

Joel 2

Joel 2.1-11

V1 – **What were the priests to do?** Blow the trumpet to warn the people (sound the alarm)

-**Why?** "Day of the Lord" was near

-"The day of the Lord" was used by the prophets from *Isaiah 2.12* to *Amos 5.18* – it seems as if Joel was the first to use it (in time sequence)

-**What was the significance of the blowing of the trumpet (shophar)?** – It was a signal to other towns in the area of some important event

-**Read 1 Thessalonians 4.16** – indicating the return of the Lord for his Second Coming

V2 – A reference to the locusts that literally blotted out the sun – the Israelites had never experienced anything like this in the past, and there would not be anything like it in the future.

See *Beacon Bible Commentary*, V, p. 90

V3 – **What was the land like before the locusts?** Garden of Eden

-**What was it like after the locusts?** Desolate wilderness – nothing was left

V4 – **Appearance like _____?** War horses (look at locusts up close)

V5 – They are very noisy – **How noisy?** Like the sound of chariots

V6 – **Reaction of the people?** Terrified of the locusts

V7 – **Characteristics of locusts?** They could climb walls –

Read *Beacon Bible Commentary*, p. 94ab – **Lebanon, 1845**

V8 – They do not break ranks – **Read Prov. 30.27**

V9 – They go through all the houses

V10 – Notice the apocalyptic language (a language that the prophets occasionally resorted to)

-**Where else do we see this in the Bible?** *Ezekiel, Revelation*, etc. (also *Acts 2*, the sermon of Peter)

V11 – Joel saw God as being behind the locust attack

-**Do we see things today as being "acts of God"?** Yes – Many times a homeowners' insurance policy will say that it does not cover "acts of God," but they never define that term

Joel 2.12-17 – A call to national repentance

V12 – **What did God want of the people?** For them to repent, with fasting and weeping and mourning

V 13 – **Was God interested in outward signs of repentance?** No, he wanted a change of heart
-God was not interested in the "rending of their garments" (tearing apart their clothes along the seams) – that meant nothing to God – **Read Psalm 51.17** – only a changed heart counts with God
-**How does Joel describe the basic nature of God's heart?** He is gracious and compassionate

V 14 – God could change his punishment on the people. His wrath could be stopped by a return to righteousness

V 15 – They were to call an assembly together.

V 16 – **Who was to be present?** Everybody (including the infants)
-Note the application to the question of children's worship
-There is no Scripture where children were kept out of worship or had a special service of their own
-**Problems and advantages?**
-**Why did God want the babies and children to be present?** To learn from what they were seeing

V 17 – The priests were to beg God on behalf of the people (to relent concerning the plague)

Joel 2.18-20

V 18 – **Would God stop the attack?** Yes – he would have pity on his people

V 19 – God would once again bless them.

V 20 – The locusts generally came from the north
-"Eastern sea" = Dead Sea
-"Western sea" = Mediterranean Sea
-**Who were the traditional enemies of Israel that always attacked from the north?** The Assyrians and later the Babylonians – **Read Jer. 1.13-14**
-And the locusts were just a foretaste of the destruction to come from the north

Joel 2.21-27 – The promise of a restoration of the land

V 21 – The land was not to be afraid (apocalyptic language)

V 22 - A promise of complete restoration – God will take care of the animals and the pastures and the trees and fruit trees (very interesting)

V 23 – A promise that the rain would return

V 24 – **The promise?** Threshing floors full again

V 25 – **The promise?** God would repay all the damage the locusts had caused

V 26 – They would have plenty then

V 27 – **What would they learn from this experience?** That God was watching over Israel

Joel 2.28-32

- The Old Testament prophets compressed the time between them and future events
- Rock City at Chattanooga, TN ("See 7 states from Rock City")
 - Also: Top of the World Highway in the Yukon
 - Going to the Sun Highway in Glacier National Park
 - Similar highway just west of Denver, going north and south on the mountain tops
 - The mountain ranges in the distance seem "compressed" – they appear to be close to each other, but in reality are hundreds of miles apart
- So here Joel has "compressed" the future and is looking about 800 years ahead

V 28 – **When will this next passage take place?** At some point in the future ("*after this*")

- How does God view time, compared to how we view time? Read 2 Peter 3.8**
- We can read *Acts 2.16-21*
- Every book in the Old Testament has a thread in it about the coming of Christ and his gospel
- What was the prophecy of v 28?** Visions and dreams

V 29 – The Spirit would be offered to all mankind (*Acts 2.38*)

- Sons and daughters, old men, young men, male and female servants
- All will have access to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit – the promise is universal (15 nationalities were represented on the Day of Pentecost)

V 30 – Displays in heaven (apocalyptic language)

V 31 – Notice "Day of the Lord" to come after *Acts 2*

- How will a person survive "the Day of the Lord"?** By calling on his name

V 32 - **How do we call on the name of the Lord? Read Acts 22.16**

- Incredible connection between *Joel 2.32* and *Acts 22.16* – over 800 years later!
- Also quoted by Paul – **Read Romans 10.13**

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