Restoration

[1] The word of the LORD that came to Joel... [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. [4] What the cutting locust left, the swarming 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...

[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...

[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. [15] Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes...

[19] To you, O LORD, I call...

[Joel 1:1-5, 8-11, 13-15, 19 ESV]

1. Time period: Unknown.
2. Historical setting: Following a _____ plague among God's people.
3. The impending _____ is a day of judgment and salvation.
4. Overall structure...
 - A. The day of the Lord typified (1:1-2:17)
 - B. The day of the Lord prophesied (2:18-3:21)
5. Basic Outline:
 - A. The Locust Plague and Its Removal (1:1-2:27).
 - a. The plague of locusts (1:1-20).
 - b. The people urged to repent (2:1-17).
 - c. God pities and promises relief (2:18-27).
 - E. The Future Day of the Lord (2:28-3:21).
 - a. The Spirit of God to be poured out (2:28-32).
 - b. The judgment of the nations (3:1-17).
 - c. Blessing on Israel following judgment (3:18-21).
6. "Day of the Lord"—when God will pour out His _____ on the Gentile nations because of their sins against Israel.
7. See major biblical _____ throughout: God's wrath against sin, the need for repentance, the grace, salvation, and the Spirit of God.

[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]... [3] ...The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them...

[11] The LORD utters his voice... he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it? [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? [15]... [17] ...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?'" [18] Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. [19] The LORD answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations. [20]... [21] "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things! [22]... [23] "Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain, as before. [24] "The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. [25] I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you. [26] "You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. [27] You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else. And my people shall never again be put to shame. [28] "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, and your young men shall see visions. [29] Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. [30]... [32] And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved... as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

[Joe 2:1-3, 11-32 ESV]

[1] "For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem...

[16] The LORD roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But the LORD is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel. [17] "So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain. And Jerusalem shall be holy, and strangers shall never again pass through it. [18] "And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Shittim. [19]... [20] ...Judah shall be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem to all generations. [21] I will avenge their blood, blood I have not avenged, for the LORD dwells in Zion."

[Joe 3:1, 16-21 ESV]