



Go for God!

## **THE BOOK OF JOEL** **Introduction & Chapter 1**

### > **Let us understand a TRUE PROPHET OF**

#### **GOD:**

- **Robertson observes:** "The prophets had a practical office to discharge. It was part of their commission to show the people of God 'their transgressions and the house of Jacob their sins' (Isaiah 58:1; Ezekiel 22:2; 43:10; Micah 3:8). They were, therefore, pastors and ministerial monitors of the people of God. It was their duty to admonish and reprove, to denounce prevailing sins, to threaten the people with the terrors of divine judgment, and to call them to repentance. They also brought the message of consolation and pardon (Isaiah 40:1-2). They were the watchmen set upon the walls of Zion to blow the trumpet, and timely warning of approaching danger (Ezekiel 3:17; 33:7-9; Jeremiah 6:17; Isaiah 62:6). Their function differed from that of the priests, the latter approaching God in behalf of men by means of sacrifice, the former coming to men as ambassadors from God, beseeching them to turn from their evil ways and live. The prophets do not seem to have had any official relation to the government, exerting an influence upon rulers and state affairs, not as officers of the state, but as special messengers from God.

- **Nelson's Bible Dictionary declares,** "Some prophets were called for a lifetime. But sometimes prophets spoke briefly and no more (Numbers 11:25-26). In either case, a prophet spoke with the authority of the Holy Spirit (Numbers 11:29; 24:4). **One trait characterized them all: a faithful proclamation of God's word and not their own** (Jeremiah 23:16; Ezekiel 13:2). Jesus' reference to Himself as a prophet in John 12:49-50 rests upon this standard of faithfully repeating God's word to man. . . . Whether a prophet's words were fulfilled within his lifetime or centuries later, they were fulfilled to the letter (1 Kings 13:3; 2 Kings 23:15-16). But regardless of the time of fulfillment, the prophet's message applied to his generation as well as to ours."

> **Beware of FALSE PROPHETS!** Let's look at **Deuteronomy 18:15-22**; (In the N.T. **Matthew 7:15** - "*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.* **Matthew 24:11** - *Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.* **Matthew 24:24** - *For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.* **2 Peter 2:1-3** - *But there were*

*also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber. **1 John 4:1-3** - Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.)*

## **> CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF OLD TESTAMENT**

### **PROPHETS:**

#### **- THE PRE-EXILIC PROPHETS:**

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>JOEL</b>      | <b>850 – 700 B.C.</b> |
| <b>JONAH</b>     | <b>800 B.C.</b>       |
| <b>AMOS</b>      | <b>780 – 755 B.C.</b> |
| <b>HOSEA</b>     | <b>760 – 710 B.C.</b> |
| <b>MICAH</b>     | <b>740 B.C.</b>       |
| <b>ISAIAH</b>    | <b>740 – 680 B.C.</b> |
| <b>NAHUM</b>     | <b>666 – 615 B.C.</b> |
| <b>ZEPHANIAH</b> | <b>630 – 620 B.C.</b> |
| <b>HABAKKUK</b>  | <b>627 – 586 B.C.</b> |
| <b>JEREMIAH</b>  | <b>626 – 580 B.C.</b> |

#### **- THE EXILIC PROPHETS:**

**(Exilic means in exile, when the Jews were taken captive to Babylon for 70 years.)**

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>DANIEL</b>  | <b>604 – 535 B.C.</b> |
| <b>EZEKIEL</b> | <b>593 – 570 B.C.</b> |
| <b>OBADIAH</b> | <b>585 B.C.</b>       |

#### **- THE POSTEXILIC PROPHETS:**

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>HAGGAI</b>    | <b>520 B.C.</b>       |
| <b>ZECHARIAH</b> | <b>520 – 518 B.C.</b> |
| <b>MALACHI</b>   | <b>450 – 400 B.C.</b> |

## **THE BOOK OF JOEL**

- **JOEL'S name means:** The Hebrew name is *Yo'el* which means "*Yahweh is God.*"

- **Theme:** *The Day of the LORD!*

- **Date written:** Approximate time period 850 – 700 B.C.

> **John MacArthur** writes, "The *Day of the Lord* is frequently associated with seismic disturbances (e.g., 2:1–11; 2:31; 3:16), violent weather (Ezek. 13:5ff.), clouds and thick darkness (e.g., 2:2; Zeph. 1:7ff.), cosmic upheaval (2:3,30), and as a "great and very terrible" (2:11) day that would "come as destruction from the Almighty" (1:15). The latter half of Joel depicts time subsequent to the Day of the Lord in terms of promise and hope. There will be a pouring out of the Spirit on all flesh, accompanied by prophetic utterances, dreams, visions (2:28,29), as well as the coming of Elijah, an epiphany bringing restoration and hope (Mal. 4:5,6). As a result of the Day of the Lord there will be physical blessings, fruitfulness, and prosperity (2:21ff.; 3:16–21). It is a day when judgment is poured out on sinners that subsequently leads to blessings on the penitent, and reaffirmation of God's covenant with His people."

> **THERE ARE NINETEEN EXPLICIT MENTIONS OF "THE DAY OF THE LORD" IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:** (1) Obadiah 15; (2) Joel 1:15; (3) Joel 2:1; (4) Joel 2:11; (5) Joel 2:31; (6) Joel 3:14; (7) Amos 5:18; (8) Amos 5:18; (9) Amos 5:20; (10) Isaiah 2:12; (11) Isaiah 13:6; (12) Isaiah 13:9; (13) Zephaniah 1:7; (14) Zephaniah 1:14; (15) Zephaniah 1:14; (16) Ezekiel 13:5; (17) Ezekiel 30:3; (18) Zechariah 14:1; (19) Malachi 4:5.

> **THERE ARE FOUR EXPLICIT MENTIONS OF "DAY OF THE LORD" IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:** (1) Acts 2:20; (2) 1 Thess. 5:2; (3) 2 Thess. 2:2; (4) 2 Pet. 3:10.

## > **CHAPTER 1 - GOD'S CHASTISEMENT!**

(v1-3) Proclaim and explain the WORD OF GOD to your children, grandchildren and future generations!

(v4-13) Joel speaks of the devastation of the locusts upon the land:

- (v5-6) Vineyards are completely destroyed! – Pleasures removed!

- (v7-13) Agriculture completely destroyed! – Food shortage – worship shortage!

(v14-18) Joel sends out a national call to fasting and prayer!

**(v19-20) Joel makes personal intercession for the nation. (Acts chapter 2)**

