

## Joel Notes 050219

**Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets)** Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

Theme of repentance and relapse. Example from Jeremiah 7  
Postexilic return did not bring about Israel's restoration  
Hosea introduces failed repentance.

Then three cycles:

1. Repentance (Joel) and relapse (Amos, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah)
  2. Repentance (Jonah) and relapse (Nahum)
  3. Repentance (Haggai, Zechariah) and relapse (Malachi)
- Hope for future blessings of repentance and restoration

### Joel 1:1-2:17

Locust plague has brought devastation and destruction on the land  
The Day of the Lord is near  
call for repentance that goes beyond the external signs of contrition  
Offer of grace  
Exhorts the people and leaders to pray that God will spare them

### Joel 2:18

Transition from judgement to restoration  
People apparently repented

The Lord is jealous for his people and had pity on them. Exodus 20:5-6 *You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

Because jealousy is a consuming love, it can go hand in hand with pity.

### Joel 2:20-21

Invaders were defeated

### Joel 2:22-26

Restoration of the devastated land  
Oracle of deliverance

### Joel 2:27

God's presence among his people

**Israel's sin led to disaster, but God's mercy creates hope**

### Joel 2:28-32

God's Spirit will fill all his people

Isaiah 32:15 *until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.*

Isaiah 44:3 *For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.*

Jeremiah 31:31-34 *"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."*

Ezekiel 36:23-28 *And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.*

### **Use of the Book of Joel in the New Testament**

Joel 2:1 *Blow a trumpet in Zion – the blast of the trumpet to signal the Day of the Lord*  
1 Corinthians 15:52 *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16 *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

Revelation 8:6 *Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared to blow them.*

Joel 1:15 *Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes. The use of "near" to express the imminence of the Day of the Lord*

Matthew 24:32 *"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near.*

Mark 13:29 *So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is*

*near, at the very gates.*

Joel 2:26 *You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,*

Luke 6:21 *Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.*

Matthew 14:13-21 *Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. **And they all ate and were satisfied.** And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. And also the other accounts of the feeding of the multitudes.*

Joel 3:1-14 *The judgement of the Gentiles*

Matthew 25:31-46 *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

*"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

Joel 2:30-31 *"And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.*

Luke 21:25 *And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,*  
Revelation 8:12 *The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be*

*darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.*

*Joel 3:16 The Lord roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake.*

*Hebrews 12:26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens."*

*Joel 3:13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.*

*Mark 4:29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.*

*Joel 2:4-5 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses they run.*

*Revelation 9:7-9 In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces, their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth; they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle.*

Joel's other major contribution to Christian understanding of God's redemptive activity is the prophecy of the Spirit's coming (2:28-32; cf. Acts 2:14-41). Peter made double use of Joel's verses and their context: (1) he refuted the ludicrous conclusions that the Christians were drunk (Acts 2:13-16) by declaring that the last days were at hand, triggered by the Spirit's activity; (2) he laid the foundation for his gospel proclamation and invitation by the use of Joel's key promise, 'whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved' (Acts 2:21) and the parallel clause, 'whom the Lord our God calls to him' (Acts 2:39; cf. Joel 2:32). 'Pentecost was a clear indication that the Messianic age had dawned. Its consummation, whether near or remote, was rendered certain.'