

# **The Book of Joel**

## Sermon 3 in the Minor Prophets

Practically nothing is known about this prophet.

His name means Jehovah-is-God

It is a common name in the Bible – showing up for the first time as the oldest son of Samuel.

This series is called “Finding Christ in the Minor Prophets”.

1. The prophets place in history
2. The significance to the Babylonian Captivity and destruction of the Temple
3. The regathering -- the second Temple – later rebuilt as Herod’s Temple
4. Prophecies of the coming of Messiah
5. Prophecies of the New Covenant
6. Prophecies of the destruction of the second Temple (70 AD) often referred to as “The Day of the Lord”
7. The Day of the Lord as the second coming and eternal state

Answers to the above 7 points

1. No absolute certainty – but he probably ministered before Isaiah.
2. Any connection would be in the context of judgement and repentance.
3. Not readily apparent – although blessings are promised and restoration after repentance.
4. Christ is Jehovah of Joel 2:32 – Peter makes the point in his sermon on the day of Pentecost.
5. Peter makes this connection in the fulfillment of OT promises – Peter. He cites Joel’s prophecy as speaking of our new day – and the empowering of the church by the Spirit.
6. Not readily apparent in Joel, but certain judgment for sin is.
7. The Day of the Lord appears is a theme but it doesn’t always refer to the end of all things.  
In context it can be taken in 4 ways:
  - 1) In Joel at times it appears to refer to God’s blessings on the faithful remnant of Israel.
  - 2) It can refer to God’s blessings of fulfillment in the church
  - 3) It can refer to Gods’ judgments on the nations of that day
  - 4) It can refer to the final destruction of the wicked at the coming of our Lord

Joel has implications for the future but his primary concern is his own generation.

Joel focuses on the theme of repentance which makes it a relevant book for all time – and may be why God does not give us a specific timeline because repentance is a theme that is always a necessity – until the Lord returns.

### **Outline of Joel**

- I. Attack of the Locusts 1:1-20
- II. The Day of the Lord 2:1-11
- III. A Call to Repentance 2:12-17
- IV. The Blessings that Come from Repentance 2:18-27
- V. God calls the Nations to Account 3:1-21

Regarding the coming of Christ and the New Covenant -- **Joel 2:28-32** with **Acts 2:14-21**

Peter declares that coming of the Holy Spirit upon these that had been in the upper room – signified among the crowd by the sign of prophecy (tongues) -- is a fulfillment of the promise in Joel.

**Acts 2:16-17a** -- The promise would be fulfilled in “the last days”.

**v. 16** – *This is what was spoken by Joel.*

Peter was saying it was being fulfilled right before their eyes.

So they WERE in the last days – and so are we.

**Acts 2:17b-18** -- This promise would continue – not just by “tongues” but in this New Covenant age things would be different than in the Old Covenant

Paul applies this to the gospel to the Gentiles in **Romans 10:12-13**

In the Old Testament – God spoke through a handful of prophets.

In the New Covenant – all of God’s people would be “prophetic”. **Jer. 31:33-34**

Remember – prophecy is primarily a “telling forth” not a predicting of the future.

**Acts 2:19-20** – These are words of judgment to show the urgency of repentance.

**Acts 2:21** – The LORD of **Joel 2:32** is Jesus Christ and Peter preaches Christ to them from the O.T.

**Acts 2:39** -- Peter did not omit the rest of **Joel 2:32**.

### **Other select verses from Joel**

**1:2-4** – Joel is describing a catastrophe that has come upon Judah, because of their sin, **1:17-20**.

Locusts – drought and consuming fire.

Joel cites the curses that would come from idolatry found in **Deut 28:23-24, 38-42**

**2:1-3** -- In this instance – the wrath of God – called the Day of the Lord is falling upon Judah – not as an end of days, but as a day of reckoning.

Not just locusts, drought and fire – but now an army attacks.

This happened many times in history – to call the nation back to God

**1:15** – we see that God Himself is the General leading the invading army.

**2:12-14** – this destruction is not absolutely necessary.

**2:18-20** – Possibly a prophecy of Judah’s deliverance from the Assyrians during the time of Hezekiah.

**3:14-21** – An ending promise of blessing for God’s people and judgment for His enemies.

Special thanks to Pastor Anthony Selvaggio [The Prophets Speak of Him](#) for some of these thoughts.