

The Day of the Lord

Joel 1

“As many of the other Old Testament prophets, Joel spoke to his people at a moment of crisis. The immediate crisis was an extraordinary severe locust plague combined with drought, which destroyed most of the crops on which their food supply depended. It was so serious that it affected the harvest of more than one year. The very survival of God’s people in Jerusalem and Judah was in question.

In the locust invasion Joel saw an even greater danger prefigured—the approach of the day of the Lord, when God would lead a fearsome army in judgment on His wayward people. They remained outwardly religious, but their hearts strayed from him.

Joel spoke to wake up his people, so that they would realize the grave danger in which they were living. Then he exhorted them to come before the Lord sincerely, to return to the Lord with all their hearts, and to pray that the Lord would spare them. Finally Joel spoke God’s words of encouragement to His threatened, but now repentant people.”

Ogilvie

- I. Prophecy is God given insight into what he will do in the future. Its purpose is multifaceted, meaning that it can involve short-term and long-term predictions involving judgments and blessings. It offers us insight into the heart of God and his sovereign control over all mankind in both the physical and spiritual realm. It speaks of his promises, love, grace and mercy toward those who know, love and obey him, and his justice and judgment toward those who don’t.

2 Timothy 3:5

2 Kings 8:26

2 Kings 11:1-3

2 Chron. 22:2-4

2 Chron. 24:7

2 Peter 1:20-21 *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. 21For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

- II. The type of judgment God used to humble the land of Judah took away everything they had put their trust in. He took away the joy of their prosperity and replaced it with the emptiness and frustration of despair to break them of their pride. God knew exactly what was needed to humble his people and bring them to the point of repentance and renewal.

Joel 1:1-12

Matt 15:19-20

Lev. 26:3-5

In 1915 a devastating plague of locusts covered what is modern-day Israel and Syria. The first swarms came in March, in clouds so thick they blocked out the sun. The female locusts immediately began to lay eggs, 100 at a time. Witnesses say that in one square yard, there were as many as 65,000 to 75,000 eggs. In a few weeks they hatched, and the young locusts resembled large ants. They couldn't fly yet, and got along by hopping. They marched along 400 to 600 feet a day, devouring every speck of vegetation along the way. After two more stages of molting they became adults who could fly - and the devastation continued. Guzik

2 Chronicles 7:14 *if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

- III. The phrase "***the day of the Lord,***" means that there is a limit to how much sin God will tolerate before he deals with it. It is a day when God's judgment and wrath against sin are unmistakably evident to those it is directed toward. Judah had reached a point in their rebellion to where he had to deal with it in order to get his covenant people back on track spiritually. By his grace and mercy, he brought them to the point of godly sorrow to draw them to repentance. The only solution to any of our problems that come about because of sin is true heartfelt repentance.

Hosea 1:13-20

"Joel contains more references to the day of the Lord than any other book in the Bible. It is a day of wrath against Israel in 1:15, 2:1, 11 and against the nations in 2:31 and 3:14."
Ogilvie

2 Corinthians 7:10 *Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*