

Joel

The Day of the Lord

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Theme

- Theme: The Day of the Lord
- The Lord brought swarms of locusts upon Israel to get their attention so they would repent and return to God
- The Day of the Lord becomes the basis for the prophetic day of doom that will overwhelm Israel, her enemies and the world but transitions to the great and awesome day of the Lord (Joel 2 → Acts 2)

Joel, the Prophet

- Means “Yahweh is God”
- Prophet to Judah
 - “house of the Lord” (1:9, 14; 3:18);
“house of your/our God” (1:13, 16);
“Zion” (2:1, 15, 23, 32; 3:16-17, 21);
“Jerusalem” (2:32; 3:1, 6, 16-17, 20);
“Judah” (3:1, 6, 8, 18-20)
 - Probably contemporary of Elisha

History

- There are no date markers in the Book of Joel, but content and context of the book may best fit the pre-exile period (around 835-830 BC), early in Joash's reign (see McFall's Chronology: https://lmf12.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/hebrew_revised_kings.pdf)
- Though no king is mentioned, exhortations are given to the priesthood
- 841 BC: Jehu killed King Ahaziah
- Ahaziah's mother, Athaliah was the daughter of King Ahab of Israel

History

- Athaliah was not of David's line and so was not a legal ruler
 - She tried to eliminate all the legal heirs to the throne in Judah
 - One of Ahaziah's sons, Joash (Athaliah's grandson) was rescued by Jehoiada the priest and hidden for 6 years in the temple
 - When Joash was 7 years old, Jehoiada overthrew Athaliah (835 BC)

History

- Joash became king and Jehoiada was his tutor
- Jehoiada tried to remove Baal worship and restore righteousness to the kingdom
- When Jehoiada died he was honored by being buried with the kings in the city of David (2 Chron. 24:16)
- Full details: 2 Kings 9-12; 2 Chronicles 22-24

History

- The enemies mentioned are Tyre and Sidon (Phoenicians), the Philistines, Egyptians, and Edomites (3:4, 19)
 - These were the pre-exilic enemies of Israel
- The exilic enemies of Israel and Judah (Assyria and Babylon) are not mentioned, nor is Persian mentioned
- No post-exilic people or events are mentioned

Key Words & Phrases

- **Day/days** (13 times)
 - 1:2, 15; 2:1-2, 29; 3:1, 18
- **Day of the Lord** (5 times)
 - 2:11, 31; 3:14
- **Desolate/desolation** (4 times)
 - 2:3, 20; 3:19

Verses to Remember

- 1:4, 15
- 2:11-13, 25, 28-32 → Acts 2:17-21
- 3:14

Outline by Chapter

Ch. 1: The Day of the Lord: locust invasion

Ch. 2: The prophetic Day of the Lord

Ch. 3: Future of hope for Judah and
Jerusalem

Trivia

What is the northern army the Lord said he would remove (2:20)?

The locusts

Memory Verse Review (Jeremiah—Hosea)

- Jer. 10:23—“O Lord, I know...”
- Lam. 3:40-41—“Let us search out...”
- Ezek. 18:20a—“The soul...”
- Dan. 4:25c—“. . . the Most High...”
- Hos. 4:6a—“My people...”

Memory Verse for Joel

2:32a

“And it shall come to pass that
whoever calls on the name of the
Lord shall be saved”