

# Joel

**Purpose:** Judahites should learn of their judgment, repentance and hope from Joel's ministry.

**Outline:** 1:1 – Judgment against Judah

1:2-2:14 – Announcements of Invasion and Destruction

2:15-3:21 – Announcements of Hope and Restoration

**Author:** Joel

**Date:** The prophecy of Joel is placed as early as the 9<sup>th</sup> century and as late as the 5<sup>th</sup> century

## Highlights:

There are no dates given, and no time frame offered, in the book of Joel. It would seem more likely that Joel was prophesying through the Babylonian Invasions under King Nebuchadnezzar in 597-586 BC. Joel (along with the other prophets) tells Judah that judgment is coming. Judah needs to repent and God may still protect them. Even if they are exiled they need to repent in the hope of future restoration.

One of the most debated issues in Joel is whether we should read "Locusts" as a literal plague of insects or as a symbolic siege of a foreign army (or armies). It could be that there will be an invasion of actual locusts followed by an invasion of Babylon. Or it could be that there will be an invasion of Babylon that will be just like an invasion of locusts. Either way, it's gonna get ugly; but then...

Announcements of Invasion and Destruction (1:2-2:14)

Call to Lament (1:2-20)

Call #1 (1:2-3)

Description of Tragedy (1:4)

Call #2 (1:5)

Description of Tragedy (1:6-7)

Call #3 (1:8)

Description of Tragedy (1:9-10)

Call #4 (1:11a)

Description of Tragedy (1:11b-12)

Call #5 (1:13a)

Description of Tragedy (1:13b)

Call #6 (1:14)

Description of Tragedy (1:15-18)

Petitions (1:19-20)

Call to Repentance (2:1-14)

Call (2:1-2a)

Description of Invaders (2:2b-11)

Invitation to Repentance (2:12-14)

Announcements of Hope and Restoration (2:15-3:21)

Call to Repentance (2:15-32)

Gathering (2:15-16)

Priestly Prayer (2:17)

Oracle of Salvation (2:18-32)

Divine Response #1 (2:18-20a)

Divine Response #2 (2:20b-27)

Divine Response #3 (2:28-32)

Judgment of Nations (3:1-17)

Oracle of Salvation (3:1)

Modified Lawsuit (3:2-16a)

Summons (3:2)

Accusations (3:2b-6)

Sentencing (3:7-16a)

Oracle of Salvation (3:16b-17)

Restoration of Judah (3:18-21)

## Restoration in Christ

2:28  
Spirit will be poured out  
in restoration period.

-----Historical Contingencies-----→

Titus 3:6  
The Spirit is poured out on  
believers in continuation of  
the kingdom.

2:28-32  
Spirit will be poured out  
and revelation given in  
continuing fuller measure  
and to all groups.

-----Historical Contingencies-----→

Acts 2:17-21  
Spirit was poured out at  
Pentecost with fuller  
revelation and to all groups.

2:32  
Restoration benefits come  
to those who call on God's  
name.

-----Historical Contingencies-----→

Romans 10:13  
Salvation comes to all who  
call on Christ.

3:13  
Judgment of Nations upon  
Israel's restoration will be  
like a harvest.

-----Historical Contingencies-----→

Revelation 6:12-13; 8:12  
Eschatological judgment on the  
nations will be like a harvest.

3:18  
Life giving water flowing  
from Jerusalem to bring  
blessing.

-----Historical Contingencies-----→

Revelation 22:1  
Life giving water will flow  
from Christ's throne in New  
Earth.

JUDGMENT – Original Meaning: Judahites should fear and repent because of impending invasion. NT Elaboration: God's judgment comes in Christ now and will come at his return. Contemporary Application: Fear and repent because of God's judgment.

RESTORATION – Original Meaning: Judahites should repent in the hopes of experiencing restoration in the future. NT Elaboration: Restoration is promised to those who trust Christ now and at his return. Contemporary Application: Rejoice in God's salvation in Christ.