



Bible Study Guide: Books: Joel • Amos (1–3, 5, 7, 9) • Obadiah

Theme: Return, Restore, Rebuild: The Heartbeat of a Faithful God

Joel – God’s Wake-Up Call and Promise

Joel warns of a devastating locust plague that symbolizes God’s judgment, but his message quickly turns to hope. God calls His people to genuine repentance and promises to restore what’s been lost. The book ends with the outpouring of God’s Spirit and a vision of renewal for all who return to Him.

Amos – The God Who Sees and Judges Rightly

Amos, a humble shepherd, speaks boldly against injustice, hypocrisy, and empty religion. He reminds Israel that privilege brings responsibility and that true worship shows in how we treat others. Though Amos warns of coming judgment, he ends with a promise that God will one day rebuild and restore His people.

Obadiah – The God Who Defends His Own

The shortest book in the Old Testament delivers a strong message against Edom for its pride and cruelty toward Israel. Obadiah declares that God sees every act of betrayal and will bring justice in His time. In the end, the message is clear God protects His people and will always have the final word.

Joel – God’s Wake-Up Call and Promise

The locusts may have stripped the land bare, but God’s true aim was to strip away pride and draw His people closer to Him again. Sometimes God allows us to lose what we’ve relied on not to punish us, but to purify us. When pride is removed, dependence on Him is restored.

Scripture Focus: *Joel 2:12–13* – “Return to Me with all your heart... for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.”

Discussion Question: Why do you think God sometimes allows things to be stripped away before He restores? How does removing pride help us to hear His voice and experience true renewal? - **Takeaway:** God’s restoration begins where pride ends. His pattern is mercy after humbling and healing after surrender.

Amos 1–3 – God’s Justice Is Impartial

Amos begins by confronting the sins of other nations then turns to God’s own people. It’s a reminder that God doesn’t play favorites; His justice is the same for everyone.

Scripture Focus: *Amos 3:2* – “You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore, I will punish you for all your sins.”

Discussion Question: What does it tell you about God’s character that He holds all nations accountable even His chosen people and how does that challenge the idea that being close to God exempts us from His correction? - **Takeaway:** God’s justice is consistent privilege comes with responsibility, and covenant always comes with accountability.



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Amos 5 – True Worship Flows from Justice

Israel kept all the outward acts of worship but ignored injustice. God wanted righteousness, not routine, not performance.

Scripture Focus: Amos 5:23–24 – “Away with the noise of your songs! But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.”

Discussion Question: Why do you think it’s easier for people to “look holy” than to live holy? What does Amos teach us about how genuine worship is proven not by what we sing or say, but by how we stand for what’s right and treat those around us? - **Takeaway:** God doesn’t want worship that sounds right — He wants hearts that live right.

Amos 7 – Mercy in the Midst of Judgment

Amos sees visions of God’s judgment yet when he prays, God listens and relents. This chapter shows that God’s holiness never cancels His compassion.

Scripture Focus: Amos 7:2–3 – “Sovereign Lord, forgive! How can Jacob survive? He is so small! So the Lord relented.”

Discussion Question: What does the vision of the plumb line teach us about living by God’s standards instead of cultural ones and how can understanding His mercy keep us from feeling condemned when we fall short, yet still accountable to grow? - **Takeaway:** God’s mercy still listens when His people pray. Judgment is always tempered by grace.

Amos 9 – From Ruin to Restoration

After all the warnings, Amos ends with hope a picture of God rebuilding what was torn down and blessing what was once barren.

Scripture Focus: Amos 9:11–14 – “I will restore David’s fallen shelter I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins.”

Discussion Question: How does God’s promise to restore Israel after judgment show that His final word is always redemption and what does that reveal about His desire to rebuild what sin has broken?

Takeaway: God tears down what’s corrupt only to rebuild what’s pure. His endings are always new beginnings.

Obadiah – The God Who Defends His Own

Edom’s pride led them to gloat over Israel’s downfall, but God made it clear that He defends what belongs to Him.

Scripture Focus: Obadiah 1:10–12 – “Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame.”

Discussion Question: Obadiah reveals how pride blinds people from seeing their own downfall. How does this book remind us that when we elevate ourselves instead of humbling ourselves before God, we can end



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up opposing the very One who protects us? - **Takeaway:** God sees it all. Pride provokes His judgment, but faithfulness invites His defense.

Closing Reflection: Across Joel, Amos, and Obadiah, God's pattern is consistent: He warns before He acts. He disciplines before He restores. And He always redeems beyond what was lost.

He is:- He restores the years that were lost, renews what was empty, and rewrites every broken chapter with grace. - **Wrap up question:** Looking across these prophets, Joel's renewal, Amos's justice, and Obadiah's defense what consistent pattern do you see in how God deals with His people, and what does that reveal about His heart today?