

JOEL

Introduction:

1. Background

- A) We don't know much about Joel (Joel 1:1)

- B) We don't have any sure indicators of when he wrote
 - > Temple worship is possible (Joel 2:17)
 - > God's people have been scattered (Joel 3:2)

2. Outline

Chapter 1:1-12 speaks of the invasion of the locusts

Chapter 1:13-20 Joel issues a call for Israel to mourn and repent

Chapter 2:1-11 speaks again of the invasion of the locusts

Chapter 2:12-17 Joel calls God's people to repent and call out to God for mercy

Chapter 2:18-3:21 God's promises to His people

- > He will be zealous for His land (Joel 2:18a)
- > He will be zealous for His people (Joel 2:18b)
- > He will restore the years lost to the locust (Joel 2:25-27)
- > He will pour out His Spirit (Joel 2:28-29)
 - Partially fulfilled at Pentecost (Acts 2)
 - Not completely fulfilled at Pentecost (Joel 2:30-31)
- > He will save all who call out to Him (Joel 2:32)
- > He will judge the nations (Joel 3:1-16)
 - Note: the valley of decision is not where the enemies of God's people make up their minds about God (Joel 3:14)

The valley of decision is the valley where God renders His verdict / decision

- > He will bless His people in a new creation (Joel 3:17-21)

God will dwell with His people in the land

3. The Day of the Lord

A) Joel mentions the Day of the Lord 5 times (Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14)

> Referred to in Joel 2:2 and 3:18

B) The historical / redemptive purpose of the Day of the Lord

> God's sovereignty over all of His creation is often hard to see

Sometimes good people suffer great hardship and ungodly people prosper - Job

One day God will administer final judgment and justice - Asaph (Ps 73:15-17)

> On the Day of the Lord His sovereignty will no longer be questioned

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

2 Peter 3:1-13

4. New Testament Voices that speak about the Day of the Lord

A) Jesus says, "Be ready"

> No man knows the day or the hour (Matthew 24:36-39)

> When the Master returns He will judge according to what we have done (Matthew 24:45-51)

B) Paul says to the believer, "Be comforted" (1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)

> This gives us a unique insight into the church's relationship to the Day of the Lord

> How could the anticipation of experiencing the Day of the Lord bring comfort?

The hope of the believer is to be caught away before the day of wrath (1 Thes. 4:13-19)

C) Peter says to the believer, "Be holy" (2 Peter 3:11-13)

> Live in light of the promises of God, not the passing pleasures of this world

> Live with the hope of His eternal kingdom and reign in a new heaven and a new earth