

Joel: The Day of the LORD

(Pastor John Brackbill/Joel 1:1-3:21/1.20.16)

Wednesday Mid-Week Service

Why study a minor prophet?

- Because they are God's Word
- Because they are often _____
- Because of their themes
 - God's confrontation of His people over their sin
 - God's call for His people to have godly sorrow (repentance) over their sin
 - God's warning about coming judgment
 - God's promised grace to His repentant people
 - All of these themes are given in light of future end time events

Why study this minor prophet?

- Because in the life of our church we have recently studied the only place in the NT where the book of Joel is directly quoted: Do you know where that is? _____
- Because in the life of our church we have been studying through 1 and 2 Thessalonians which speak of what day in relationship to the end times? _____

Who is Joel?

- There are 12 different Joels mentioned in Scripture
- All we know about this Joel is that his father is Pethuel (1:1), but we don't know anything about him!
- His name means Yahweh (or Jehovah) is God
- He is a prophet in _____ (3:1)
- He seems to be located in Jerusalem because of his frequent references to _____ (1:9, 13, 14, 2:15)
- He addresses the priests and elders so he is in all likelihood not one of them (1:2, 9)

When did he write?

- OT Chronology:
 - Abraham: 2100 B.C.
 - Moses: 1525 B.C.
 - David: 1040 B.C.
 - Division of the Kingdom: 931 B.C.
 - Northern Tribes-Israel go into captivity: 722 B.C.
 - Three Deportations of Judah to Babylon
 - 605 B.C. (See Daniel)
 - 597 B.C. (See Ezekiel)

- 586 B.C. (See 2 Kings 25 and 2 Chron. 36; fall of Jerusalem destruction of temple)
 - Rebuilding of Temple started (536 B.C. See Ezra)
 - Rebuilding of Temple finished (516 B.C. See Ezra)
- Because Joel speak of the temple it is either before 586 B.C. (when the temple was destroyed by the Babylonians) or after 515-16 B.C. (when returning exiles rebuilt the temple as recorded by Ezra).
- Arguments for a pre-exilic date (before 586 B.C.)
 - Assyria, Babylon and Persia are not specifically mentioned even though they would have been the major powers in play if the book was written after the exile of Judah
 - Joel is in between Hosea and Amos which are both books before the exile
 - Other minor prophets are similar in style and depend upon Joel even seeming to quote Joel
- Arguments for a post-exilic date (after 515-16 B.C.)
 - There is no king mentioned if it is before the exile
 - Chapter 3:2-3 speaks of what seems to be the exile in the past tense
 - Chapter 3:17 speaks of what seems to be the conquest of Jerusalem

What did he write about?

- Two phrases to identify the book of Joel: _____ and _____
- Day of the LORD Defined:
 - Where it is found in Joel:
 - What it isn't:
 - Not the _____
 - Not limited to 24 hours, but regularly refers to a _____
 - Not limited to one event only, but is used biblically to refer to various _____ in human history
 - Not only a future _____ event
 - What it is: A phrase referring to a variety of periods or events of _____ in human affairs
- Summary of the book: A call to repentance in order to take part in the promised future blessings as God's covenant people and to do so in light of the current locust plague judgment from the Lord on Judah that pointed forward to the then near future Day of the Lord upon Judah, which illustrated the still future end times Day of the Lord.