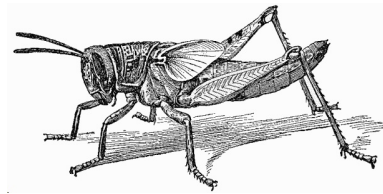


I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Joel is the second of the twelve minor prophets
- B. He is a Prophet of Judah who we think wrote his prophecy sometime around or before 800 B.C. Perhaps 820 to 830 B.C.
 - 1. This was over 200 years before the Babylonian captivity, and about 100 years before the Assyrian captivity.
 - 2. Neither of these events are near Joel's day.
- C. We know almost nothing about Joel, other than what we can learn by reading his prophecy. He gives no background for himself other than the name of his father.
 - 1. He refers to Jerusalem half a dozen times, and may have lived there.
 - 2. His father's name means "vision of God."
- D. Joel's name means "Jehovah is God."
- E. A key phrase in the book is "The day of the LORD"
- F. The key events in the book are
 - 1. The plague of locusts - Chapter 1
 - 2. The coming of the day of the Lord is prophesied - Chapter 2
 - 3. The coming judgment of the nations and restoration of Israel - Chapter 3
- G. New Testament references to Joel
 - 1. In Acts 2:16 the apostle Peter states that the things the people were witnessing on the day of Pentecost had been spoken of by the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29).
 - 2. In Romans 10:11-13 Paul refers back to Joel 2:26b and 2:32.
 - 3. In Mark 4:29 Jesus may be making use of Joel 3:13.
 - 4. There may be a connection between Joel 2:32 and Acts 2:39.
 - 5. References to Joel in the Revelation
 - a. Rev. 6:12 to Joel 2:10, 31; 3:15
 - b. Rev. 6:17 to Joel 2:11
 - c. Rev. 9:7-9 to Joel 1:6; 2:4-5
 - d. Possibly Rev. 14:15, 18 to Joel 3:13
- H. Joel is a call for repentance from wickedness, but spends much of his time addressing the last days.



The Locust

II. THE PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS – CHAPTER ONE

- A. The prophecy is first directed to the old men (1:2) because the event is to be so terrible that many generations have never seen anything worse (1:3).
- B. The locusts are described as a nation (1:6)
- C. They consume everything with their teeth (1:7-13)
- D. The product of this destruction should be an assembly to cry to the LORD (1:14)

III. THE DAY OF THE LORD - CHAPTER TWO

- A. First, be warned that you cannot take a word or phrase in the Bible and assume that it always means the very same thing in every instance.
- B. The "day of the LORD" is mentioned almost 30 times in the Bible
 - 1. First in Isaiah 2:12
 - 2. Joel 1:15 is virtually identical with Isaiah 13:6
- C. In the Bible it is described as:
 - 1. Judgment of the proud (Isaiah 2:12)
 - 2. Destruction from the Almighty (Is 13:6, Joel 1:15)
 - 3. Cruel with wrath and fierce anger (Is 13:9)
 - 4. A day of vengeance (Is 34:8, Jer 46:10)

5. A day of darkness and no light (Amos 5:18, 20)
6. A future day (I Thess 5:2)
7. A day when the world will be destroyed (II Peter 3:10)
- D. Joel chapter 2 describes two different events – the Locust and an invading army of men – they are likened one to another.
 1. “A great people and strong” (Joel 2:2)
 2. They leave desolation in their path (2:3)
 3. They look like horses (2:4) and run like horsemen (2:4)
 4. They make a noise like chariots and fire and they leap (2:5)
 5. It hurts to see them coming because nothing can be done to stop them (2:6)
 6. They climb, they march, they don’t break ranks (2:7)
 7. They cannot be stopped (2:8)
 8. They go everywhere (2:9)
 9. They darken the sky (2:10)
 10. They are the Lord’s army (2:11)
- E. The call to repent (2:12)
 1. Repentance is a rent heart (2:13)
 2. Repentance is a turning to the LORD (2:13)
 3. Repentance is accompanied by works (2:14-15)
- F. The portrayal of honest repentance by the people (2:16-17)
- G. The LORD’s response to repentance (2:18-20)
 1. He will claim and pity his people (18)
 2. He will hear their prayers (19) and satisfy their needs
 3. He will restore their reputation (19)
 4. He will take away the Northern Army (20)
- H. The consequences of repentance
 1. Gladness because of the LORD’s doings (21)
 2. Restoration, even of that which was lost to the locusts (22-25)
 3. God will be their God (27)
- I. Results of the repentance of Israel in the later days (28-32)
 1. Spirit poured out (Joel 2:28 vs. Acts 2:17)
 2. Sons and daughters will prophesy
 3. Dreams and visions of young and old (Joel 2:28 vs. Acts 2:17)
- J. Portions of this prophecy are fulfilled in Acts 2, and portions are not, for example, the sun being turned dark.
 1. Rev 6:12 says that the darkening of the sun takes place after the sixth seal is opened – the wrath of God is then revealed.
- K. Joel 2:32 portrays deliverance from Zion and Jerusalem, signifying the millennial reign of Christ.

Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;
17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:
18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:
19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:
20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:
21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

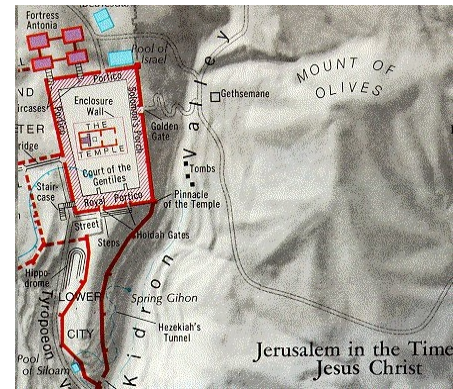
IV. JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS AND RESTORATION OF ISRAEL - CHAPTER THREE

- A. The judgment of the nations mentioned in Joel 3:2-16 is considered to be the same referred to in Matthew 25:31-46. Jehoshaphat means “Jehovah has judged.”
 1. The location is a valley which is probably Kidron
 2. The speaker, the LORD, calls Israel “my people” and “my heritage” (3:2)

- B. The nations are judged for abusing and mistreating Israel - God's people.
- C. There is nothing they can do to repay the LORD for what they have done. (4)
- D. God considers the things of Israel to be His (5-8) and will get vengeance
- E. Now it is time to come to Kidron and be judged (9-11)

V. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

- A. The harvest of the world is described in Joel 3:13
- B. Darkening of the sun and moon (3:15)
- C. The LORD shall dwell in Jerusalem (Zion) (16-17)
- D. The Kingdom of the LORD on earth will be blessed but Egypt and Edom will be desolate (they are Israel's enemies). (18-19)
- E. Judah will dwell FOREVER and be cleansed (20-21)



H O M E W O R K

Name: _____

1. To which part of the divided Kingdom did Joel write?
2. How do you know?
3. About when do we believe Joel was written?
4. Why did Joel address the “old men?”
5. What is the “day of the LORD”?
6. What behavior would evidence repentance, according to Joel 2:12-13?
7. For what are the nations to be judged?
8. When will the nations be judged, where, and by whom?
9. Give one clear proof that Joel believed Israel would be restored in the last days.
10. During the Millennial Reign, what nations will be desolate and why?