

# Joel – 13 March 2026

## “The Day That Changes Everything”

### Introduction

\*Joel (Yahweh is God) seems to have been written about the time of Queen Athaliah’s reign (835 BC)

\*Unusually there’s no mention of a king, but priests and elders

\*Talk of the sacrifices, but they’re not happening

\*Enemies listed but not Assyria or Babylon

\*Activity of the Greek slave markets in Joel 3:6

Joel focuses us on “The Day of the Lord”

This term is used in around 15 Bible books

It’s the time period that begins at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming and ends at the conclusion of the Millennial Kingdom

**Today, we’ll receive 3 layers of understanding of ‘The Day of the Lord’**

# #1 – It’s Foreshadowed: Natural destruction causes us to awaken, mourn & turn to God (Chap 1)

Read 1:1-4

1. No reason not to take this at face value that there was a massive locust invasion that destroyed
  - a. Invasions can be so thick you can’t see sun
  - b. Thru their molting stages they crawl then fly eating up the vegetation in different ways
2. Joel says this one is so bad tell your kids
  - a. We use the expression ‘it a 100-year flood’
3. Locusts always used as a pic of destruction
  - a. Used as the 8<sup>th</sup> plague in Egypt (Exo 10)
  - b. A destructive tool against Israel (I Kin 8)
  - c. Again, seen in Rev 9 – spiritual beings
4. Joel will use this *natural* event to describe a *spiritual* event coming up in chapter 2

Read 1:5-7

1. It calls the locusts ‘a nation’ already alluding to the spiritual picture that we’ll get in chapter 2
2. “Awake drunkards” – Many people are drunk on the lusts of this world

- a. “Their sweet (or new) wine is cut off” –  
They pay no attention to the world around  
unless it affects them
- b. People today don’t care where a President  
stands on abortion... as long as they keep my  
grocery & gas prices down
3. God wants them all to pay attention

Read 1:8-12

1. It’s proper to mourn in such a way
2. This destruction affects every area of life b/c  
it’s their entire food supply
  - a. It affects home life, business and worship
3. If they understand this, they’ll be able to  
understand in chapter 2 how God wants them to  
mourn the spiritual destruction

Read 1:13-14

1. Religious leaders are to call a fast of mourning
2. This is to come before the Lord in mourning  
seeking His guidance

Read 1:15-20

1. The Day of the Lord is the day of His wrath, judgement, darkness and fire
  - a. Food is hard to come by; no pasture, water
  - b. Many prophets & II Peter speak of it
2. Judah is about to experience a desperate time – In a real sense it's the day *of the Lord*
  - a. They're on God's time, He's having His way
  - b. But an ultimate Day is coming (II Pet 3:9-11)
3. So all of Joel is a real event happening in their day, and yet also foreshadows "The" Day of the Lord that is yet to come

**#2 – It's Forewarned: Spiritual destruction is coming unless they return in heart allowing God to restore & give His Spirit (Chap 2)**

Read 2:1-5

1. Now we're certainly talking about that ultimate Day of the Lord – the tense of the verses changed

- a. 1:6 – The locust army “*has* come”
  - b. 2:1 – This numerous & mighty people (as locusts) “*is* coming”
  - c. Also, vs 2 says there will never again be anything like it
2. It seems best to reckon this as an army that would invade Israel at 1 of 3 times
    - a. The Eze 38-39 Battle (Russia w/ help)
    - b. At end of Trib (Anti-Christ) (yes b/c 3:1-2)
    - c. At end of 1,000 Kingdom (Russia again)

Read 2:6-11

1. This invading army uses great persistence
  - a. Is this an army of robots like war horses?
  - b. This is future prophecy so we can't know exactly who or what this army is
2. IAW vs 10 this is certainly in the last days as Jesus described same things in (Read) Matt 24:29
3. See in vs 11 God is using this army for His will
4. The emphasis this whole time is on the fact that during the Day of the Lord, God will have His way

## Read 2:12-17

1. Compared to the mourning in chap 1, we see the call to mourning “in the heart”
2. What does a true return to God look like?
  - a. It involves a change in passions (vs 12-13)
  - b. It asks for His grace (vs 13), forgiveness (vs 14) and pity (17)
  - c. It comes from a deep sense of need (vs 16)

## Read 2:18-20

1. This is centered on God’s land and His people
2. Even in the hardest of moments the Lord will deliver them if they would but call to Him
  - a. This great military force is nothing to God

## Read 2:21-27

1. This is full restoration, no partial return
  - a. Like the Prodigal Son wanted to return to being a servant but his father made him a son!
2. Of Israel, but it applies to any wayward sinner

Read 2:28-32

1. How could Peter apply this pouring out of God's Spirit to the day of Pentecost?
  - a. Though the primary layer of interpretation is for all Israel in the last day – it's for all who would return to God and be restored
2. When there's anyone that returns to God, to them is given an unbiased outpouring of His Spirit
3. Now there's always that warning to do it now
  - a. Before the Day of the Lord comes

### **#3 – It's Foreknown: God judges the nations when all decisions are behind us & complete (Chap 3)**

Read 3:1-3

1. This clearly seems to align with Jesus' judgement of the nations as seen in Matt 25:31-46)
  - a. They're judged for their treatment of Israel
2. Where is the Valley of Jehoshaphat?
  - a. Zec 14:2-4 tells of Mt. of Olives splitting in two causing a new valley down the middle
  - b. Seems likely this is the new Valley of J.

## Read 3:4-8

1. God seems to dip back in time for a special memory of some people that'll receive punishment
  - a. Tyre and Sidon is Lebanon today
  - b. Regions of Philistia is Hamas of Gaza Strip
2. For their crimes (vs 5-6) God returns Israel to their land to punish those nations – see this today
  - a. This could yet happen that these peoples are given to the Sabeans in Saudi Arabia

## Read 3:9-13

1. Rev 14 is almost an exact parallel to these vss
2. Nations gathered at end of Trib for judgement

## Read 3:14-17

1. The nations are here gathered in the Valley of Jehoshaphat for judgement
  - a. This is right after the Battle of Armageddon
2. Why's it called the Valley of Decision?
  - a. Not b/c the people come there to decide
  - b. But b/c Jesus makes judgement, separating the sheep and the goats

Read 3:18-21

1. Both Zec 14 & Eze 47 talks of this new river in Jerusalem caused by the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming
2. Egypt and Edom are called out for special punishment during this time
  - a. Zec 14 called out Egypt as rebels during the Millennial Kingdom
  - b. These vss confirms Egypt's punishment
3. God never forgets & will avenge, setting all this right

## Conclusion

*The Day of the Lord* is coming & will change all things. Will you be ready before it comes upon you?

1. **Natural destruction foreshadows it causing us to awaken, mourn & turn to God**
2. **Spiritual destruction forewarns of it coming, unless we return allowing God to restore us & give us His Spirit**
3. **The coming judgement of the nations is foreknown when all decisions are behind us**