

# JOEL

## THE PROPHECY

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# JOEL ~ The PROPHECY

## Chapter One

### READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Joel 1** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Joel 1** and mark every reference to the Word of the LORD with a red circle filled in with yellow.

Read through **Joel 1** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Joel 1** and mark every reference to the Day of the LORD with a blue box filled in with blue.

Read through **Joel 1** and mark every reference to the house of the LORD with a brown box filled in with purple.

Read through **Joel 1** and mark every reference to Zion, God's holy mountain with a blue capital "Z".

Read through **Joel 1** and mark every reference to God's people, the Jews, with a blue star of David.

Read through **Joel 1** and mark every reference to the nations, or nation, with a purple flag.

Read through **Joel 1** and mark every reference to the land with a light brown highlight.

Read through **Joel 1** and mark every reference to sackcloth with a black box.

Read through **Joel 1** and mark any lists with 1, 2, 3, 4...

Read through **Joel 1** and mark every reference to locust.

Read through **Joel 1** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Joel 1** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. God sends army of locusts to get His peoples' attention
2. God calls His people to return
3. God points His people to the future

## READ AND ANSWER

### **Joel 1:1-12**

Who was Joel?

What came to Joel?

How did the Word of the LORD begin?

Who was called to listen?

1.

2.

What land?

What two questions does Joel ask?

1.

2.

What is the answer to those questions?

In the light of the extraordinary event happening to them, what were they to do?

1.

2.

3.

What astonishing event had just happened in the land of Israel?

Was it a “literal” plague?

What locust came first?

What did it do?

Did it leave anything after it gnawed?

What locust came after the gnawing locust?

What did it do?

What locust came after the swarming locust?

What did it do?

What came after the creeping locust?

What did it do?

What came after the stripping locust?

Why is no other locust mentioned? What has happened?

Who is told to awake?

1.

2.

What are they told to do?

1.

2.

Why are they to weep and wail?

## POINT OF DEPTH

**Did the people know that the locust plague was judgment?**

**Oh, yes! They knew!**

**Deuteronomy 28:15, 38**

Why has the sweet wine been cut off from their mouths?

Whose land has been invaded?

What has invaded the land?

How is this nation described?

1.

2.

3.

4.

What are the teeth of a lion like?

What are the fangs of a lioness like?

What has this nation done?

1.

2.

What did the nation of locusts do to the vines?

What did the nation of locusts do to the fig tree?

1.

2.

How are they to weep and wail?

Why would a virgin be girded with sackcloth and wailing for the bridegroom of her youth? What would have happened to her bridegroom?

How would a young virgin wail if her bridegroom were killed before the wedding?

Why is this given as an example of how the people were to wail?

What had been cut off?

1.

2.

From where had the grain offering and the drink offering been cut off?

Who mourns?

Why?

What is the duty of the priests?

What does the word “minister” mean?

What is ruined?

Why does the land mourn?

Why is there no grain offering? (What is ruined?)

Why is there no drink offering? (What dries up?)

What fails?

Why is there no fresh oil?

How should the farmers feel about the situation?

What are the vinedressers to do?

What has happened to the wheat and the barley?

Is there any harvest at all?

Make a list of everything that “dries up”?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

**Joel 1:13-20**

What are the priests called to do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Who are the priests?

What do the priests do with the altar?

What do they need in order to serve the LORD with His altar?

What has been withheld from the house of the LORD?

Why have they been withheld from the house of the LORD?

Do you see why the priests must mourn?

What must the priests mourn over?

Of what is sackcloth a sign?

What are the elders and all the inhabitants of the land called to do?

1.

2.

3.

Over what are they to fast?

Where are they to assemble?

As they fast and assemble, what are they to do?

What exactly, do you think they should be crying to the LORD?

What does Joel cry out at this point?

Alas is a primitive word used to exclamationarily express pain as in, "Oh! No!" What is there to be pained over?

What is the day Joel is crying, "Alas!" over?

How soon is the Day of the LORD?

What will the Day of the LORD be like?

Who sends this Day?

## POINT OF DEPTH

**God was using a present day (Joel's day) locust plague and drought  
to call the peoples' attention to their sin.  
He uses His prophet Joel to point the people to the future Day of the LORD,  
urging them to repent of their sin.  
The Day of the LORD will be far worse than the plague and drought!  
It will be destruction!**

Who is Joel speaking to when he says that food has been “cut off before our eyes”?  
(Read **verses 13-20** before you answer.)

What does Joel say has been cut off from the house of their God?

1.

2.

To whom is Joel still speaking?

What is happening to the seeds?

Whose seeds?

What is the inventory of the storehouses?

What is the condition of the barns?

Why?

Why is the grain dried up?

Who sends the rain?

Who did not send rain?

Why didn't God send rain?

Why did God send the locusts?

Why will God send the Day of the LORD?

What do the beasts do?

Why?

What are the herds of cattle doing?

Why?

What else suffers? (bears the punishment)

To Whom does Joel cry?

Why does Joel cry to the LORD?

What has happened to the pastures of the wilderness?

What has happened to the trees of the field?

What has happened to the beasts of the field? Why are they panting for the LORD?

1.

2.

## READ AND REASON

**Was God angry at the beasts of the field?**

**Was God angry at the water brooks?**

**Was God angry at the pastures of the wilderness?**

**Then, why did He send locusts, plague, drought and fire?**

# JOEL ~ The PROPHECY

## Chapter Two

### READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Joel 2** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Joel 2** and mark every reference to the Word of the LORD, or the LORD speaking, with a red circle filled in with yellow.

Read through **Joel 2** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Joel 2** and mark every reference to the Day of the LORD with a blue box filled in with blue.

Read through **Joel 2** and mark every reference to God's people, the Jews, with a blue star of David.

Read through **Joel 2** and mark every reference to Zion, God's holy mountain, or Jerusalem with a blue capital "Z".

Read through **Joel 2** and mark every reference to the peoples, nations, or nation, with a purple flag. If it is referring to the northern army, also put a circle around the flag.

Read through **Joel 2** and mark every reference to the land with a light brown highlight.

Read through **Joel 2** and mark any lists with 1, 2, 3, 4...

Read through **Joel 2** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Joel 2** and mark every contrast with a pink slash between the two things being contrasted.

Read through **Joel 2** and mark every reference to returning to the LORD with a green arrow pointing upward.

Read through **Joel 2** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. God describes His great and mighty army
2. God calls His people to return to Him
3. What God will do when His people return to Him
4. What God will do before the Day of the LORD

## READ AND ANSWER

### **Joel 2:1-11**

Why is a trumpet to be blown in Zion?

Where is Zion?

Where is God's holy mountain?

What should God's people in His land do when they hear the trumpet?

Why should all the inhabitants of the land tremble? What is coming?

How close is it?

How is the Day of the LORD described?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Who will God use in His Day?

How does Joel describe these people?

1.

2.

3.

Has there ever been anything like this huge congregation of people?

Once this mighty people are used by the LORD during His Day, will He ever assemble them like this again?

What goes before this group?

What comes behind them?

What does the land look like before they arrive?

What does the land look like after they have come?

Does anything escape from this mass of mighty people?

What is their appearance?

How do they run?

How do they sound?

What do they do?

What do they sound like as they leap on the tops of the mountains?

What would be consumed? To what is the stubble likened?

What type of people are they like?

What happens to the people who are in their path?

1.

2.

How do they run? (Check out who the “they” is.)

What do they climb?

Whose walls?

How do they climb the walls?

How do they march?

1.

2.

3.

4.

What happens when they burst through the defenses of the enemy?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What happens to the earth before them?

What do the heavens do?

What happens to the sun and the moon?

What happens to the stars?

Why does the earth quakes before them? Why do the heavens tremble? Why do the sun and the moon grow dark? Why do the stars lose their brightness?

Who is this great and mighty people?

What is true about His army?

Why is the LORD'S camp very great?

What is the army doing?

Why has the army gathered?

Why is the army advancing?

When is this taking place?

How is the Day of the LORD described?

1.

2.

3.

What is the answer to the rhetorical question? Can anyone endure the Day of the LORD?

**Joel 2:12-17**

What does the Lord entreat the people to do right away?

To Whom does He call them to return?

What must be the condition of their return?

If they return to Him with all their heart, what will they do?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What does it mean to rend their heart and not their garments?

Notice that the word heart is singular and not plural in both verses. Why do you think that is? What could be the explanation?

Once again God urges them to return to Him. What does He call Himself?

Why should they return to the LORD their God?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What might God possibly do if they would return to Him with all their heart?

1.

2.

3.

What do they know will happen for sure if they do not return to Him with all their heart?

Once again, the LORD tells His people to blow a trumpet. Where?

What are they to do?

1.

2.

- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

## POINT OF DEPTH

**Look at the list of what the reaction of the people should be.  
Have you ever done any of these things?**

**What would happen if your church did these things?**

**What would happen if you alone did as many of these things that one person  
could do?**

**What would be the purpose of doing them?**

**What was the reason God called for His people to do these things?**

**Do we have the same reason?**

**Does the church at large have the same reason?**

Once again, when the Lord speaks about His priests, He calls them something. What is it?

Why do you think it is so important to attach the explanation of the priests being the LORD'S ministers each time?

What were the priests, the LORD'S ministers to say when they were weeping between the porch and the altar? Write it out.

## POINT OF DEPTH

**God has made His church a kingdom of priests unto Him.  
Can you weep and cry out the same prayer to Him?  
(I Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6)**

What reason did the peoples of the nations have to say, "Where is their God?"

## POINT OF DEPTH

**Can people say, "Where is his/her God?" based on the discipline God is sending you in order to reprove you to flee from unholiness?  
Do you realize He disciplines His children?  
Does it bring Him glory when others, who do not know Him, think He is impotent because of you?**

**What must change in order to bring Him glory?  
Hebrews 12:5-11**

**Joel 2:18-27**

What does zealous mean?

Who will be zealous?

For what?

When?

What does it mean to have pity on someone?

Who will have pity?

On whom?

When?

**Verse 19** says the LORD will answer? Answer what? Answer who?

What will be the LORD'S answer? What will He do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

How much grain, new wine and oil will the LORD send to His people?

What promise does the LORD make to His people?

When will God keep this promise? What must happen first? (**Joel 2:12-17**)

What will God do to the northern army when He removes it from Israel?

1.

2.

3.

What will be the condition of the northern army when God is finished with it?

1.

2.

Why will God do this to the northern army?

## POINT OF DEPTH

**What great things has the northern army done?**

**We usually assume great means something good.  
In this case, the two English words translated “great things”  
come from only one Hebrew word – *gawdal*.  
This word means to magnify, to increase, to grow.**

**In this verse, you could understand the meaning more clearly by saying that the northern army has grown and become powerful and important and magnified itself. It has promoted itself, praised itself, nourished itself to become great.**

Who does God reassure in **verse 21**?

Why can the land (personified) rejoice and be glad instead of being afraid? (Don't miss the amazing contrast God is making between Himself and the northern army!)

Who does God reassure in **verse 22**?

Why do the beasts no longer need to fear?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Who has caused all these things?

Who does God tell to rejoice in **verse 23**?

How does God tell them to rejoice?

Why does God tell them to rejoice?

Why has God given His people the early rain?

Look up the word vindication and write out its definition.

Why do they need vindication? What have they looked like to the world (because of their punishment)?

What will the rains bring (secondarily to vindication of God's people)?

1.

2.

3.

At that time, what does God promise to do?

How is God making up for the years of the locusts?

Who sent the great army against God's people?

## POINT OF DEPTH

**The locust plague in Joel 1 was a literal plague sent by God on account of the sins of Israel. The word 'years' is plural and sounds as though plagues were sent more than once. Reading the Old Testament, we know this to be true.**

**The plague of the army referred to in chapter 2 was not locusts.  
Could this promise be referring to more than the plagues of locusts sent by God?  
Could this mean other forms of punishment God has sent upon His people?  
Why did God send punishment upon His people?  
Did they respond rightly?**

**So many times church people use the phrase from this verse and say,  
"God will make up for what the locusts have eaten."  
They refer to bad times that have "come" upon them.  
They don't believe they have deserved what God has sent.  
They take the phrase, "make up to you" to mean they suffered unjustly.**

**Unfortunately most of the time  
they do not know what the meaning of the phrase really is.  
To admit that the locust has come is to admit that God has sent the locust.  
To admit that God has sent the locust is to admit your sin.  
We never deserve to have the years of the locusts made up to us!  
We deserved the locusts to come and devour!  
It is the mercy of God which is sent because of Who He is,  
not because of what we think we deserve!**

Why will God's people be satisfied at that time?

What will God's people do at that time?

What is the Name of the LORD their God?

How has God dealt with His people?

What promise does God make to His people?

What will His people know at that time?

1.

2.

3.

4.

How will they know these things?

Look back through **verses 18-27** and find repeated ideas (i.e. **verse 19** “and I will never again make you a reproach among the nations” and **verse 26** and **27** “Then My people will never be put to shame”). List them below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

and so on...

What phrase is stated in **verse 26** and repeated in **verse 27**?

Why do you think this is repeated? What were the people going through at that time?

**Joel 2:28-32**

What is "this"?

What will come about then?

When *is* then?

Upon whom will God's Spirit be poured out?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

What will happen in the days God's Spirit is poured out?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

When will these things occur?

When will the Day of the LORD come?

How is the Day of the LORD described?

1.

2.

Read **verse 32** and notice the words 'delivered', 'escape' and 'survivors'. What do these words imply about the Day of the LORD?

Who will need to be delivered?

From what?

How will anyone be delivered?

Who will need to escape?

From where?

Who will survive?

What great promise does God make concerning those He calls?

## READ AND REASON

The word for great used in verse 31 is a slightly different word than was used in verses 20 and 21. It is *gawdole* and means to be huge in magnitude and extent.

We usually think of awesome as being something wonderful in a good and pleasant sense. However that is not what the word conveys. The Hebrew word is *yawray* and means fearful and terrible.

**The Day of the LORD is huge in magnitude and extent, fearful and terrifying.**

**How will the Day of the LORD affect you? The answer is in His Word.**

**Have you called on the Name of the LORD?**

# JOEL ~ The PROPHECY

## Chapter Three

### READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Joel 3** and mark every reference to the LORD with a red triangle.

Read through **Joel 3** and mark every reference to the Word of the LORD with a red circle filled in with yellow.

Read through **Joel 3** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Joel 3** and mark every reference to the Day of the LORD with a blue box filled in with blue.

Read through **Joel 3** and mark every reference to the house of the LORD with a brown box filled in with purple.

Read through **Joel 3** and mark every reference to Zion, God's holy mountain, or Jerusalem with a blue capital "Z".

Read through **Joel 3** and mark every reference to God's people, the Jews, with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Joel 3** and mark every reference to the nations, or nation, with a purple flag.

Read through **Joel 3** and mark every reference to the land with light brown highlight.

Read through **Joel 3** and mark any lists with 1, 2, 3, 4...

Read through **Joel 3** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. God will enter into judgment with the nations
2. God summons the nations to war
3. Zion in that Day

## READ AND ANSWER

### **Joel 3:1-8**

When are those days and that time?

What will God do in those days and at that time?

When will God gather all the nations to judge them? (**Verse 1**)

To where will God gather all the nations?

Why will God gather all the nations to judge them?

What have they done with God's people?

What have they done with God's land?

What else have the nations done?

1.

2.

3.

Which nations are directly indicted in **verse 4**?

1.

2.

3.

What relationship does God say He has with Tyre, Sidon and all the regions of Philistia at that time?

What does it seem like Tyre, Sidon and all the regions of Philistia think they will do?

What will God do if they try to recompense Him?

What does God charge that Tyre, Sidon and all the regions of Philistia have done?

1.

2.

3.

What did they do to the sons of Judah and Jerusalem?

Why did they sell them to the Greeks?

Where was “their territory”?

What was God going to do for the sons of Judah and Jerusalem that had been sold by Tyre, Sidon and all the regions of Philistia?

What was God going to do to Tyre, Sidon and all the regions of Philistia?

What was God going to do to the sons and daughters of Tyre, Sidon and all the regions of Philistia?

To whom will God sell their sons and daughters?

Where is the nation of the Sabeans?

How certain is it that the LORD will sell their sons and daughters into the hands of the sons of Judah?

How certain is it that the sons of Judah will sell them to the Sabeans?

What makes it so sure?

**Joel 3:9-17**

Where is a proclamation sent?

What is the proclamation?

Who is to prepare a war?

Who is to be roused? Why?

Who is to draw near and come up? Why?

What are the nations to do with their plowshares?

What are the nations to do with their pruning hooks?

Why would the nations need to turn their plowshares and pruning hooks into weapons of war?

What is the weak man called to say?

How quickly are the nations to gather for war?

Which nations are mentioned?

Where are they to gather?

What is the LORD called upon to do?

Who is to be aroused?

Where are they to go?

What will happen in the valley of Jehoshaphat?

Who will be judged?

Who was summoned to come? (**Verse 11**)

Why is the command given to put in the sickle?

Why is the command given to tread?

What overflows?

Why do the vats of the wine press overflow?

How full is the valley of decision?

Is there a comparison between the fullness of the vats and the multitudes in the valley?  
If so, what is it?

Why are there multitudes in the valley of decision?

What happens at that time to the sun and the moon?

What will happen to the stars?

What will the LORD do?

1.

2.

From where does the LORD roar?

From where does the LORD utter His voice?

When God's mighty voice is sounded from Zion as Conqueror of all, what happens to the heavens and the earth?

Do God's people need to tremble at the sound of His roar at that time?

Why not?

1.

2.

What will His people, the sons of Israel, know when they are experiencing safety and protection in their God?

## POINT OF DEPTH

**What does it mean to know that He is the LORD their God?**

**What does it mean to know that He is the LORD *your* God?  
Is He?**

Where will the LORD dwell?

What three names are synonymous?

1.

2.

3.

What will be holy?

1.

2.

Why? What is God?

Who will dwell in Zion with the LORD?

Who will not even pass through Zion?

## POINT OF DEPTH

**God is holy. He is set apart to Himself.  
That means that all that God is, is all that God is!  
He is pure of any attribute that is not His.  
He is full of Who He is and empty of what He is not.  
He cannot and will not be defiled by unholiness (all that God is not.)**

**Therefore, in order for Him to dwell in Zion,  
He must purify it and set it apart for Himself.  
Zion must be holy.**

**He will cleanse His mountain and make it holy.  
He will cleanse His city, Jerusalem, and make it holy.  
He will cleanse His people and make them holy—  
For they are to dwell with Him in Zion!**

**Joel 3:18-21**

With what word does **verse 18** begin?

Then to what is **verse 18** connected?

To what Day is **verse 18** referring?

What will be true of the mountains in that Day?

With what will the hills flow?

What will all the brooks of Judah do?

What will go out from the house of the LORD?

What will the spring do?

In contrast, what will happen to Egypt and Edom?

1.

2.

Why will Egypt become a waste?

Why will Edom become a desolate wilderness?

What violence did they do to the sons of Judah?

Where did they shed innocent blood?

Whose blood was shed?

In contrast to Egypt and Edom, what will be true of Judah and Jerusalem?

1.

2.

Who will cause Egypt to become a waste?

Who will cause Edom to become a desolate wilderness?

What is God's purpose?

Why?

# READ AND REASON

Compare chapter 2 and chapter 3.

What elements do you see repeated concerning the Day of the LORD?

Make a list below of everything you learn about the Day of the LORD.

Day of the LORD