

# The Book of JOEL

**Name means:** Jehovah is God, The Lord is God

**Date: Unknown** There is no mention of a king. Possibly early date of 837-830 BC when Joash was 7 years old and too young to be king.

**OR, 400 BC Post-Exilic.** Jerusalem is mentioned but not Israel. Joel is a prophet to Judah, the restored, united Israel. The Northern Kingdom no longer exists.

3:6 refers to the Greeks. Greeks were known but became the world power when they destroyed the Persian empire in 331 BC.

It was a time when no king is mentioned and the priests were in charge.

**ALSO TODAY,** a personal application if this describes the devastation of your own life.

**THEME** "The Day of the Lord" 5 Times Joel 1:15, 2:1, 2:11, 2:31, 3:14-16  
You can have your day. It may appear man is in charge. But judgement day is coming.

**KEY VERSE** Joel 2:28-29 "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. 29 And also (RSV "even") on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. NKJV

## OVERVIEW OF JOEL

<b>1:1 - 2:11</b>	<b>God's Judgement on Judah</b>
<b>2:12</b>	<b>Call to Repentance</b>
<b>2:18-27</b>	<b>The Promise of Restoration of the Land</b>
<b>2:28 - 3:1</b>	<b>The Promise of the Spirit</b>
<b>3:1-7</b>	<b>God's Judgement on the Nations</b>
<b>3:18-21</b>	<b>The Restoration of Judah</b>

### Chapter 1 Destruction of the Land

1:4 Four kinds of locusts  
All are affected :

1:5 The drunkards – no wine

1: 7 branches made white – no bark left on them.

1:9 & 13 The Priests – the daily sacrifices- nothing to sacrifice- no food for the priests  
Jerome, the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish historian working for the Romans, records this as "the greatest calamity"

- 1:12 The vine has dried up and the fig tree withered.  
Also social use and gathering place at the house. More than just the fruit.  
See Zechariah 3:10      John 1:45-50 Nathanael sitting under the fig tree
- 1:13 Lament with sackcloth and ashes-      No grain offering or drink offering
- 1:15 The Day of the Lord- You may have your way, you may have your day now...  
***Destruction from the Almighty!***
- 1:17 Seed shrivels      Barns broken down because nothing to store in them
- 1:18-20 Even the animals have no pasture or water      Everything is affected

## **Chapter 2      The Day of the Lord**

- 2:1      Sound the alarm, the Day of the Lord is at hand.
- 2:2      The Day of the Lord. Never has been, and never will be again, anything like it.
- 2:3-11      An invading army.      Matt 24:21 The Great Tribulation      Daniel 12:1 Armageddon
- 2:12-13      “Now therefore, Turn to Me with all your heart”      An invitation.  
Rend your hearts and not your garments. A sign of grief.  
He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness.
- 2:18-27      The land restored, productive and overflowing.  
Then you will know that I am the Lord.
- 2:28-29      The promise of the outpouring of the Spirit of God.  
:29 Also (RSV Even) on the servants. :29 Even on the servants

## **Chapter 3      God’s Judgement on the Nations**

- 3:3      Give a boy as payment for a harlot and sell a girl for a drink of wine.
- 3:5-6      “you have taken gold and silver from My temple, and sold my people as slaves.
- 3:8      God said “I will sell your sons and daughters.  
To the Sabeans – modern day Yemen. See Job 1:13 - 21
- 3:9-10      Prepare for war! Beat your plowshares into swords. The opposite of Isaiah 2:4
- 3:14      The Valley of Decision. The Verdict      The Valley of Judgement      Armageddon
- 3:17-21      You shall know that I am the Lord