OLD TESTAMENT · MINOR PROPHETS · BOOK 29 OF 66

Joel

Rend your heart, and not your garments (2:13)

3	Joel	c. 835 B.C.	Acts 2
Chapters, 73 Verses	Son of Pethuel	In the Days of Joash	Quoted at Pentecost

STRUCTURE

The Book in Three Parts

Joel moves from a disaster in the fields, to a warning of the day of the LORD, to promises for the last days.



Each bar shows that part's share of the 73 verses.

I · 1 · 20 verses

The Locusts

A land stripped bare; a call to fast and cry.

II · 2:1–27 · 27 verses

Return

"Rend your heart"; the years the locust ate restored.

III · 2:28–3:21 · 26 verses

The Spirit

The Spirit upon all flesh; the nations judged; the LORD in Zion.

JOEL 1

Locusts upon Locusts

Wave after wave of locusts left nothing behind.

1 · 1:4

The Palmerworm

The first wave

2 · 1:4

The Locust

Ate what was left

3 · 1:4

The Cankerworm

Ate what was left

4 · 1:4

The Caterpiller

Ate the rest

1:5

Drunkards, Weep

The new wine is cut off.

1:9

Priests, Mourn

The offerings are cut off.

1:11

Farmers, Howl

The harvest of the field is perished.

JOEL 1–3

The Day of the LORD

Joel names "the day of the LORD" five times: a day of judgment, and of salvation for all who call on Him.

1:15

At Hand

"As a destruction from the Almighty."

2:1

Cometh

"For it is nigh at hand."

2:11

Great and Very Terrible

"Who can abide it?"

2:31

Before It Comes

The sun darkened, the moon into blood.

3:14

Near

In the valley of decision.

2:32

Deliverance

For whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD.

JOEL AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 4

Rend Your Heart and the Spirit Poured Out

JOEL 2:12–27

Rend Your Heart

God calls for real repentance, inward and not just outward, and promises to restore.

> *"And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth Him of the evil."*
>
> Joel 2:13 (KJV)

WHAT WAS LOST	WHAT GOD RESTORES
The new wine cut off 1:5	**"The fats shall overflow with wine and oil"** 2:24
The rivers of waters dried up 1:20	**"The former rain, and the latter rain"** 2:23
The years the locusts ate 1:4	**"I will restore to you the years"** 2:25

JOEL 2:28–32

My Spirit upon All Flesh

Joel's most famous promise came true on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:16–21).

> *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions."*
>
> Joel 2:28 (KJV)

2:28	2:28	2:28	2:29
Sons and Daughters Shall prophesy	**Old Men** Shall dream dreams	**Young Men** Shall see visions	**Servants** Upon the handmaids too

The Valley of Decision and Christ in Joel

JOEL 3

The Valley of Decision

The nations gather for battle, but God sits to judge them, and blesses His people.

3:2
The Valley of Jehoshaphat
“The LORD judges” the nations.

3:10
Plowshares into Swords
The nations prepare for war.

3:14
Multitudes
In the valley of decision.

3:16
The LORD Roars
But He is the hope of His people.

3:18
New Wine
A fountain from the house of the LORD.

3:21
The LORD Dwelleth in Zion
The last words of the book.

LOOKING FORWARD

Christ in Joel

Joel’s promises are fulfilled through Jesus Christ and the Spirit He sends.

2:28 · ACTS 2:16–17, 33
The Spirit Poured Out
The risen Christ “hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”

2:32 · ROMANS 10:13
Call on the Name
“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

2:31 · MATTHEW 24:29–30
Signs in the Heavens
Jesus spoke of the sun darkened before His coming.

3:2, 12 · MATTHEW 25:31–32
The Judge of the Nations
“Before Him shall be gathered all nations.”

Key Themes and Key Verse

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

The Day of the LORD
Great and very terrible.
1:15; 2:11

God Speaks in Disaster
The locusts as a warning.
1:4; 2:25

True Repentance
Rend your heart.
2:12–13

God's Character
Gracious and merciful.
2:13

Restoration
The years restored.
2:25

The Holy Spirit
Upon all flesh.
2:28–29

Salvation
Whosoever shall call.
2:32

Judgment of the Nations
The valley of decision.
3:2, 14

God with His People
The LORD dwelleth in Zion.
3:17, 21

KEY VERSE

"And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness."

Joel 2:13 (KJV)