

The Minor Prophets

Lesson 1

Joel – The Day of the Lord

God sent the prophet Joel to the southern kingdom of Judah around 830 BC. He probably ministered in Jerusalem. Joel's prophecy concerned the contemporary audience in Judah, but also his prophecies leaped across all future history to the end times. His favorite expression occurring five times was "the day of the Lord" which would be a time of great judgment.

Read Joel 1-3

1. Who sent this authoritative message to Joel (Joel 1:1)? What had just happened to Judah which destroyed their crops in Joel 1:2-4?
2. Since all the vineyards had been stripped bare, who did Joel address in Joel 1:5-7? How did he describe the locusts?
3. Who all cried out and mourned over the loss in Joel 1:8-12? Who did Joel call out to a special assembly of mourning and supplication (v13-14)?
4. What coming event was the locust plague an ominous sign of (Joel 1:15)? What is the aftermath like of the judgments of God (Joel 1:16-20)?
5. What will the "day of the Lord" be like (Joel 2:1-11)?

6. What is the people's only hope, and what are they called to do to avert such disaster (Joel 2:12-17)?

7. What is always God's response to humility, contrition, and repentance (Joel 2:18-27)?

8. Joel 2:28 through 3:21 seems to be describing a time of judgment on the world, but restoration of God's people that will happen in the end times. Does Jesus' prophecy of His record coming in Matthew 24:29-30 sound like the same event of Joel 2:30-32?

9. In the end times, whose fortunes will be restored (Joel 3:1)? Who will be gathered to the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Armageddon) for judgment (3:2)?

10. Jehoshaphat (v 12) means God judges. What imagery does Joel use for God's judgment of the wicked nations in Joel 3:12-16? Where will God dwell in the Kingdom (Joel 3:17-21)