

# Joel: Hope that Endures

## The Background and The Book as a Whole:

1. Unclear as to the exact time in which Joel lived (possibly the time of Hosea, Isaiah, and Amos in the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. but it could have been during the time of the exile, after 586 B.C.) but it was placed between Hosea and Amos in the canon...
2. The occasion was “an invasion of locusts” (1:4) and a time of drought (1:18-20), both of which were horrific calamities in that day. Therefore, Joel communicates that there is an even greater calamity on its way—“The Day of the LORD” is on the way when God will punish His enemies and bless His people.
3. “The Day of the LORD” is found at least 26 times in the OT, most frequently in Zephaniah (7 times) and Isaiah (6 times), and Joel (5 times). It refers generally to the day when God will vindicate Himself in history and is also referenced as “that day,” “in those days,” and “the last days” all over the OT.
4. The 2 theological emphases are these: (1) God often uses nature to bring both judgment and blessing; (2) God calls His creation to repentance and faith. Peter believed that Joel 2 was fulfilled in the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:14-21) and other NT writers connect Joel’s “Day of the LORD” to the return of Jesus (see Mark 13:24 and Revelation 6:12)

## The Prophet Himself:

1. Joel means “\_\_\_\_\_”.
2. He seems to be a man of passion and spiritual maturity and seemingly very familiar with the temple and geography and history.
3. Joel courageously called the nation of Judah back to an authentic faith through genuine repentance from their empty ceremonialism (see 1:13-20, 2:12-27).

## The Outline:

- I. Instructions for People in the Midst of Calamity (1:1-2:27)
  - A. A Plea for Penitence and Prayer (1:5-20)
  - B. A Plea for Preparation by Pleading to the God of Mercy (2:1-27)
- II. Intentions of the God of Heaven who Blesses and Vindicates (2:28- 3:21)
  - A. God Promises His Personal Presence (2:28-32)
  - B. God Promises His Final Vindication and Triumph (3:1-21)

**The Prophet’s Purpose: To Issue a Clear Call for Authentic Repentance and a return to a Steadfast Hope in the God who Restores All Things on “The Day of the LORD.”**

**Key Verses: “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions....And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” (2: 28 & 32a)**

## The God of Heaven is Worthy of our Hope because He Vindicates Himself and His People Joel 1:1-20, 2:1-32, 3:1-2, 16-17

1. \_\_\_\_\_ your world with \_\_\_\_\_ eyes: What happens in the \_\_\_\_\_ may just be a \_\_\_\_\_ in the spiritual. (Joel 1:1 - 2: 27)
  - (1) Be penitent and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (2) Be \_\_\_\_\_ by calling on God’s mercy.

*How spiritually discerning are you?*
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to know the God who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Joel 2:28 - 3:21)
  - (1) Be \_\_\_\_\_ to God’s Spirit.
  - (2) Be \_\_\_\_\_ to the activity of God’s truth and justice.

*How well do you know the triumphant God?*

