

A LOOK AT THE BOOK JOEL

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AUTHOR

We know little about Joel,
His father's name is Pethuel, and of him nothing more is known.
He may have been a priest, because he seems to be familiar with the temple.

DATE

Not definitely established - no clear time indicators.
No reference to a specific king
- Elders and priests were mainly responsible for the country.
No reference to Assyria or Babylon as enemies.
Named enemies include Phoenicia, Philistia and Egypt.
Therefore, perhaps Joel wrote early in the reign of Joash, about 835 B.C.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Joash began to reign as a small boy.
Jehoiada, the High Priest, controlled the country for him.
Athaliah, a daughter of Jezebel -
Tried to rule, after her son's death.
Tried to kill all of the royal seed in order to guarantee her rule.
Tried to destroy the faith of Israel and establish Phoenician (Canaanite) worship.
(Like her mother Jezebel)
Stopped by Jehoiada
Jehoiada had led effective reforms in Israel.

Occasion - Plague of locusts and a famine
The plague left the people ready to listen to God.

THEME AND PURPOSE

Based on *LOCUST PLAGUE* = which has cost Israel a great loss.
Used to predict coming judgment, and subsequent deliverance.

Announcement of judgment was given to motivate Israel to repent and to return to Yahweh.

MESSAGE - "The Day of the Lord"

Any day when the Lord intervenes in the affairs of His people.
Could be intervention - *to judge*.
Could be intervention - *to bless*.

In Joel the emphasis is placed primarily on coming judgment.
However, subsequent blessing is an important part of the message.

ORGANIZATION

ILLUSTRATION 1

REVELATION 2-3

JOEL

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THE DAY OF THE LORD

ILLUSTRATION: Plague of locusts 1			REVELATION: Day of the Lord 2-3		
Desolation 1:1-12	Call to Repentance 1:13-14	Coming of the Day of the Lord 1:15-20	Destructive Invasion 2:1-11	Exhortation to Repentance 2:12-17	Future Restoration 2:18-3:21
<p>Introduction 1:1</p> <p>Condition of the Land and Lament of the People 1:2-12</p>	<p>Exhortation to the Priests to Call the People to Repentance</p>	<p>This Judgment Is a Warning concerning the Day of the Lord that Has Come</p> <p>The Source of the Plague and the Drought Is Yahweh</p>	<p>Description of the Coming Invasion 2:1-3</p> <p>Description of the Coming Invaders 2:4-11</p>	<p>When Israel Repents, Yahweh Will Forgive and Begin the Plan of Restoration</p>	<p>Blessing for Israel 2:18-32</p> <p>Forgiveness of the people 2:18</p> <p>Restoration of goods 2:19</p> <p>Enemies removed 2:20</p> <p>Peace and prosperity 2:21-26</p> <p>Presence of Yahweh 2:27</p> <p>Reception of Holy Spirit 2:28-29</p> <p>Signs of final restoration 2:30-31</p> <p>Salvation of a remnant 2:32</p> <p>Judgment against the Nations 3:1-16</p> <p>Reason for judgment 3:1-8</p> <p>Meeting for war 3:9-16</p> <p>Kingdom for Israel 3:17-21</p>