

THE COMPASSIONET PROPHET !

“JOEL”

DATE: 835 – 805 B.C.

THEMES: THE JUDGEMENT AND GRACE OF GOD; THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT’S OUTPOURING

KEY WORDS: LOCUST, DAY OF THE LORD

JOB MEANS “YAHWEH IS GOD

BOTH AMOS AND ISAIAH CONTAINS REFERENCE THAT ARE ALSO JOEL.

AMOS 1:2 WITH JOEL 3:16 – IS. 13:6 – JOEL 1:15

THIS COMPASSIONET PROPHET CALLS FOR SINNERS REPENTANCE IN THE FACE OF JUDGEMENT TO REND YOUR HEARTS AND NOT YOUR GARMENTS.

HE PROMISES PROFOUND RESTORATION, INCLUDING THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. THIS PROPHET MENTIONED BY NAME ONLY ONCE IN THE HEBREW BIBLE. KNOWN AS THE COMPASSIONET PROPHET JOEL. A VERY COMMON NAME IN ISRAEL, IDENTIFYING MORE THAN 11 OTHER NAMES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

JOEL PROPHESIED TO THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM OF JUDAH. HE WAS A:

PROPHET FOR THE LORD;

HE WAS PASSIONATE FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH. THIS BOOK DELIVERED AN URGENT CALL TO REPENTANCE IN RESPONSE TO THE DEVASTATING DAY OF THE LORD, A TIME OF DIVINE JUDGEMENT SYMBOLIZED BY A LOCUST PLAGUE. JOEL EMPHASIZES, THAT WHILE GOD BRINGS JUDGEMENT ON SIN.

HE IS:

MERCIFUL,

OFFERS RESTORATION,

ULTIMATELY PROMISING TO POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH.

THE TITLE IS REND YOUR HEARTS: FROM RUIN TO RESTORATION.

JOEL 2:12 – 13 “ PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE BOOK WITH EACH STUDY”

JOEL DESCRIBES A TERRIFYING, ALL CONSUMING PLAGUE OF LOCUST THAT SYMBOLIZES A DEVASTATING DAY OF THE LORD.

JOEL 1:2 – 4

JOEL DESCRIBES THAT THEIRS FOUR DESIGNATION OR FOUR STAGES OF ATTACK OF LOCUST, EACH ONE EATING WHAT THE OTHER LOCUST LEFT UNTIL THE LAND IS TOTALY STRIPPED OF FOLIAGE. FOUR WAVES OF THE PLAGUE OF LOCUST. THEY LOST ALL THAIR CROPS, LOST THE SEEDS NEEDED FOR THE NEXT PLANTING SEASON.

YOUR SINFUL CHOICE IS A PAINFUL EXERCISE OR LIKEWARM FAITH THAT RESULTS IN DISSAPOINTMENT. THIS IS DESIGNATED TO GET OUR ATTENTION AND HIGHLIGHT THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS NOT.

JOEL 3: 12 -21

JOEL USES THIS DWELLING IN ZION TO MEAN THAT THE LORD HAS ESTABLISHED HIS KINGDOM AND ALL THE ENEMIES OF HIS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED. V.21 SOME MAKE THIS THE PARDONING OF THE NATIONS THAT HAS BEEN JUDGED BY GOD AND THEIR FOR, CAN BE PARDON. ALL EVIL HAS BEEN WIPE OUT. NOW THIS THEIR BEGINNIN OF THE WORLD TO COME.

JOEL 2: 12 – 13

IN THESE VERSES JOEL CALLS FOR TRUE REPENTANCE.

RETURN TO GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART. 100%

NOT WITH OUTWARD RITUALS, TRADITIONS AND LEGALISM.

REND YOUR HEART AND NOT YOUR GARMENTS.

MEANS AUTHENTIC!

HAVING INWARD BROKENNESS OVER SIN.

NOT THEATRICAL DISPLAYS OF PIETY.

GOD DOES NOT WANT PHONEY REPENTANCE.

GOD WANTS GENUINE SURRENDER.

JOEL 2: 25– 27

HERE WE SEE THE PROMISE OF RESTORATION. FRIEND GOD IS:

GRACIOUS AND MERCIFUL.

SLOW TO ANGER,

ABOUNDING.

STEADFAST LOVE.

HE PROMISES TO RESTORE THE YEARS THE LOCUST HAVE EATEN, COMPENSATING FOR THE DESTRUCTION AND BRINGING RENEWED ABUNDANCE.

JOEL 2: 28 – 32

JOEL PROPHEIES ALSO THE INAUGURATION OF THR AGE OF THE CHURCH, A TIME WHEN ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE CAN CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD, BE SAVED FROM THEIR SINS AND BECOME PARTICIPANTS IN GOD KINGDOM THROUGH THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE BECOME THE BODY OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD EXTENDING GODS REDEMPTIVE PURPOSE THAT HE HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO EVERY SPIRIT FILLED BELIEVER.

JOEL ALSO PROPHSIED THAT GOD WOOD POUR OUT HIS HOLY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH, REGARDLESS OF AGE, SEX, OR STATUS. HE POINTED TO THE DAY OF PENTECOST, PROMISEING THAT GODS PRESENCE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ALL THAT CALL ON HIM.

THIS IS THE TIME IN WHICH WE NOW LIVE IN. WE HAVE THE WONDERFUL PRIVILEGE OF NOT ONLY EXPERIENCING SALVATION OURSELVES, BUT ALSO OF SHARING THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL WHO WILL LISTEN.

JOELS MESSAGE IS CONCISE AND CLEAR. IF YOU THINK THE PLAGUE OF LOCUST IS BAD WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE THE FINAL JUDGEMENTOF THE LORD. JOEL DOES NOT STOP WITH HIS DOOMSDAY PREDICTION. HE ALSO CLEARLY ANNOUNCES THE DAY GODS GRACE AND RESTORATION TO US.

THE MESSAGE OF JOEL IS THAT NO MATTER HOW DESOLATE OUR LOCUST YEARS WE HAVE BEEN, RETURNING TO GOD WITH A SINCERE HEART LEADS TO A FUTURE FILLED WITH HIS SPIRT AND HIS RESTORATION.

NEXT MONTH

FIRST WRITING PROPHET

“ AMOS “