

The Book of Joel

Chapter One

Background

- Author – Joel
 - Name means “Jehovah is God”
 - Very little is known about him.
 - Wrote this book perhaps as early as 835 B.C.
- Outline of the book
 - Current Devastation – 1:1-20
 - Coming Devastation – 2:1-17
 - Coming Deliverance – 2:18-3:21

Chapter One

- vs. 2-3 – highlight that the destruction they faced was more terrible than a once-in-a-generation event.
- vs. 4 – there are four types of insects that many see as all describing locusts.
 - *gazam* – “to gnaw off”
 - *arbeh* – “to be many”
 - *jelek* – “to lick off”
 - *chasel* – “to devour or consume”
- vs. 6-7 – I see these verses as descriptive of the locust invasion.
- vs. 8 – the imagery is that of a soon-to-be-wed groom dying and his bride turning from joy to mourning.
- vs. 9 – the desolation is even felt in the Temple offerings.
- vs. 11 – the farmers were to be ashamed because God had humbled their pride.
- vs. 13 – the famine is such that necessary supplies are not available for Temple worship.
- vs. 14 – God had already given the prescription for this very situation – II Chronicles 7:13-14
- vs. 15 – “the day of the Lord” – a future judgment that the current devastation is but a foreshadowing.
- vs. 16-18 – further description of their present devastation.
- vs. 19 – note here the prophet cries out to God. Even the wild beasts had sense to do the same (vs. 20), yet it seems the people around them did not have that same sense.