



RETURN

THE PROPHET JOEL

DESOLATION

(PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE - JOEL 1-2:11)

Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near, . . . JOEL 2:1

A. THE PAST: THE PROPHET'S AUDIENCE AND THE PLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE (1:1-4)

B. THE PRESENT: TIME FOR CHANGE

1. THE CALL TO LAMENT (1:5-13)
2. THE CALL TO REPENT (1:14)
3. THE CALL TO EVALUATE (1:15-20)

C. THE NEAR FUTURE - THE DAY OF THE LORD (2:1-11)

1. THE PROXIMITY (2:1-2)
2. THE POWER (2:3-5)
3. THE PURSUIT (2:6-11)
 - A. Relentless
 - B. Invincible

Discussion Questions

1. When have you experienced or witnessed significant loss, pain, or devastation? (NIV ABIDE)
2. Did God feel close or distant during the crisis? How did God help you during that time? (NIV ABIDE)
3. Read Joel 1:10. Verse 10 is a picture of complete hopelessness, but God wants to be the source of your hope no matter what you're facing. How does hoping in God differ from hoping in anything the world has to offer? (NIV ABIDE)
4. Read Joel 2:11. Why did this happen? Help: 1) God was keeping His word (see Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28). 2) He did what He did with the purpose of helping the Israelites turn back to him. God's discipline, though heavy at times, is always grounded in mercy. (NIV Quest)
5. Pray for each other to choose obedience throughout this week, with the focus on bringing glory to God.

JOEL 1 The word of the Lord that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel:

Hear this, you elders; give ear, all inhabitants of the land! Has such a thing happened in your days, or in the days of your fathers?³ Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation.

⁴ What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten, and what the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten.

⁵ Awake, you drunkards, and weep, and wail, all you drinkers of wine, because of the sweet wine, for it is cut off from your mouth.⁶ For a nation has come up against my land, powerful and beyond number; its teeth are lions' teeth, and it has the fangs of a lioness.⁷ It has laid waste my vine and splintered my fig tree; it has stripped off their bark and thrown it down; their branches are made white.

⁸ Lament like a virgin wearing sackcloth for the bridegroom of her youth.

⁹ The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off from the house of the Lord. The priests mourn, the ministers of the Lord.¹⁰ The fields are destroyed, the ground mourns, because the grain is destroyed, the wine dries up, the oil languishes.

¹¹ Be ashamed, O tillers of the soil; wail, O vinedressers, for the wheat and the barley, because the harvest of the field has perished.¹² The vine dries up; the fig tree languishes. Pomegranate, palm, and apple, all the trees of the field are dried up, and gladness dries up from the children of man.

¹³ Put on sackcloth and lament, O priests; wail, O ministers of the altar. Go in, pass the night in sackcloth, O ministers of my God! Because grain offering and drink offering are withheld from the house of your God.

¹⁴ Consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.

¹⁵ Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.¹⁶ Is not the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

¹⁷ The seed shrivels under the clods; the storehouses are desolate; the granaries are torn down because the grain has dried up.

¹⁸ How the beasts groan! The herds of cattle are perplexed because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep suffer.

¹⁹ To you, O Lord, I call. For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flame has burned all the trees of the field. ²⁰ Even the beasts of the field pant for you because the water brooks are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

JOEL 2 Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming; it is near, ² a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.

³ Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.

⁴ Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses they run. ⁵ As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle.

⁶ Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale. ⁷ Like warriors they charge; like soldiers they scale the wall. They march each on his way; they do not swerve from their paths. ⁸ They do not jostle one another; each marches in his path; they burst through the weapons and are not halted.

⁹ They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls, they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief. ¹⁰ The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. ¹¹ The Lord utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful.

For the day of the Lord is great and very awesome; who can endure it?