

Joel

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Study Outline

Main Point: When it comes to the sin of His people, God's ultimate desire is confession, repentance, and renewal in response to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit and the authority of His Word. As we have already seen in Scripture, if the people refuse to heed His Word of warning, God will judge using an instrument of correction (Assyria & Babylon). The book of Joel is important to the Bible because it adds one important step between - God correcting through His Word - and His use of divine judgment. Before judgment, God will first allow the sinner to experience

the natural consequences of their sin with the express purpose of repentance. Before Judah was divinely judged by the invading Babylonian army in 587, as recorded in the book of Joel, God used an invading plague of locusts as a way of warning them of the natural consequence of sin. Sadly, instead of responding with godly repentance, the people instead turned to drunkenness.

Historical & Scriptural Placement: (830 B.C.)

Hosea ministered in the Southern Kingdom of Judah during the reign of King Joash making Joel the first of the writing prophets. Joel was a contemporary of prophets Elisha and Obediah. Joel's prophecies address a devastating plague of locusts that was ravaging the landscape of Judah.

THREE APPLICATIONS TO THE PROPHECIES OF JOEL WITH THE DAY OF MAN IN CONTRAST TO THE DAY OF THE LORD

- 1). GOD'S DEALINGS WITH HUMANITY
- 2). GOD'S DEALINGS WITH THE JEWISH PEOPLE
- 3). GOD'S DEALINGS WITH ME

**PATTERN: SIN WRECKS HAVOC
PEOPLE AWAKEN TO REPENTANCE
HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS RENEWAL**

CRIME OF DRUNKENNESS vs GODLY OBEDIENCE IN THE MIDST OF SINFUL CONSEQUENCES

IGNORANCE - DRINK TO FORGET
IGNORING THE REAL PROBLEM

CONFESSION - ACKNOWLEDGE
THE REALITY OF PERSONAL SIN

SELF PITY - DRINK TO NUMB PAIN
FEELING SORRY FOR CONSEQUENCES

REPENTANCE - HUMBLING OF SELF
TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

ARTIFICIAL JOY - DRINK TO FEEL HAPPY
MASKING PAIN WITH TEMPORARY JOY

RENEWAL - JOY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
RENEWING A PERSONS LIFE FROM
THE DAMAGE ROT BY SIN



Day 1: The Locust Effect.....

Joel 1:4 // THINKING POINTS: (1). What do the "locust" represent in the prophetic words of Joel? (2). In what way are the effects of our sin similar to a plague of locusts ravaging a hillside? (3). How have areas of your own life been effected by your sinful actions?

Day 2: Drunken Crime.....

Joel 1:5 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Instead of owning up to the consequences of their sin, why did the Israelites turn to the vices of alcohol? (2). What is the godly, appropriate response when reaping the results of our poor choices? (3). Contrast the crime of spiritual drunkenness (ignorance, self-pity, and artificial joy) with the appropriate Godly response of sinful consequences.

Day 3: The Real Deal.....

Joel 2:12-14 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Define and explain what true, godly repentance looks like according to this passage? (2). What is God's purpose behind allowing you to suffer the natural consequences of your sinful choices? (3). How has God been "slow to anger, and of great kindness" to you recently?

Day 4: Constant Gardener.....

Joel 2:25-27 // THINKING POINTS: (1). Though the locust have the ability to destroy in so many ways, what encouragement does this passage afford? (2). What areas of your life have been destroyed by your sinful choices? Think relationships, purity, trust, etc. (3). In what way have you been able to see God restore a part of your life that's been ravaged by sin?

Day 5: Pour Out.....

Joel 2:28-29 // THINKING POINTS: (1). In the greatest sense, how does the indwelling of God's Spirit produce renewal in a life marred by sin? (2). Beyond the fact the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is essential for salvation, how does His indwelling help in practical everyday living? (3). What are the benefits of the Holy Spirit and what is the evidence the Spirit is alive inside a person's life?

Day 6: Retribution.....

Joel 3:1-17 // THINKING POINT: (1). After reading these verses, in what way has your perspective of God been changed or influenced? (2). Since we're supposed to emulate God, how can we practically fight against the wickedness in the world around us? (3). How should the reality that God wins in the end effect your life today?

DEVOTIONS

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