

Key to JOEL

1. STATISTICS:

Writer, Joel (name means "Jehovah is GOD"), probably earliest of the Judean prophets who prophesied in the reigns of Joash and Uzziah (II Chronicles 23-26). Key thought, judgment and restoration; key verse, 2:13; time, 810-795 B.C., possibly later).

2. THEME:

Joel, evidently not a priest, was an inhabitant of Jerusalem in the time of comparative prosperity and was called of GOD to show similarity of devastating plague of locusts and an accompanying drought, to calamities coming on the nation for its sins. As is frequently the case, Joel looks forward prophetically to the future glorious restoration and subsequent events.

3. SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

May have been contemporary with Amos and Hosea in Israel. The prophet's style is clear and vigorously descriptive.

4. OUTSTANDING TEACHINGS:

One of the worst calamities which can come on an agricultural people is a plague of locusts or grasshoppers. Literally, they devour every leaf and blade of green grass in their path. How intensely graphic would be the warning which would promise similar disaster from an enemy invasion.

Joel's greatest prophecy concerns the outpouring of the HOLY SPIRIT, first at Pentecost (2:28, 32; Acts 2:16-21) and then in greater fulness at the end of the "**times of the Gentiles.**"

Apparently, the prophet emphasized the warring aspect of the times of the end of the age as he calls for plowshares to be turned to swords, and pruning hooks into spears (see Micah 4:3).

The great assemblage in the valley of Jehoshaphat (3:2) evidently concerns the judgment of the Gentile nations at the end of the Tribulation period (Matthew 25:32).

5. KEY TO UNDERSTANDING:

Joel is another of GOD's great worthies, called upon to add an indispensable part to the great tapestry of truth. The Apostle Peter built his entire message on the day of Pentecost on the prophecy of Joel.

~ end of Joel ~

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