

JOEL

Goals of the Lesson:

1. To understand the severity of the Lord against those who refuse to do His will.
2. To understand that with every judgment, the Lord also offers mercy through His Spirit.

Introduction: The date of the book of Joel has been variously placed between 400 B.C. to 900 B.C. Most, however, place the writing of the book about 830 B.C. We know nothing about Joel except that he was the son of Pethuel and his name means "Jehovah is God."

It is evident from chapter one that a devastating locust invasion has just swept across the land. This, proclaims the prophet, is only a warning of a greater invasion that will come upon Israel from the nations (2:1-17). The book concludes with God's promise to restore Israel and judge the nations. However, the pouring out of the Spirit would send a blessing upon all flesh.

Survey of the book: Before beginning a more detailed study, read through the book quickly, noticing the main topics of the book. Who is the speaker in the first section (1:2--2:17)? Who is the speaker in the second section (2:18--3:21)?

1:1-4: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

Revealing Fact:

The *chewing, swarming, crawling, and consuming* locust may be different stages of locust development with each one continuing the destruction. After an invasion, the females leave their eggs which produces the larvae stage, then the pupa stage, then the flying insect stage, and finally a full-fledged locust again.

1:5-14: In the space below, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

1. Why has the grain offering and the drink offering been cut off from the house of the Lord?

1:15-20: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

2. When we see the phrase, "*day of the Lord*" as in **verse 15**, what should we think of?

2:1-11: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

3. The blowing of the trumpet in Israel may refer to one of two events: the gathering of an assembly for worship or other purposes; or, as in this case:

4. What does the language of **2:10** describe? Compare **Matthew 24:29**.

2:12-17: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

5. For what purpose is the trumpet blown in **verse 15**?

2:18-20: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

2:21-27: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

2:28-32: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

6. Notice that **verse 28** states that "it shall come to pass *afterward*." How does Peter translate this differently in **Acts 2:17**? By comparing the two renderings, *when* was the prophet saying the Spirit would be poured out?

7. In the Old Testament, how would the Jews understand the prophecy of *pouring out of the Spirit*? Compare the context of **Isaiah 32:15**. From this, how shall we understand this phrase in the New Testament?

8. Describe how each of the following verses were fulfilled:
verses 28-29:

verses 30-31:

verse 32:

3:1-8: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

9. In **verse 1**, what time period does the phrase "*in those days*" refer to? Prove your answer.

10. No one knows if there is a literal "*valley of Jehoshaphat*." The word Jehoshaphat means, "Jehovah judges." What, therefore, may the Lord be saying here?

3:9-17: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

11. What do the two figures in **verse 13** refer to? Compare **Isaiah 63:1-3; Revelation 19:15**.

3:18-21: In the space below and left, write down the main points of the text as well as those things you find interesting:

Main Points To Remember From This Lesson:

1. The literal locust invasion on Israel was to remind the people of the coming of a great judgment on the nation.
2. Though God would bring judgment on His people as well as on the nations who afflicted them, He would pour out His Spirit on all flesh, thus offering salvation to all.