





## Joel

God sends a plague of locusts to Judge Israel, but his judgment on the surrounding nations is coming as well. Joel says to “rend your hearts, not your clothes”, and prophesies of the coming of the Holy Spirit, fulfilled in the second chapter of Acts.

**Author:** Joel, Peter quotes Joel in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost.

**In Joel – Jesus is the One Who is sending His Spirit to His people**

Joel 2:32 “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”

950	900	850	800	750	700	650	600	550	500	450	400
Egypt			Assyria			Babylon			Persia		
N. & S. Kingdoms			Judah Alone			Exile			Post-Exile		
△ Solomon dies			△ Israel falls			△ Judah falls			△ Captives return		
Major Prophets			Isaiah			Jeremiah/Lam. Daniel Ezekiel					
Minor Prophets			Obadiah Joel Jonah Micah Amos Hosea			Nahum Zephaniah Habakkuk			Haggai Zechariah Malachi		
Other Prophets & OT Books			Elijah Elisha						Esther Ezra Nehemiah		



### TEACHER: 3 CHAPTERS

The reason Joel is placed where it is on the chart is an educated guess. There was a temple, but no kings mentioned. Trumpets were rams horns. Brass was still rare. There were priests and elders. No mention of Northern Tribes. Jerusalem had walls. My best guess, between 850-650 B.C. Probably 800 B.C.

Joel is prophesying about a plague of locusts that had just devastated Judah.

### CH. 1

#### STUDENT:

Pay attention, you older people; everyone in Judah, listen.

Has anything like this ever happened in your time or the time of your ancestors?

<sup>3</sup> Tell your children about it; they will tell their children, who in turn will tell the next generation.

<sup>4</sup> Swarm after swarm of locusts settled on the crops; what one swarm left, the next swarm devoured.

<sup>5</sup> Wake up and weep, you drunkards; cry, you wine-drinkers;  
the grapes for making new wine have been destroyed.

<sup>6</sup> An army of locusts has attacked our land; they are powerful and too many to count;  
their teeth are as sharp as those of a lion.

<sup>7</sup> They have destroyed our grapevines and chewed up our fig trees.  
They have stripped off the bark, till the branches are white. (GNT)

TEACHER:

The documenting of the destruction continues to include even the wild animals have no water, as the streams have dried up. Joel ties the devastation to The Day of The Lord. And he says there is more coming.

=====

STUDENT:

CH. 2

Blow the trumpet; sound the alarm on Zion, God's sacred hill Tremble, people of Judah!  
The day of the LORD is coming soon. <sup>2</sup> It will be a dark and gloomy day, a black and cloudy day.

The great army of locusts advances like darkness spreading over the mountains.

There has never been anything like it, and there never will be again.

<sup>3</sup> Like fire they eat up the plants.

In front of them the land is like the Garden of Eden, but behind them it is a barren desert.

Nothing escapes them. <sup>4</sup> They look like horses; they run like war-horses.

<sup>5</sup> As they leap on the tops of the mountains, they rattle like chariots; they crackle like dry grass on fire.

They are lined up like a great army ready for battle. (GNT)

=====

TEACHER:

All of this is due to a back-sliding people. God calls them home.

=====

STUDENT:

"But even now," says the LORD, "repent sincerely and return to me with fasting and weeping and mourning.

<sup>13</sup> Let your broken heart show your sorrow; tearing your clothes is not enough."

Come back to the LORD your God. He is kind and full of mercy; he is patient and keeps his promise;  
he is always ready to forgive and not punish.

<sup>14</sup> Perhaps the LORD your God will change his mind and bless you with abundant crops.

Then you can offer him grain and wine. Blow the trumpet on Mount Zion;  
give orders for a fast and call an assembly!

<sup>16</sup> Gather the people together; prepare them for a sacred meeting; bring the old people;  
gather the children and the babies too. Even newly married couples must leave their homes and come. (GNT)

=====

TEACHER:

God in His love and mercy, restores His people, and the land.

=====

STUDENT:

Then the LORD showed concern for his land; he had mercy on his people.

<sup>19</sup> He answered them: "Now I am going to give you grain and wine and olive oil,  
and you will be satisfied. Other nations will no longer despise you.

<sup>20</sup> I will remove the locust army that came from the north and will drive some of them into the desert.

Their front ranks will be driven into the Dead Sea, their rear ranks into the Mediterranean.

Their dead bodies will stink. I will destroy them because of all they have done to you.

<sup>21</sup> "Fields, don't be afraid, but be joyful and glad because of all the LORD has done for you.

<sup>22</sup> Animals, don't be afraid. The pastures are green; the trees bear their fruit,  
and there are plenty of figs and grapes.

<sup>23</sup> "Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice at what the LORD your God has done for you. (GNT)

=====

TEACHER;

Prophecy of the latter rain, which you should recognize from Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

STUDENT:

"Afterward I will pour out my Spirit on everyone: your sons and daughters will proclaim my message;  
your old people will have dreams, and your young people will see visions.

<sup>29</sup> At that time I will pour out my Spirit even on servants, both men and women.

<sup>30</sup> "I will give warnings of that day in the sky and on the earth;  
there will be bloodshed, fire, and clouds of smoke.

<sup>31</sup> The sun will be darkened, and the moon will turn red as blood  
before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. <sup>32</sup> But all who ask the LORD for help will be saved. (GNT)

TEACHER:

And after that?

CH. 3

STUDENT:

The LORD says, "At that time I will restore the prosperity of Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> I will gather all the nations and bring them to the Valley of Judgment.

There I will judge them for all they have done to my people. They have scattered the Israelites  
in foreign countries and divided Israel, my land.

<sup>3</sup> They threw dice to decide who would get the captives.

They sold boys and girls into slavery to pay for prostitutes and wine. (GNT)

TEACHER:

In the end of the book, God calls all nations to the valley for war. He will fight the battle, and rule on Zion.

STUDENT:

His voice thunders from Jerusalem; earth and sky tremble.

But he will defend his people. <sup>17</sup> "Then, Israel, you will know that I am the LORD your God.

I live on Zion, my sacred hill. Jerusalem will be a sacred city; foreigners will never conquer it again.

<sup>18</sup> At that time the mountains will be covered with vineyards, and cattle will be found on every hill;  
there will be plenty of water for all of Judah.

A stream will flow from the Temple of the LORD, and it will water Acacia Valley.

I will avenge those who were killed; I will not spare the guilty.

But Judah and Jerusalem will be inhabited forever, and I, the LORD, will live on Mount Zion." (GNT)

NEXT LESSON AMOS

*"Come back to the LORD your God. He is kind and full of mercy; he is patient  
and keeps his promise; he is always ready to forgive and not punish."*

Joel 2:13

