

What's Bugging You?

Joel

Historical Background

- Joel is one of the twelve Minor Prophets in the Old Testament.
- His book is relatively short (three chapters) but very dense in prophetic imagery and theology.
- Scholars debate the exact date of his ministry, but many place him after the Babylonian exile (5th–4th century BC), though some argue for an earlier date.
- Joel's central concern is the "Day of the Lord"—a theme that runs throughout the book.

Joel is a prophetic call to repentance, a warning about God's judgment, and a promise of renewal through the Spirit of God, culminating in God's ultimate victory over the nations and His dwelling among His people.

Joel 1

Read Chapter One

Joel chapter one, is broken down into One Act with Four Scenes.

Scene One: The Plague of Locust - 1- 4

Scene Two: The Wake Up Call - 5-12

Scene Three: The Call to Repentance - 13- 14

Scene Four: The Day of Yahweh - 15 - 20

Joel 2:25-32 KJV

25 “And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmer worm, **my great army which I sent among you.**

26 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come.

32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.”

Introduction: God is throwing His weight around, as His people moves down repeated paths of rebellion, resistance and irregular behavior. Creature against Creator, Creator against creature. This prophetic saga is filled with paradoxical plots, and symbolic situations that say and show one thing but are designed to mean something more than suggestive parallels but relevant and impactful. In other words, God is telling us something through the actions that He is taking against His own people, because the only way they ever get it, He has to create disruptions and destructions, to spark a sense of devoted loyalty from the people He called chosen.

Anything with a personality has the potential to become a problem. Every negative action is not always directly attributed to the devil. Some times it is the unrepentant inherent nature of humanity, who finds favor with the flesh, and rejects the favor of God. **“People tend to cater to what makes them feel good more than what makes them do good.”**

Being a part of the Christian diaspora or culture of Christ-like symbolism, doesn’t exempt you from demonic interferences and influences. Evil still exists as does sin its birth child, so our fight with sin is a battle that’s been won but a fight that is still mandated. God is no longer tolerating

recycled religion as an alternative to what He requires. He is looking for repentance that leads to a spiritual restoration, that causes us to look different and act different.

As an apostolic leader, a part of my apostolic and prophetic mantle, is to establish God's law as law, in the midst of this assembly of Christian believers. It is a part of my assignment to pull up and pull down and destroy anything that is antithetical to the progression of God's divine intent as well as the progression of the entire assembly of God. It is to be noted that what I teach you here, where we worship, we must take it with us and practice it where we live.

Long gone are the days and times of liberal spiritual lethargy, and stale religion that stalls but makes no strides toward holy and wholesome living. Judgement has become a lost language in the community of grace and mercy. But let me tell you as I embark upon what is about to become my end time assignment. God is eclipsing what has become the social norm where sin lives comfortably within the confinement of carnality masking as true spirituality. You're not spiritual if your natural tendencies are outweighing the temperance and tenets of your spiritual transformation. If you're not changing it's because you aren't growing, and if you're not growing, it's because you are not changing.

“Rehearsing righteousness, is for the sole purpose of practicing righteousness.”

Theological Themes of the Book of the Prophet Joel

1. **God's Sovereignty:** Joel shows that God is in control—even over natural disasters like locust plagues. Everything is part of a divine plan, even when it feels chaotic problem.
2. **Repentance and Grace:** One of Joel's strongest theological points is that God desires authentic repentance. **"Rend your heart, not your garments" (Joel 2:13)** means God isn't interested in empty rituals, He wants real change. And when people do repent, God responds with mercy, restoration, and blessing.
3. **The Holy Spirit in All:** Joel prophesies a time when God's Spirit will be poured out on everyone, men, women, young, old, rich, poor. This breaks down religious hierarchy and exclusivity, which was revolutionary then and still deeply meaningful today.
4. **The Day of the Lord:** Joel talks a lot about judgment, but it's not just punishment. It's a reset. A call to awareness. A wake-up moment when everything hidden is revealed. Theologically, it's about justice and accountability.

What is the Prophetic Relevance to Us today:

1. **A Critical Call to Wake Up:** Just like Joel's locust plague, our modern crises, climate change, pandemics,

injustice, can act as wake-up calls. Joel challenges us to ask: **What is God saying through the crisis? Are we listening?**

2. **Repentance as Transformation:** Joel teaches that true change starts from the heart. In a world obsessed with image and performance, this is a call to deep, inner transformation, both personally and collectively.
3. **Hope After Hardship:** Joel doesn't end in doom. He gives us hope that what's lost, can be restored, and that God is still active in history. That message resonates in times of uncertainty, grief, and rebuilding.
4. **Inclusion of All People:** Joel's vision of the Spirit poured out on everyone is a powerful reminder today that spiritual power isn't confined to certain people, genders, or roles. It's radically inclusive, fueling movements for justice, equity, and empowerment.

In short: Joel speaks to a world in crisis but insists that repentance, spiritual renewal, and collective justice can lead to divine restoration. He reminds us that God works through both judgment and mercy, and that hope is never out of reach.