

Joel: 400 B.C.

- Location: Jerusalem
- Theme: Yahweh, the righteousness judge, will punish evil and vindicate Israel.
- Present symbols of this judgment point to a future time in history when Yahweh's ultimate judgment will take place.
- God promises to pour out his spirit upon all men and, both men and women, will prophesy (ref. Joel 2:28-29).

Outline of Joel

- Part 1 Oracles about the Locust Plagues and Drought (ch. 1-2)
- Part 2 Oracles concerning the Day of Yahweh (ch. 2-3)

Locusts Darken the sky and Destroy Everything



The Chastisement of the Lord: Joel 1 & 2

- Read Joel 2:1-17...
- The wrath of the Lord touches every soul, every clan, every people.
- I believe this is part of God's elaborate plan to keep us humble... dependent upon him for everything.
- The chastisement and discipline of the Lord is for his children and servants, those he loves.

Key Passage: Joel 2:28-29

- The recompense of the Lord for having suffered through chastisement.
- The 2nd movement of Joel's prophecy unveils the "unprecedented outpouring of Yahweh's grace" (The Heb. Proph.; Newsome, p. 187).
- Men and women shall prophesy in the "Golden Age" of this Jewish faith...the age of the Church (Christ ushers through the H.S.).

Key Passage: Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:32-39

- 28 “And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people:

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.

- 29 Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.



What is the difference between “sons and daughters” and “servants” in ch. 2?

- The distinction between “**sons and daughters**” and “**servants**” highlights the universal, transcendent Holy Spirit’s outpouring (ALL PEOPLE).
- While sons and daughters represent the familial position of believers, servants emphasize that even those in the lowest social or legal standing receive the same divine empowerment. (i.e. white & blue collar).
- This was a very well understood analogy of how family structures worked. 2,400 years ago, in a very undeveloped and rural social-economic system most people were a part of family businesses/economies or they were grafted into them as workers or servants. Most people lived together in these systems of agriculture.

Prophecy for the People of God

- Those who respond to his chastisement grow. Those who check their hearts.
- When we recognize the hand of God's discipline at work in our lives and we respond accordingly, we will reap also God's promises to restore us, to replenish our store houses, to have our relationships restored, to demonstrate the power of God in their lives.

Something to ponder...

- How do we know when God is chastising us?
- What is the best way to repent when God speaks to us?
- Do you desire the kind of spiritual maturity that is required to appease God in these moments of growth?