

Old Testament Survey : J O E L

Author: Joel (Name means "Yahweh is God")

Joel is the son of Puthuel (which means "open heartedness toward God"). Tradition says he is of the tribe of Rueben. Unger says he was priestly line because of his knowledge of the Priesthood, yet Joel does not seem to include himself among the priests. He lived and prophesied in Jerusalem and may have been a native of that city.

Date: 860-850 (approximate)

This may correspond to the drought of Elijah and reign of Jehosaphat. There is much debate over its dating. Points of view vary from 860 to post exilic. Reasons for early date include:

1. There is no direct reference to Syria, Assyria or Chaldea,
2. Tyre, Sidon, Philistia, Edom and Egypt are mentioned (these are Israel's early enemies)
3. There is no mention of idolatry or corruption.
4. There is no mention of kings or princes. Chapter 1 speaks of priests, altars, etc.(This causes some to date the book at the time of Joash. It would not be during time of Athaliah or Joram because there was much idolatry then and there is no condemnation of idolatry by Joel)
5. There is no mention of scorning of the sacrifices by the people

Context: 2 Kings 22:1-21, 2 Chron. 24:1-27. It is written to Judah

The book was written primarily because of a locust invasion, the prophecies probably spoken during the plague. Joel calls the people to repentance and to carry out the proper worship of God or worse things may come. It appears to have been made in one major utterance rather than over a long period of time.

Historically, the elders, priests are in high esteem, though they may not have been the political leaders. The military of Israel is suffering attacks from surrounding nations. Spiritually the people seem to be lacking in fervor, whole heartedness, rather than the sins of overt commission. Economically the nation is devastated from the locust plague and drought.

Theme: The Day of the LORD; Historical & Eschatological "A call to repentance in light of the present locust plague & future judgement" "Joel - zealous for the worship of Yahweh"

This is a time when God overtly and supernaturally intervenes in to the course of human history. It is epitomized by: 1) exhibition of God's righteous wrath on the ungodly and blessing on the obedient. 2) exhibits strong conventional motiff. 3) Involves imminency

Outline:

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| I. Historical Day of Yahweh (1) | (Joel is speaking) |
| II. Impending Day of Yahweh (2:1-17) | (Joel is speaking) |
| III. Eschatological Day of Yahweh (2:18-ch.3) | (God is speaking) |

Key Chapters & Verses (bold required for Elders)

2:28-32. The promise of God's spirit being poured out in the later days. (cf Acts. 2)
3:9,13-15. Description of judgement of the nations in the valley of decision.
(Armageddon).

Detailed Outline

I. Historical Day of Yahweh (1)

A. Source of the Message (1:1)

B. Command to Contemplate the Devastation (1:2-4)

C. Completeness of the Devastation (1:5-12)

D. Call to Repent in Light of the Devastation (1:13-20)

II. Impending Day of Yahweh (2:1-17)

A. Alarm Sounds (2:1)

B. Army Invades (2:2-11)

C. Admonition to Repent (2:12-17)

III. Eschatological Day of Yahweh (2:18-ch.3)

A. Introduction (2:19-20)

B. Material Restoration (2:21-27)

C. Spiritual Restoration (2:28-32)

D. National Restoration (3:1-21)