

Title: The Day of the LORD

Theme: Judgment and Restoration

Key Words

judgment-words

Locusts

* fire, flame

* day / the day of the LORD

* wail, mourn, weep

* rejoice(-ing), be glad

* restore

Context
of
Joel

Purposes for writing

1. To warn Judah of coming judgments (2:1-12)
2. To offer them an escape from the judgments that are coming (2:12-17, 32; 3:16)
3. To detail the blessings that God will shower on a repentant people (2:18-32; 3:16-21)
4. To warn the nations about future judgments in the Day of the LORD (3:2-14, 19, 21)

Occasion for writing

After a series of judgments from God: locusts plagues, drought, fire

Historical Setting

Physical calamities: severe locust plagues (1:4; 2:25), fire (1:19-20), extended drought (1:12, 17-20) – great economic hardship to all

* harvests destroyed, lack of food (grain, new wine & oil) & water

* animals lack of pasture & water

Spiritual Condition: no grain offering or libation for the altar

* need to return to the LORD

=> indifferent & cold toward the LORD

* need to rend heart not garment

=> religion a formality, not a reality

Political: Tyre, Sidon & Philistia

invaded Judah several times (3:2-8)

Religious: Obadiah appeared before

Joel & both prophesied to Judah while

Elisha prophesied to Israel

* Joash was under Jehoiada's godly tutelage (2 Kgs 12)

Recipients: Author: Joel, son of Pethuel

The Elders, the priests, the ministers, all the inhabitants of the land, sons of Judah & Jerusalem, the land & animals



Instructions in Joel

Joel Chapter 1	Joel Chapter 2	Joel Chapter 3
<p>2 <u>Hear this</u>, O elders, And <u>listen</u>, all inhabitants of the land. Has <i>anything like</i> this happened in your days Or in your fathers' days?</p> <p>3 <u>Tell your sons</u> about it, And <i>let</i> your sons <u>tell</u> their sons, And their sons the next generation.</p> <p>5 <u>Awake</u>, drunkards, and <u>weep</u>; And <u>wail</u>, all you wine drinkers, On account of the sweet wine That is cut off from your mouth.</p> <p>8 <u>Wail</u> like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the bridegroom of her youth.</p> <p>11 <u>Be ashamed</u>, O farmers, <u>Wail</u>, O vinedressers, For the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field is destroyed.</p> <p>13 <u>Gird</u> yourselves with sackcloth, And <u>lament</u>, O priests; <u>Wail</u>, O ministers of the altar! <u>Come</u>, spend the night in sackcloth, O ministers of my God, For the grain offering and the libation Are withheld from the house of your God.</p> <p>14 <u>Consecrate</u> a fast, <u>Proclaim</u> a solemn assembly; <u>Gather</u> the elders <i>And</i> all the inhabitants of the land To the house of the LORD your God, And <u>cry out</u> to the LORD.</p>	<p>1 <u>Blow</u> a trumpet in Zion, And <u>sound</u> an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land <u>tremble</u>, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near,</p> <p>12 "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "<u>Return</u> to Me with all your heart, And <u>with fasting, weeping, and mourning</u>;</p> <p>13 And <u>rend your heart</u> and not your garments." Now <u>return</u> to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness, And relenting of evil.</p> <p>15 <u>Blow</u> a trumpet in Zion, <u>Consecrate</u> a fast, <u>proclaim</u> a solemn assembly,</p> <p>16 <u>Gather</u> the people, <u>sanctify</u> the congregation, <u>Assemble</u> the elders, <u>Gather</u> the children and the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom <u>come out</u> of his room And the bride out of her <i>bridal</i> chamber.</p> <p>17 Let the priests, the LORD's ministers, <u>Weep</u> between the porch and the altar, And <u>let them say</u>, "Spare Thy people, O LORD, And do not make Thine inheritance a reproach, A byword among the nations. Why should they among the peoples say, 'Where is their God?'"</p> <p>21 <u>Do not fear</u>, O land, <u>rejoice</u> and <u>be glad</u>, For the LORD has done great things.</p> <p>22 <u>Do not fear</u>, beasts of the field, For the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, For the tree has borne its fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full.</p> <p>23 So <u>rejoice</u>, O sons of Zion, And <u>be glad</u> in the LORD your God; For He has given you the early rain for <i>your</i> vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain, The early and latter rain as before.</p>	<p>9 <u>Proclaim</u> this among the nations: <u>Prepare a war</u>; <u>rouse the mighty men!</u> Let all the soldiers <u>draw near</u>, let them <u>come up!</u></p> <p>10 <u>Beat</u> your plowshares into swords, And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak <u>say</u>, "I am a mighty man."</p> <p>11 <u>Hasten</u> and <u>come</u>, all you surrounding nations, And <u>gather</u> yourselves there</p> <p>12 Let the nations <u>be aroused</u> And <u>come up</u> to the valley of <u>Jehoshaphat</u>, For there I will sit to judge All the surrounding nations.</p>
		<p>Instructions for the Nations</p>
		<p>* <u>Bring down</u>, O LORD, Thy mighty ones (3:11)</p> <p>13 <u>Put in the sickle</u>, for the harvest is ripe. <u>Come, tread</u>, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.</p>
		<p>Instructions from the LORD against the Nations</p>

<p>* hear, listen, tell (1:2-3)</p> <p>* The Book of Joel is to teach God's people HOW to repent after being judged by the LORD</p> <p>* After repentance comes blessing</p> <p>* It is also to warn those of God's people who refuse to repent that there will be greater judgments</p>	<p><u>Instructions from the LORD BEFORE Repentance</u></p> <p>* awake (1:4)</p> <p>* weep (1:5; 2:17), wail (1:5,8,11,13), lament (1:13)</p> <p>* be ashamed (1:11)</p> <p>* gird self with sackcloth (1:13), come, spend night in sackcloth (1:13)</p> <p>* consecrate a fast (1:14; 2:15)</p> <p>* proclaim a solemn assembly (1:14; 2:15)</p> <p>* gather all to the house of the LORD (1:14; 2:16[2x]), sanctify, assemble, come out (2:16)</p> <p>* cry out to the LORD (1:16)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Warnings if there is NO Repentance</u></p> <p>* blow a trumpet (2:1,15)</p> <p>* sound an alarm (2:1)</p> <p>* let all the inhabitants tremble (2:1)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Instructions for Repentance (2:12-17)</u></p> <p>* return to the LORD (2:12,13) with all your heart & with fasting, weeping, & mourning (2:12)</p> <p>* rend your heart & not your garments (2:13)</p> <p>* Let them say (2:17)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Instructions from the LORD AFTER Repentance</u></p> <p>* do not fear (2:21,22)</p> <p>* rejoice and be glad (2:21,23)</p>
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The Day of the LORD in Joel

Occurrences in Joel

Characteristics of the Day of the Lord

1:15
 Alas for the day!
 For **the day of the LORD** is near,
 And it will come as destruction
 from the Almighty.

2:1
 Blow a trumpet in Zion,
 And sound an alarm on My holy
 mountain!
 Let all the inhabitants of the land
 tremble,
 For **the day of the LORD** is coming;
 Surely it is near,

2:11
 And the LORD utters His voice
 before His army;
 Surely His camp is very great,
 For strong is he who carries out
 His word.

The day of the LORD is indeed
 great and very awesome,
 And who can endure **it**?

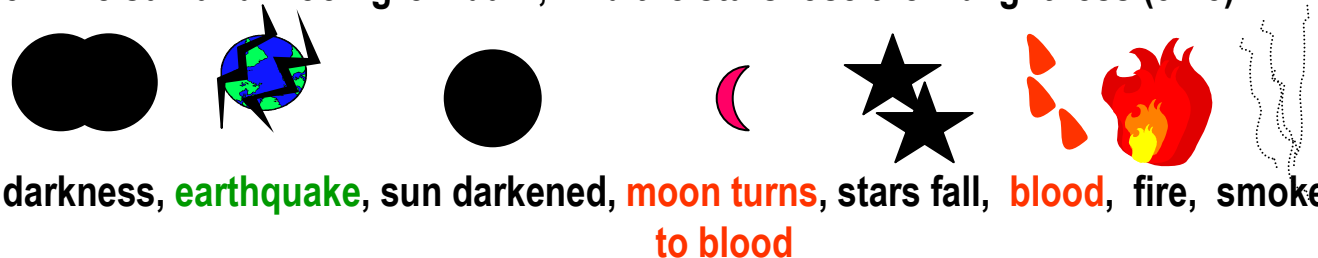
2:31
 The sun will be turned into
 darkness,
 And the moon into blood,
 Before **the great and awesome day
 of the LORD** comes.

3:14
 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley
 of decision!
 For **the day of the LORD** is near in
 the valley of decision.

1. It is near (1:15; 2:1; 3:14) in the valley of decision (3:14)
2. It will come as destruction from the Almighty, i.e., inescapable (1:15)
3. It is coming (2:1) – and all the people tremble and are alarmed
4. It is great and very awesome (2:11), great and awesome (2:31)
5. None can endure it (2:11)

1. Cosmic Signs that occur before the DOL comes

1. A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness (2:2)
2. The earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark, And the stars lose their brightness (2:10)
3. Wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire, and columns of smoke (2:30)
4. The sun will be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood (2:31)
5. The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars lose their brightness (3:15)



The Aftermath of a “Day of the Lord” Judgment

1. **In the form of a locust plague** – Total devastation of land, vegetation, grain crops, fruit trees, devastating effect on people & animals, drought, fire (Joel 1) – c. 820 BC
2. **In the form of war** – total devastation of the land – burnt out (2:3), fear & despair of the people (2:6) – the Babylonian Invasion (605 BC, 597 BC, 586 BC)
3. **In the form of war** – judgment on all the nations (Joel 3), desolation of Egypt and Edom (3:19) – the Battle of Armageddon



Joel Chapter One – The Day of the LORD (Past)

The Command to Tell Successive Generations about the Devastation (1:1-4)	The Command to Repent in Light of the Devastation (1:13-14)
<p>1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel. 2 <u>Hear this</u>, O elders, And <u>listen</u>, all inhabitants of the land. Has <i>anything like</i> this happened in your days Or in your fathers' days? 3 <u>Tell your sons about it, And let your sons tell their sons, And their sons the next generation.</u> 4 What the gnawing locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten; And what the swarming locust has left, the creeping locust has eaten; And what the creeping locust has left, the stripping locust has eaten.</p>	<p>13 <u>Gird yourselves with sackcloth</u>, And <u>lament</u>, O priests; <u>Wail</u>, O ministers of the altar! <u>Come, spend the night in sackcloth</u>, O ministers of my God, For the grain offering and the libation Are withheld from the house of your God. 14 <u>Consecrate a fast, Proclaim a solemn assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land</u> To the house of the LORD your God, And <u>cry out to the LORD.</u></p>
The Command to Mourn the Devastation (1:5-12)	The Completeness of the Devastation (1:15-20)
<p>5 <u>Awake</u>, drunkards, and <u>weep</u>; And <u>wail</u>, all you wine drinkers, On account of the sweet wine That is cut off from your mouth. 6 For a nation has invaded my land, Mighty and without number; Its teeth are the teeth of a lion, And it has the fangs of a lioness. 7 It has made my vine a waste, And my fig tree splinters. It has stripped them bare and cast <i>them</i> away; Their branches have become white. 8 <u>Wail</u> like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the bridegroom of her youth. 9 The grain offering and the libation are cut off From the house of the LORD. The priests <u>mourn</u>, The ministers of the LORD. 10 The field is ruined, The land <u>mourns</u>, For the grain is ruined, The new wine dries up, Fresh oil fails. 11 <u>Be ashamed</u>, O farmers, <u>Wail</u>, O vinedressers, For the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field is destroyed. 12 The vine dries up, And the fig tree fails; The pomegranate, the palm also, and the apple tree, All the trees of the field dry up. Indeed, rejoicing dries up From the sons of men.</p>	<p>15 Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty. 16 Has not food been cut off before our eyes, Gladness and joy from the house of our God? 17 The seeds shrivel under their clods; The storehouses are desolate, The barns are torn down, For the grain is dried up. 18 How the beasts <u>groan</u>! The herds of cattle wander aimlessly Because there is no pasture for them; Even the flocks of sheep suffer. 19 To Thee, O LORD, I cry; For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, And the flame has burned up all the trees of the field. 20 Even the beasts of the field pant for Thee; For the water brooks are dried up, And fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.</p>
<p>No wine No fruit No grain No oil No fruit No joy</p>	<p>No food No joy No seed No grass No trees No water</p>

Joel Chapter Two – The Day of the Lord (Present)

The Invasion of the Land (2:1-11)

1 Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near,

2 A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, So there is a great and mighty people; There has never been *anything* like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations. 3 A fire consumes before them, And behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, But a desolate wilderness behind them, And nothing at all escapes them. 4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run. 5 With a noise as of chariots They leap on the tops of the mountains, Like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the stubble, Like a mighty people arranged for battle.

6 Before them the people are in anguish; All faces turn pale.

7 They run like mighty men; They climb the wall like soldiers; And they each march in line, Nor do they deviate from their paths.

8 They do not crowd each other; They march everyone in his path. When they burst through the defenses, They do not break ranks. 9 They rush on the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter through the windows like a thief.

10 Before them the earth quakes, The heavens tremble, The sun and the moon grow dark, And the stars lose their brightness.

11 And the LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it?

The Invitation to Repent (2:12-17)

12 "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "Return to Me with all your heart, And with fasting, weeping, and mourning;

13 And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness, And relenting of evil. 14 Who knows whether He will *not* turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him, *Even* a grain offering and a libation For the LORD your God?

15 Blow a trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly,

16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and the nursing infants. Let the bridegroom come out of his room And the bride out of her *bridal* chamber.

17 Let the priests, the LORD's ministers, Weep between the porch and the altar, And let them say, "Spare Thy people, O LORD, And do not make Thine inheritance a reproach, A byword among the nations. Why should they among the peoples say, 'Where is their God?'"



Joel Chapter Two – The Day of the Lord (Future)

The Physical Blessings (2:18-27)

The Restoration of the Land (2:18-19)

18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And will have pity on His people. 19 And the LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine, and oil, And you will be satisfied *in full* with them; And I will never again make you a reproach among the nations.

The Removal of the Enemy (2:20)

20 "But I will remove the northern *army* far from you, And I will drive it into a parched and desolate land, And its vanguard into the eastern sea, And its rear guard into the western sea. And its stench will arise and its foul smell will come up, For it has done great things."

The Joy of the Land, the Beasts and God's People (2:21-27)

21 Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, For the LORD has done great things.

22 Do not fear, beasts of the field, For the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, For the tree has borne its fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full.

23 So rejoice, O sons of Zion, And be glad in the LORD your God; For He has given you the early rain for *your* vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain, The early and latter rain as before. 24 And the threshing floors will be full of grain, And the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil.

25 "Then I will make up to you for the years That the swarming locust has eaten, The creeping locust, the stripping locust, and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you. 26 "And you shall have plenty to eat and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; Then My people will never be put to shame. 27 "Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God And there is no other; And My people will never be put to shame.

The Spiritual Blessings (2:28-32)

28 "And it will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions.

29 "And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

30 "And I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire, and columns of smoke.

31 "The sun will be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

32 "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.



Joel Chapter Three – The Day of the LORD (Future)

The Judgment of the Nations (3:1-16a)

1 "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will gather all the nations, And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; And they have divided up My land. 3 "They have also cast lots for My people, Traded a boy for a harlot, And sold a girl for wine that they may drink.

4 "Moreover, what are you to Me, O Tyre, Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you rendering Me a recompense? But if you do recompense Me, swiftly and speedily I will return your recompense on your head. 5 "Since you have taken My silver and My gold, brought My precious treasures to your temples, 6 and sold the sons of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks in order to remove them far from their territory, 7 behold, I am going to arouse them from the place where you have sold them, and return your recompense on your head. 8 "Also I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the sons of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a distant nation," for the LORD has spoken.

9 Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up! 10 Beat your plowshares into swords, And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, "I am a mighty man." 11 Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, And gather yourselves there. Bring down, O LORD, Thy mighty ones. 12 Let the nations be aroused And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, For there I will sit to judge All the surrounding nations.

13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For **the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.** 15 The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars lose their brightness. 16 And the LORD roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth tremble.

The Restoration of God's People (3:16b-21)

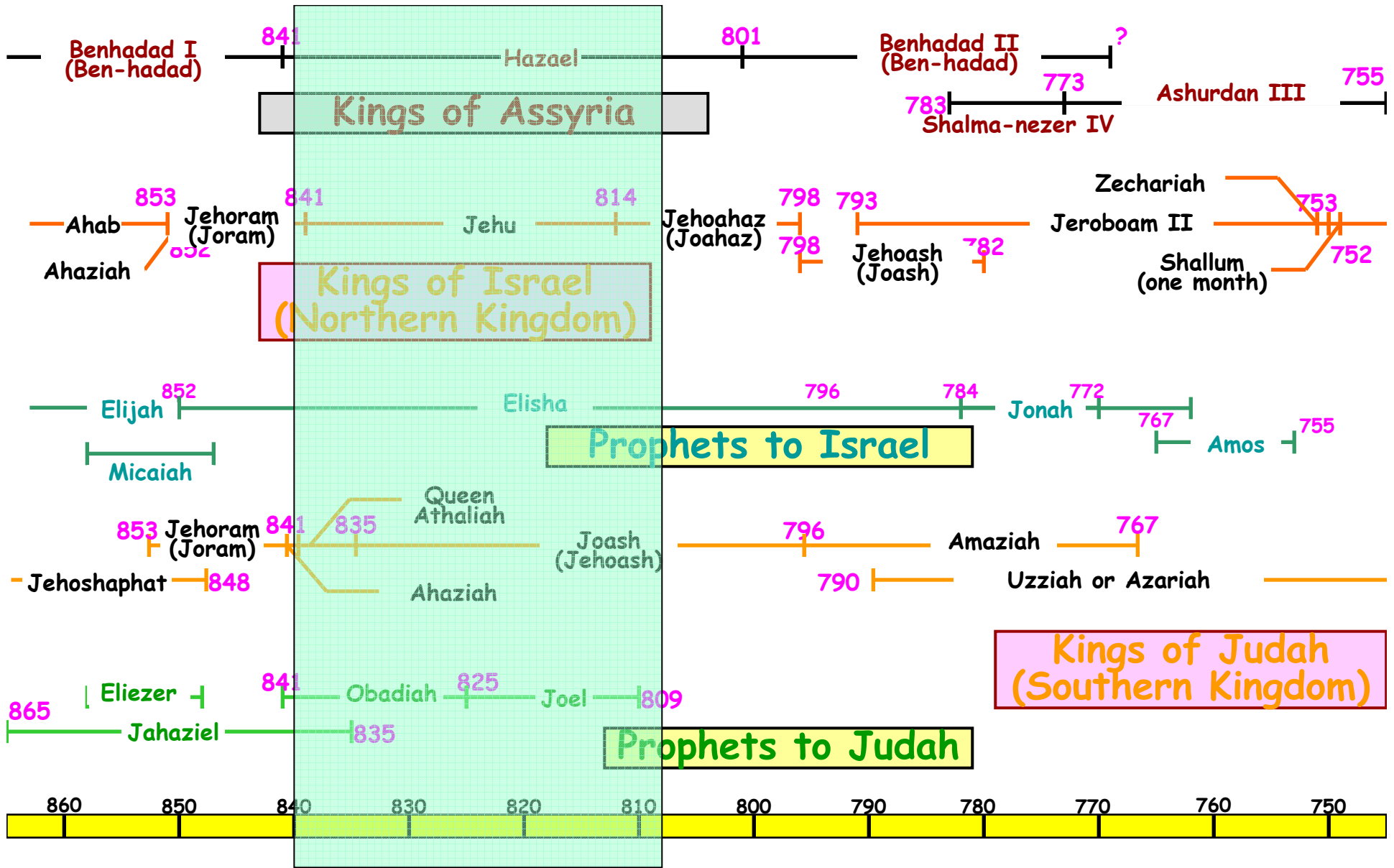
But the LORD is a refuge for His people And a stronghold to the sons of Israel. 17 Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, And strangers will pass through it no more.

18 And it will come about in that day That the mountains will drip with sweet wine, And the hills will flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water; And a spring will go out from the house of the LORD, To water the valley of Shittim.

19 Egypt will become a waste, And Edom will become a desolate wilderness, Because of the violence done to the sons of Judah, In whose land they have shed innocent blood.

20 But Judah will be inhabited forever, And Jerusalem for all generations. 21 And I will avenge their blood which I have not avenged, For the LORD dwells in Zion.





Time Line of Joel

Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Kings of Israel	Length of Reign	Kings of Judah	Length of Reign
1. Jeroboam (Bad)	930 - 909 = 22	1. Rehoboam (Bad)	930 - 913 = 17
2. Nadab (Bad)	909 - 908 = 2	2. Abijam (Bad)	913 - 910 = 3
3. Baasha (Bad)	908 - 886 = 24	3. ASA (Good)	910 - 869 = 41
4. Elah (Bad)	886 - 885 = 2	4. JEHOSHAPHAT (Good) – co-regent	872 - 848 = 25
5. Zimri (Bad)	885 = 7 days		Sole reign from 869
6. Omri (Bad) / Tibni, co-regent from 885-880	885 - 874 = 12 (11 actual years) Sole reign in 880	5. Jehoram (Bad) – co-regent	853 - 841 = 8 (7 actual years) Sole reign from 848
7. Ahab (Bad)	874 - 853 = 22 (21 actual years)	6. Ahaziah (Bad)	841 = 1
8. Ahaziah (Bad)	853-852 = 2 (1 actual year)	7. Athaliah (Bad) – Queen	841 -835 = 7
9. Jehoram or Joram (Bad)	852-841 = 12 (11 actual years)	8. JOASH (Good)	835 -796 = 40
10. Jehu (Bad)	841 - 814 = 28	9. AMAZIAH (Good)	796 - 767 = 29
11. Jehoahaz (Bad)	814 - 798 = 17	10. AZARIAH or UZZIAH (Good) – co-regent	792 - 740 = 52 Sole reign in 767
12. Jehoash or Joash (Bad)	798 - 782 = 16		
13. Jeroboam II (Bad) – co-regent	793 - 753 = 41 Sole reign in 782	11. JOTHAM (Good) – co-regent	750 -732 = 18 Sole reign in 750
14. Zechariah (Bad)	753 = 6 months	12. Ahaz (Bad)	735 - 715 = 19
15. Shallum (Bad)	752 = 1 month	13. HEZEKIAH (Good)	715 - 686 = 29
16. Menahem (Bad)	752 - 742 = 10	14. Manasseh (Bad) - co-regent	697 - 642 = 55
17. Pekahiah (Bad)	742 -740 = 2	15. Amon (Bad)	642 - 640 = 2
18. Pekah (Bad)	752 - 732 = 20 Sole reign in 740	16. JOSIAH (Good)	640 - 609 = 31
19. Hoshea (Bad)	732 - 722 = 9	17. Jehoahaz (Bad)	609 = 3 months
		18. Jehoiakim (Bad)	609 - 598 = 11
		19. Jehoiachin (Bad)	598 - 597 = 3 months
		20. Zedekiah (Bad)	597 - 586 = 11



Joel – The Day of the LORD (1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14, 18)

Joel – The Day of the LORD (1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14, 18)								
The Day of the Lord Experienced: Historical		The Day of the Lord Illustrated: Transitional			The Day of the Lord Described: Eschatological			
The Day of the Locust		The Day of the Lord			The Day of Deliverance			
An Alarm - Invasion by Plague			An Appeal - 11th Hour Hope		An Annex - on the After - Days			
1:1	1:15	2:1	2:12	2:18	2:28	3:1	3:18	
Devastation of the Land	Desolation of the Land	Invasion of the Land	Invitation to Repent	Restoration of Land	Reception of the Spirit	Retribution on the Nations	Restoration of God's People	
Introduction (1:1)	Locusts (1:2-20)		The LORD's army (2:1-11)		Repentance & Restoration (2:12-27)		signs - war – restoration (2:28 - 3:21)	
	Judah				Gentile Nations & Israel			
	Awful plague now		Worse coming	Restoration Possible		Holy Spirit era	The Day of the LORD	
	1		2	Exhortation		3	4	
	Present		Imminent	Conditional Future		Distant	Ultimate	
	B. C.					A. D.		
1:1	History		Prophecy				3:21	
God's Dealings in Nature			God's Dealings with Israel and the Nations					
Destruction				2:18	Restoration			



Thomas J. Finley on “Joel”

The first part of Joel’s book (1:1-2:27) is organized around commands and descriptions that accompany them. The surface structure that results looks something like the following:

- **Hear this! Pay attention! Tell! (1:2-3)** → Locusts have devoured (1:4)
- **Awake! (1:5)** → Wine cut off by the invaders (1:5-7)
- **Wail! (1:8)** → Offerings and libations cut off (1:9-10)
- **Be ashamed! (1:11)** → All plants and trees have perished (1:11-12)
- **Wail with sackcloth! Fast! Cry out to Yahweh! (1:13-14)**
 - Offerings and libations cut off (1:13b)
 - The day of Yahweh upon us (1:15-2:11)
- **Blow a trumpet! Sound an alarm! (2:1)** → A great & mighty people (2:2-11)
- **Return to Yahweh! Fast! Weep! Mourn! Rend your garments! (2:12-13)**
 - He is gracious and compassionate (2:13b-14)
- **Sound the alarm! Fast! Proclaim assembly! Gather the people! Set aside a meeting! Gather elders! Assemble everyone! (2:15-17)**
 - Yahweh responded (2:18-19)
- **Fear not! Be glad and rejoice! (2:21)** → Yahweh has done great things (2:21)
- **Fear not! (2:22)** → Pastures and trees have come back (2:22)
- **Be glad and rejoice (2:23)** → Yahweh has given a sign of restoration (2:23-27)

The second half of the book (2:28-3:31) is organized rather around phrases more typical of prophetic books:

- **And it will come about afterward... (2:28)**
- **For behold! In those days and at that time... (3:1)**
- **And it will come about in that day... (3:18)**

The reason is clear enough. In the first part Joel calls the people to repentance, while in the second part he delivers messages about the future by quoting Yahweh directly. Only in 3:9-13 do we find commands, but they are issued by Yahweh Himself. Notice also the unique segment in 3:4-8 where Yahweh interrogates the guilty nations.

Thomas J. Finley on “Joel”

- I. **Locusts in the Land (1:1-14)**
 - A. **Heading (1:1)**
 - B. **Call to Attention (1:2-4)**
 - C. **Call to Mourning (1:5-14)**
- II. **Judgment in the Land (1:15-2:11)**
 - A. **Aftermath of the Locust Invasion (1:15-20)**
 - B. **Invasion of the Lord’s Army (2:1-11)**
- III. **Mercy in the Land (2:12-27)**
 - A. **A Call to Repentance (2:12-17)**
 - 1. **Appeal to the Character of the Lord (2:12-14)**
 - 2. **Appeal for a Solemn Assembly (2:15-17)**
 - B. **The Lord’s Response (2:18-27)**
- IV. **Wonders in the Earth (2:28-32)**
- V. **Judgment in the Earth (3:1-21)**
 - A. **The Nations Judged for Their Treatment of Israel (3:1-3)**
 - B. **Tyre, Sidon, and Philistia Sold to the Judeans (3:4-8)**
 - C. **The Nations Defeated by the Lord but Israel Delivered (3:9-17)**
 - D. **Judah Blessed but Egypt and Edom Desolated (3:18-21)**

Joel 1:1-2:27	Joel 2:28-3:21
Call to Repent (1:2-14)	Gift of the Spirit (2:28-29)
Day of the Lord (1:15-2:2a)	Day of the Lord (2:28-32)
The Lord’s Army (2:2b-11)	The Nations’ Armies (3:1-3)
The Lord’s Covenant Mercy (2:12-14)	The Lord’s Covenant Concern (3:4-8)
Call to Repent (2:15-17)	Call to Holy War (3:9-11)
The Lord’s Response (2:18-20)	The Lord’s Response (3:12-17)
Renewed Blessing (2:21-27)	Renewed Blessing (3:18-21)



Literary Structure of Joel
by Dr. John Sweigart

Title (1:1)

- A Judgment on the Land; Loss of Fertility (1:2-20)
 - B The Day of the LORD (national) (2:1-11)
 - C Calling a National Assembly For Repentance (2:12-17)
 - D Pouring Out Of The Rains (2:18-27)
 - D' Pouring Out Of The Spirit (2:28-32)
 - C' Calling An International Assembly For Judgment (3:1-13)
 - B' The Day of the LORD (international) (3:14-17)
 - A' Blessing on the Land; Restored Fertility (3:18-21)
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John F. MacArthur on "Joel"

- I. Day of the Lord Experienced: Historical (1:1–20)
 - A. Source of the Message (1:1)
 - B. Command to Contemplate the Devastation (1:2–4)
 - C. Completeness of the Devastation (1:5–12)
 - D. Call to Repent in Light of the Devastation (1:13–20)
- II. Day of the Lord Illustrated: Transitional (2:1–17)
 - A. Alarm Sounds (2:1)
 - B. Army Invades (2:2–11)
 - C. Admonition to Repent (2:12–17)
- III. Day of the Lord Described: Eschatological (2:18–3:21)
 - A. Introduction (2:18–20)
 - B. Material Restoration (2:21–27)
 - C. Spiritual Restoration (2:28–32)
 - D. National Restoration (3:1–21)

