

8/23/15

Joel 1:1-2:11

Joel is the second of the Minor Prophets containing only three chapters, totaling 73 verses, providing for us the last day prophetical scenario of "The Day of the Lord" based on a literal historical judgment of locust as a type of devastation in the last times.

1:1-12 The call to acknowledge God's Judgment.

1:1 The introduction to the prophesy of Joel.

- 1) The source of the words are said to be "the word of the LORD".
* Joel spoke under divine Inspiration.
2Pet. 1:20-21; 2Tim 3:16-17
- 2) The specific messenger chosen by God was imparted revelation for a specific time, "came to Joel", 835-25 B.C.
* Joel "Yow'el", means Yahweh is God and is found about 20 time of which 13 referring to distinct persons.
- 3) The prophet was the son of Pethuel, which means "vision of God" and we know nothing about him.

1:2-3 The appeal to the elders and people.

- 1) The summon is to hear "shama" to listen with the idea of paying heed. vs. 2a
- 2) The elders were the ones responsible for the instruction, direction, oversight and disciple of the people. vs. 2b
* They were more liable before God.
- 3) All the inhabitation of land were the people of Judah and Benjamin. vs. 2c
 - a) Amos did the same thing. Amos 3:1; 4:1; 5:1
 - b) Jesus often said, "He who has an ear".
 - c) To the seven churches of Revelation The Spirit, "Let him hear". Rev. 2-3
- 4) The question is about the severity of the plague of locust, if they could recall such a thing. vs. 2d-e
* The question is a rhetorical one that has only one answer, NO, nothing like it in the past, it was unparalleled!
- 5) The command of God by Joel was to warn their the future generation from their children to their grand-children. vs. 3
 - a) The implication is that it was due to sin for this was judgment from God!
 - b) Our responsibility to transmit our faith and God's dealings with us to our children. Deut 4:9; 6:6-7

1:4 The four stages of locust.

- 1) This was a literal plague of locust or grasshoppers in chapter one.
- 2) These are not four different locust, but stages of the locust.
- 3) Of the nine words found in the Old Testament, four are found recorded here.
 - a) The chewing “gazam”, means cutting locust.
 - b) Swarming “arbeh” means
 - c) The crawling “yelek”, means
 - d) The consuming “chasel” means destroying.

1:5-7 The prophet addressed the national problem.

- 1) God through Joel commanded the drunkards to wail for the loss of the new wine. vs. 5a-d
- 2) The reason being the plague of locust had destroyed the grape vine, the source of their alcohol. vs. 5e-f
 - * Alcohol is one of the major signs of a decaying nation, others are sexual immorality, violence, injustice and pleasure.

1:6-7 The locust are pictured as a nation

- 1) God personifies the locust as a nation, identifying it as “My land”. vs. 6a
- 2) God described the locust as powerful, innumerable and destructive with the

teeth of a lion and fangs of a fierce lion.
vs. 6b-e

* Figurative language used to depict the literal plague!

- 3) God described the devastation of the four stages of the locust. vs. 7
 - a) Laid waste the vine. vs. 7a
 - b) And ruined the fig tree. vs. 7b
 - c) He has stripped it bare and thrown it away. vs. 7c
 - d) Its branches are made white. vs. 7d
 - e) Notice God said, “My vine” “My fig tress”, both are both symbols for Israel. Is 5; Hos. 9:10; Jer. 24:6-8; 29:17

1:8-12 The summon for genuine sorrow over their sin.

- 1) They were to lament *as* a virgin betroth to the husband of her youth. vs. 8
 - a) As if he was taken away and she never partook and enjoyed the all the benefit promised to her in marriage.
 - b) God was the husband of the nation of Israel, she had forfeited the marriage benefits by her sin and rebellion.
- 2) To be girded with sackcloth indicated a sign of grief and sorrowful affliction over the personal lost. vs. 8
 - * Judah was not doing this, but rather continuing in her sin.

- 3) The judgment of God by the plague had affected the offerings at the temple and the priest mourn in their ministry to the LORD. vs. 8
 * But they were just as guilty. vs. 13
- 4) The judgment of God had affected the national product. vs. 10
- a) The cultivated fields were devastated and he ground mourns or laments, what they should have been doing. vs. 10a-b
- b) The grain is ruined, new wine dried up and the oil fails, as God cut off the rain. vs. 10c-e
- c) The blessings and cursing were clear. Deut. 29-28; Lev. 26
- 5) The farmer is to be ashamed, evidence of their guilt before God at harvest season because of their sin. vs. 11
 * Rather than an abundant harvest, it had perished!
- 6) The various fruit trees had withered without rain, just as their joy must have withered also. vs. 12
 * The harvest season was the most joyous for it not only provided for them, but it was evidence of God's faithfulness to them, now there would be no joy.

1:13-20 The Call to morn by the priest.

- 1.13** The priest were the intercessors and lament for the loss of the provisions for the house of God.
- 1) They were to gird themselves and lament and wail because they were the ministers at God's altar. Vs. 13a-d
- 2) They were to lie all night in sackcloth, You who minister to "my God" for the lack of grain and drink offerings in the house of their God. vs. 13e-g
- 1:14** The priest were to call for a national repentance.
- 1) They were to consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly. vs. 14a-b
- 2) They were to gather the elders and all the people of the land to the house of the LORD "your God". vs. 14c
- 3) They were to then cry out to the LORD. vs. 14d
 * God had called them to be a holy nation, a peculiar treasure. Ex 19:5
- 1.15-18** The present plague of locust was the judgment of God.
- 1) The prophet declared the first of five mentions of "the day of the Lord".
- 2) The day of the Lord was God's present judgment on Israel, the short-term fulfillment, but it was prophetic of the final pouring out of the wrath of God

during the seven years of the Tribulation. vs. 15a-b

- a) Joel transitions into the future, “The day”, “that day”, “the great day” and “day of the Lord” is found over 75 times in the Old Testament.
- b) a type and foreshadow of the 70th week of Daniel. Dan. 9:27; Jer. 30:67
- 3) The present as well as the future one would be from God Almighty, who can not be stopped, so it would not be averted. vs. 15c
- 4) The evidence of the judgment of God is in food and the suffering of the animals, without rain nothing grows. vs. 16-18
 - * The destruction is literal on every level and the other prophets warn about the final days. Zeph 1:14-15; Amos 5:18-20

1:19-20 The prophet Joel identifies himself with the nation and intercedes crying out to God.

- 1) “O LORD, to You I cry out” as the draught has turned into fire season burning the open fields and trees. vs. 19
- 2) The beasts of the field also languish crying out to God, as the brooks are dried up and fieldes and pasture were burned up. vs. 20

*** Going from abundance and beauty to scarcity and ashes. Joel 2:3**