

Joel

Context

Author - Joel the Son of Pethuel (1:1), whose name means “The Lord is God”.

Setting - Joel prophesied to the Southern Kingdom of Israel to repent from their sin and return to God.

- Prophetic books often deal with concepts like famine, displacement and God’s judgement. Joel’s message comes during a devastating locust plague, which is understood as judgement from God for the people’s sin.

Major Theme

The Day of the Lord x5

Truths to Remember when Reading Prophecy of Judgement

- God has an ongoing relationship with His people.
- God has not abandoned or left His people.
- God wants to get His people’s attention and wake them up from their sin and wicked ways.
- God’s temporary punishment and discipline of His people is the gracious act of a loving Father.

Key Passage

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. Joel 2:13-14

Outline

- I. The Day of the Lord in Judgment (1-2:17)
 - A. A Call to Lament (1:11-2:11)
 - B. A Call to Repent (2:12-17)
- II. The Day of the Lord in Grace (2:17-3:21)
 - A. Salvation is Coming (2:18-32)
 - B. Justice is Coming (3:1-16)
 - C. Restoration is Coming (3:17-21)

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Joel 2:32