

The Book of Joel

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Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we study the book of **Joel**, which is the second book of “The Minor Prophets.”

Nothing is known of the prophet Joel outside his book, and it is not even certain as to when he prophesied, although it is likely it was before the exile. Adding to the uncertainty, **Joel** shares many linguistic characteristics with other prophetic books in the Old Testament, particularly **Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Micah** and **Zephaniah**. For this reason, scholars have debated as to whether **Joel** borrowed phrases from the other books, or the other prophets borrowed phrases from **Joel**. It may be, however, that neither is the case, for all the prophets may have drawn upon a common pool of religious and prophetic terminology.

The prophecies of **Joel** have had a far-reaching impact. In **Acts 2:16-21**, Peter quotes from **Joel 2:28-32** to explain the phenomenon of Pentecost:

“No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

The prophecies of Joel center on an upcoming locust plague and drought, as symbols of the “great and dreadful day of the Lord” (**2:31**). He calls on Israel to repent, and looks forward to the day when Judah is fully restored. Significantly, the book ends with a positive, prophetic declaration: “The Lord dwells in Zion!”

Let’s pull up a comfortable chair and read the entire book of **Joel** in one sitting.

Memory Verse

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:38

Your Fishing Kit

This is the fourteenth verse in your fishing kit. **Acts 2:38** explains the response a person should make to the revelation of the Gospel. This response involves three parts – repentance, baptism and the receiving of the Holy Spirit’s empowering.

Here are the other verses in your “fishing kit”:

John 3:16	Isaiah 55:6-7	John 1:12	2 Corinthians 5:17
John 3:18	Romans 5:8	John 3:3	2 Corinthians 5:21
John 3:36	1 John 4:10	John 5:24	Matthew 10:32-33
Ephesians 1:7-8	Acts 2:38	John 6:37	Romans 2:4-5
Romans 3:23	Acts 3:19	John 8:32	Acts 17:30
Romans 6:23	Acts 4:12	John 8:36	1 John 5:10
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	John 10:10	1 John 5:11-12
Isaiah 53:6	1 John 1:8	John 10:28	John 14:1-3
Isaiah 59:1-2	1 John 1:9	Romans 10:9	John 16:33
Isaiah 64:6	1 John 1:10	Romans 10:13	Revelation 3:20

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.