

Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps
Sermon # 29 – “Joel”
February 3, 2008

Dating the Book of Joel: Unlike most prophetic books, no information is given in the opening verse that establishes the time frame of Joel’s prophetic ministry. Scholars have proposed various dates ranging from the 9th to the 2nd Centuries B.C.

Joel the Man: The only fact we know about Joel is that he is a “son of Pethuel.” Joel’s name means “Yahweh is God” or “The Lord is God.”

“**The Day of the Lord**” is a dominant theme in Joel, appearing 6 times throughout the book (1:15; 2:1, 11, 28, 31; 3:14). “The Day of the Lord” describes a decisive action on the part of God to accomplish His purposes. It typically has a militaristic connotation. It can involve both judgment and blessing. Paradoxically, “The Day of the Lord” is both one day and many days, referring to several specific events in history, as well as to a futuristic, endtime event culminating the present age.

Outline of the Book of Joel

1. Desolation: God Judges His People. 1:1-2:11

- A plague of locusts, followed by drought and famine (1:1-20)
– Events of the immediate past.

Joel addresses several groups of people:

- The elders (older men) (v. 1-4)
- The drunkards (v. 5-7)
- The worshipers (v. 8-10)
- The farmers (v. 11-12)
- The priests (v. 13-14)
- An invading army from the north (2:1-11)
– Events of the immediate future.

2. Repentance: God Calls His People to Return. 2:12-19

- The appeal (v. 12-13a)

- The motivation (v. 13b-14)
- The Lord's response (v. 18-19)

3. Restoration: God Delivers His People. 2:20-3:21

- The invading army destroyed (2:20)
- The land restored (2:21-27)
 - Rain will be poured out on the land (v. 23b)
- The people restored (2:28-32)
 - God's Spirit will be poured out on all people (Acts 2:14-21)
- The nations judged (3:1-16)
- God's people blessed (3:17-21)
 - Imagery of flowing water: Refreshment from the Lord (3:18)
Ezekiel 47:1-12, Isaiah 35:1, Rev. 22:1-2
 - God calls us to a decision (3:14)