

Through the Bible Course

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Joel

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Key Word: Day of Lord

Key Verse: 2:11

Joel means Jo-el, which means “Jehovah is God”

Time: Joel is usually considered to be one of the earliest prophets probably 800 BC and 750 BC. However, some students place him very late, even during period of Maccabees.

Occasion: Joel speaks of terrible plague of locusts and the trouble which followed and used this plague as an opportunity to preach repentance with a divine emphasis and announcement of the coming of the great and terrible Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord is variously interpreted...

1. A. B. Davidson – “It signifies the moment when Jehovah grasps the reins which He seems to slackly held before, when the currents of His moral rule, which had been running sluggishly, received a mysterious quickening, and the Lord’s work upon the earth is at last fully performed.”
2. A.C. Gaebelien – “The day on which Jehovah will manifest Himself as God.”

It would seem then to mean any period of time during which God moves in a special way in human history.

I. Chapter 1 – Plague of locusts

1. 1:1-3 – Introduction
 - a. vs. 1 – authority for speaking
 - b. vs. 2 – never been such a time before
 - c. vs. 3 – command to tell successive generations
2. 1:4-7 – Historical plague of locusts and destruction
 - a. Four stages of locusts
3. 1:8-14 – Call to people and priests to repent
4. 1:15-18 – The Day of the Lord; the suffering land
5. 1:19-20 – The prophet’s prayer

II. Chapter 2 – The coming Day of the Lord should lead to repentance

1. 2:1-11 – A coming calamity
2. 2:12-17 – The repentance of people and call for help
3. 2:18-27 – Promises of restoration
4. 2:28-32 – The material and spiritual blessings promised

III. Chapter 3 – Events of Day of the Lord

1. 3:1-8 – The judgment of the nations

a. vs. 2 – valley of “Jehovah Judges”

b. vs. 6 – because mistreated Israel

2. 3:9-16 – Nations exhorted to prepare for battle but defeat is sure

3. 3:17-21 – Jehovah will be in midst of His people to bless