

The Teachings of Joel

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The Teachings of Joel

by Jonathan Cooper

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper

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Joel 1

Joel 1:1: "The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel."

- This book contains the prophecies of Joel.
- The words in this book came from the Lord. They're words that God gave to Joel.
- Joel was a prophet.
- Joel was a male.
- Joel was the son of Pethuel.
- The words in this book are the words of God, not the words of men.

Joel 1:2: "Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?"

- This portion of the book is addressed to old men.
- This portion of the book is also addressed to all the inhabitants of the land of Israel.
- God wants the old men of Israel to listen to what He has to say.
- God wants the inhabitants of Israel to listen to His words.
- God addressed this to old men because they had lived a long time and remembered the former things. They had lived long enough to know that this terrible disaster was unlike anything that had happened before.
- Nothing like this disaster had happened during the lives

of the old men of Israel.

- Nothing like this disaster had happened during the lives of the ancestors of the Israelites.
- This disaster was unique. It was worse than anything that had happened before.
- God is addressing the generation that witnessed these things. He's telling them about something that had already happened to them, not something that would happen in the future. For that reason God seems to be addressing a future generation (one that witnessed the Day of the Lord).

Joel 1:3: "Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation."

- This disaster was so severe that God wanted people to tell the story to their children (who don't seem to have witnessed it themselves).
- This disaster was so severe that God wanted the children who were told the story to tell it to their own children and grandchildren.
- God wanted the story of this disaster to be passed down to each subsequent generation.
- Some people would survive this disaster and have children.
- This disaster wouldn't wipe out the people of Israel. The survivors would have children and grandchildren.
- God wanted the Israelites to forever remember this disaster.

Joel 1:4: "That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten."

- In this disaster, the palmerworm ate plants.
- After the palmerworm ate plants, the locust came and ate whatever was left.
- After the locust ate plants, the cankerworm came and ate whatever was left.
- After the cankerworm ate plants, the caterpillar came and ate whatever was left.
- This disaster involved four separate waves of insects, and each wave devastated the crops of Israel.
- In this disaster God used four separate waves of insects to wipe out the crops of Israel.
- There are times when God uses insects to carry out His will.
- There are times when God uses insects to punish nations.

Joel 1:5: "Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth."

- When this disaster happened to Israel, there were drunkards in the land.
- God told the drunkards of Israel to weep because their supply of new wine was destroyed.
- This disaster destroyed the supply of wine in Israel.

Joel 1:6: "For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion."

- Not only did this disaster involve four waves of insects, but it also included a terrible army that invaded the land of Israel.
- This army is said to come upon God's land (the land of Israel).
- The nation that invades Israel is very strong.
- The army that comes against Israel is very large. It's said to be "without number".
- The army that comes against Israel is very terrible. It's said to have teeth like those of a lion.
- God considers the land of Israel to belong to Him. Any army that invades that land is invading His land.

Joel 1:7: "He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white."

- God says that a single individual has laid His vine waste.
- God compares Israel to a vine, and says that it belongs to Him.
- God singles out a specific individual and says that this person is waging war against His people. (This seems to be a reference to the antichrist.)
- God compares Israel to a fig tree that belongs to Him.
- This individual who invaded Israel destroyed the country. God said that He made the fig tree (Israel) bare and cast it

away.

- When this prophecy is fulfilled, the Jews will be in the land of Israel.

Joel 1:8: "Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth."

- God told this generation to lament these terrible losses, the way that a woman would lament the loss of her husband.
- In ancient times, people lamented the death of a loved one with sackcloth.
- God wanted the generation that experienced these things to mourn.
- This verse says to lament like a virgin who was mourning the loss of her husband. Either the word "virgin" should have been translated "young woman" (because Hebrew doesn't have a word that only means virgin), or this person was only betrothed and hadn't gotten married yet (since she was still a virgin).
- God expects widows to mourn the death of her husband, especially if the death happens while she's still young.
- There's nothing wrong with mourning and weeping when terrible disasters come.

Joel 1:9: "The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD's ministers, mourn."

- When this disaster happens, the temple of the Lord exists in Jerusalem.

- When this disaster happens, the temple is functioning. Sacrifices are being offered (meat and drink offerings).
- When this disaster happens, there are priests in Israel.
- This disaster causes the sacrifices of the temple to cease.
- When the temple sacrifices are stopped, the priests mourn.
- God says that the priests are His ministers.

Joel 1:10: "The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth."

- This disaster causes the fields of Israel to be destroyed.
- This disaster destroys Israel's corn.
- This disaster destroys Israel's wine.
- This disaster destroys Israel's oil.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will be growing crops.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will be growing corn.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will have a wine industry.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will have an (olive) oil industry.
- When this disaster happens, the land will mourn.
- This disaster destroys Israel's food supply.

Joel 1:11: "Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished."

- This disaster destroys Israel's wheat.
- This disaster destroys Israel's barley.
- This disaster destroys Israel's harvests.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will be growing wheat.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will be growing barley.
- God tells the husbandmen to be ashamed, because their crops are destroyed.
- God tells the vinedressers to howl, because their crops are destroyed.
- This disaster is a time of intense mourning.
- This disaster is a time of terrible devastation.

Joel 1:12: "The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men."

- This disaster destroys Israel's vines.
- This disaster destroys Israel's fig trees.
- This disaster destroys Israel's pomegranate trees.
- This disaster destroys Israel's palm trees.
- This disaster destroys Israel's apple trees.
- This disaster destroys all of Israel's trees of the field.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will be growing (grape) vines.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will be growing fig trees.

- When this disaster happens, Israel will be growing pomegranate trees.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will be growing palm trees.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will be growing apple trees.
- This disaster destroys Israel's crops of the field, and Israel's trees. It's far ranging.
- When this disaster happens, joy is taken away from mankind.
- The passage doesn't say that plants die. Instead it says that plants *wither*. God doesn't call the destruction of plants a "death". This indicates that the loss of a plant isn't the same thing as the death of a person or animal.
- The crops of the field bring joy to mankind.
- The fruits of trees bring joy to mankind.
- The fruit of the vine brings joy to mankind.
- It's reasonable to mourn the loss of crops, and to weep over it.

Joel 1:13: "Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God."

- God commands the priests to lament when this terrible disaster happens.
- The reason the priests are commanded to lament is because they're no longer able to offer meat and drink

offerings.

- The temple that exists in those days is called the temple of God.
- The priests are told to show their grief by lying all night in sackcloth.
- The priests are described as the ministers of God. This indicates that the Lord sanctioned the (third) temple that will exist in those days (the days of the tribulation), and sanctioned the sacrifices, and sanctioned what the priests are doing. They're said to be ministering to Him and offering sacrifices to Him. There's no indication that this (third) temple, or what the priests were doing, was evil or rejected by God.

Joel 1:14: "Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD,"

- When this disaster happens, God tells the Jews to fast before Him.
- When this disaster happens, God tells the Jews to call a solemn assembly.
- When this disaster happens, God tells the Jews to gather all the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the temple.
- The (third) temple is described as the house of the Lord. It's clearly a sanctioned and holy temple.
- When this disaster happens, God tells the Jews to cry out to Him at His temple.
- When this disaster happens, there will be Jews in Israel.

- When this disaster happens, there will be elders in Israel.

Joel 1:15: "Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come."

- The events in Joel are connected to the Day of the Lord. That means they're end-times events, and are connected to the seven-year tribulation.
- The Day of the Lord is said to be a day of destruction.
- The destruction that happens in the Day of the Lord is God's doing. It's the wrath of God, not the wrath of men.
- God is called the Almighty.
- All these disasters that fell upon Israel during the Day of the Lord are God's doing. Although He works through insects and enemy nations, it's still His wrath.

Joel 1:16: "Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God?"

- During the Day of the Lord, the temple will exist.
- During the Day of the Lord, the temple is called God's temple. This means the third temple (which will exist during the tribulation period) will be a legitimate, sanctioned, and holy temple.
- Before this terrible disaster, there was joy and gladness in God's temple.
- This disaster brought an end to the joy and gladness in God's temple.
- This disaster cut off the supply of meat for the sacrifices that were being offered in the temple.

- This disaster made it impossible to continue to offer sacrifices, because the supply of meat was gone.
- The fact that sacrifices could no longer be offered at the temple turned people's joy into grief.
- God doesn't condemn the Jews for building the third temple.
- God doesn't condemn the priests for offering sacrifices in the third temple.
- God doesn't call the third temple evil, or reject the sacrifices that were offered there.

Joel 1:17: "The seed is rotten under their clods, the garnerers are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered."

- This disaster causes the seed to rot in the ground.
- This disaster causes the garnerers to be empty and devoid of food.
- This disaster causes the barns to be broken.
- This disaster causes the corn to wither.
- Corn is said to wither, not die. This indicates that the death of an animal or person is entirely different (in a fundamental way) from the loss of a plant.

Joel 1:18: "How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate."

- This disaster causes animals to suffer and groan.

- Because of this disaster, cattle have no pasture to graze.
- Because of this disaster, the sheep die for lack of food.
- This disaster destroys Israel's supply of plants and animals. The crops are gone and the animals die as well.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will have cattle.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will have flocks of sheep.
- When this disaster happens, Israel will have pasture.

Joel 1:19: "O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field."

- During this disaster, a terrible fire will burn down the pastures.
- During this disaster, a terrible fire will consume the wilderness.
- During this disaster, a terrible fire will burn down all the trees of the field. None will be spared.
- In the Day of the Lord (the tribulation), both pasture and trees will be burned to the ground.
- The people will cry out to the Lord because of the fire that will rage in Israel.

Joel 1:20: "The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness."

- Because of this disaster, the animals will cry out to God.

- The reason the animals will cry out to God is because they have no food to eat or water to drink.
- It's possible for animals to cry out to God.
- There are times when animals cry out to God.
- It seems that animals look to God to give them food and water.
- During this disaster, the rivers in Israel will dry up.
- During this disaster, fire will devour the pastures of the wilderness.
- This disaster will destroy Israel's food supply and water supply, leaving both people and animals with nothing.
- Animals know that God exists, and they cry out to Him in times of distress.

Joel 2

Joel 2:1: "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;"

- The Day of the Lord (the seven-year tribulation) is coming. It's near at hand.
- The prophecies in this book seem to be related to the seven-year tribulation period.
- Since the Day of the Lord is at hand, the trumpet should be sounded in Zion.
- Since the Day of the Lord is at hand, the alarm should be sounded in God's holy mountain.

- Since the Day of the Lord is at hand, the inhabitants of the land of Israel should tremble.
- The Day of the Lord is a terrible and dreadful thing.
- The Day of the Lord is a day of great trouble for the inhabitants of Israel.
- In ancient times, trumpets were used in Israel to sound the alarm that a disaster was at hand.

Joel 2:2: "A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations."

- The Day of the Lord is a day of thick darkness.
- The Day of the Lord is a day of gloominess.
- The Day of the Lord is a day of clouds.
- In the Day of the Lord, a great and strong people will come against Israel.
- The Day of the Lord is the worst time that there has ever been, or ever will be.
- The Day of the Lord won't be the end of the human race. There will be more generations after it.

Joel 2:3: "A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them."

- When this terrible army comes against Israel, a fire will

devour everything that's ahead of them.

- When this terrible army comes against Israel, a flame will burn everything behind them.
- When this terrible army comes against Israel, the land that it crosses over will be turned into a desolate wilderness.
- At the time of the Day of the Lord, the land of Israel will be like the garden of Eden.
- When this terrible army comes against Israel, nothing shall escape them.
- The garden of Eden was a real place that actually existed.
- This terrible army doesn't appear to be human.

Joel 2:4: "The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run."

- The soldiers in this army don't look like men. Instead they have the appearance of horses.
- The soldiers in this army don't look like men. Instead they run as horses do.
- The soldiers in this army are extremely swift.

Joel 2:5: "Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array."

- The soldiers in this terrible army make a noise like chariots.
- The soldiers in this terrible army are very agile, and can

make great leaps.

- The soldiers in this terrible army make a noise like fire burning stubble.
- The soldiers in this terrible army are very strong.
- The soldiers in this terrible army are in a battle formation.

Joel 2:6: "Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness."

- The people who see this army coming will be filled with pain.
- The people who are attacked by this army will be blackened (perhaps because they're burned with fire or covered in soot).
- This terrible army will bring great distress and pain upon the people that it attacks.

Joel 2:7: "They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:"

- The soldiers in this terrible army are called mighty men.
- The soldiers in this terrible army can run with great speed.
- The soldiers in this terrible army can climb walls.
- The soldiers in this terrible army will march along on their path, and won't turn away from it.
- The soldiers in this terrible army won't break their ranks.
- The soldiers in this terrible army are strong, agile, and

very disciplined. They act in superhuman ways.

Joel 2:8: "Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded."

- The soldiers in this terrible army won't fight against each other.
- The soldiers in this terrible army will each walk on its own path.
- The soldiers in this terrible army can't be wounded by being pierced with a sword.

Joel 2:9: "They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief."

- The soldiers in this terrible army will run throughout the city (of Jerusalem).
- The soldiers in this terrible army will run upon the wall of the city.
- The soldiers in this terrible army will climb up the houses.
- The soldiers in this terrible army will enter into the windows of houses.
- When the Day of the Lord takes place, the city of Jerusalem will be surrounded by a wall.
- When the day of the Lord takes place, the city of Jerusalem will have houses.

Joel 2:10: "The earth shall quake before them; the heavens

shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:"

- When this terrible army comes against Israel, the ground will quake before them.
- When this terrible army comes against Israel, the heavens shall tremble.
- When this terrible army comes against Israel, the sun will be dark.
- When this terrible army comes against Israel, the moon will be dark.
- When this terrible army comes against Israel, the stars will be dark.

Joel 2:11: "And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?"

- The Lord says that this terrible army belongs to Him. It's His army.
- In the Day of the Lord, He will utter His voice before His army.
- The army of the Lord is very great.
- The Lord is strong.
- In the Day of the Lord, He will execute His word.
- The Day of the Lord is great and very terrible.
- It will be very difficult to survive the Day of the Lord. It will be an extremely difficult time.

Joel 2:12: "Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:"

- Because the Day of the Lord is very terrible, the people should turn to God now with all their hearts.
- Because the Day of the Lord is very terrible, the people should turn to God with fasting.
- Because the Day of the Lord is very terrible, the people should turn to God with weeping.
- Because the Day of the Lord is very terrible, the people should turn to God with mourning.
- Fasting is a sign of true repentance.
- Weeping is a sign of true repentance.
- Mourning is a sign of true repentance.

Joel 2:13: "And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil."

- God wants us to rend our heart, not our garments.
- God seeks a change in the inward parts, not an empty outward expression of grief.
- God commands us to turn to Him.
- The Lord is our God.
- God is gracious.
- God is merciful.
- God is slow to anger.

- God is very kind.
- When people repent, there are times when God doesn't send His judgment.

Joel 2:14: "Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?"

- If God says that He will send His judgment upon a nation, and it repents, then He may not send His judgment after all.
- This prophecy is saying that if Israel repents then it's possible these terrible things might not happen to them.
- The only way to potentially escape all of these terrible things is through repentance.
- If Israel repents then God may send a blessing instead of a curse.
- If Israel repents then God may leave them supplies to offer a meat offering and a drink offering to Him.
- In the Day of the Lord, God calls Israel to repent.

Joel 2:15: "Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:"

- In the Day of the Lord, God commands the people to blow the trumpet in Zion.
- In the Day of the Lord, God commands the people to sanctify a fast.
- In the Day of the Lord, God commands the people to call a solemn assembly.

- In ancient times a trumpet was used to call a solemn assembly.
- In the Day of the Lord, there will be people in Zion.
- God's focus in the Day of the Lord seems to be centered on Israel, and calling them to repent. Although the entire world will be affected by the events of the tribulation, God's focus is very much on Israel. The church isn't mentioned at all, which is more evidence that the church won't be in this world at that time.

Joel 2:16: "Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet."

- In the Day of the Lord, God commands His people to gather.
- In the Day of the Lord, God commands His congregation to sanctify themselves.
- In the Day of the Lord, God commands the elders of Israel to be gathered together.
- In the Day of the Lord, God commands the children to be included in this gathering.
- In the Day of the Lord, God commands even infants and newborns to be included in this gathering.
- In the times throughout the Bible when God gathered His people together, the newborns and infants were included. God didn't have them sent off to children's church or the nursery. Instead God kept families together.
- In the Day of the Lord, God commanded the bridegrooms

to attend.

- In the Day of the Lord, God commanded the brides to attend.
- In ancient times, a bridegroom resided in his chamber.
- In ancient times, a bride resided in her closet.
- In the Day of the Lord, there will be bridegrooms in Israel.
- In the Day of the Lord, there will be brides in Israel.
- In the Day of the Lord, people will still be getting married.
- In the Day of the Lord, people will still be having children. There will be newborns and infants during those days.

Joel 2:17: "Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?"

- In the Day of the Lord, a temple will exist in Jerusalem. (This is a reference to the third temple.)
- In the Day of the Lord, God's altar will exist in Jerusalem.
- In the Day of the Lord, God commands His priests to go to His temple and weep. Specifically, they are commanded to weep between the porch of the temple and the altar.
- In the Day of the Lord, God calls His priests "the ministers of the Lord". God doesn't consider their priesthood or service to be illegitimate.
- In the Day of the Lord, God doesn't consider the temple that exists at that time to be illegitimate. Instead He commands His priests to go there and seek Him.

- In the Day of the Lord, God commands His priests to intercede on behalf of the people.
- In the Day of the Lord, God commands His priests to go to the temple and pray that God would spare His people.
- In the Day of the Lord, God commands His priests to pray that He wouldn't bring reproach upon His heritage.
- God calls the people of Israel His heritage.
- In the Day of the Lord, God commands His priests to pray that He wouldn't allow the heathen to rule over them, lest people reproach the name of God by asking why their God didn't save them.
- In the Day of the Lord, pagans will be trying to conquer Israel and rule over the Jews.

Joel 2:18: "Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people."

- After the priests go to the temple and pray, God will be jealous for the land of Israel.
- God calls the land of Israel *His* land. It belongs to Him
- After the priests go to the temple and pray, God will pity His people.
- God calls the people of Israel His people.
- God is a jealous God.
- God is jealous for His people, the Israelites.

Joel 2:19: "Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach

among the heathen:"

- God will answer the prayers of the priests.
- In response to the prayers of the priests, God will give corn to the Israelites.
- In response to the prayers of the priests, God will give wine to the Israelites.
- In response to the prayers of the priests, God will satisfy the Israelites with food.
- In response to the prayers of the priests, God will save the Israelites. They will never again be made a reproach among the heathen.
- In the past, God had made the Israelites a reproach among the heathen.

Joel 2:20: "But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things."

- In the Day of the Lord, the northern army will come against Israel.
- In response to the prayers of the priests, God will drive the northern army out of Israel and will remove it far off.
- In response to the prayers of the priests, God will drive the northern army into a land that is barren and desolate.
- In response to the prayers of the priests, God will drive the northern army away into a distant and barren land. The face of the army will be toward the eastern sea, and the rear of the army will be toward the utmost sea.

- In response to the prayers of the priests, God will drive the northern army away and make them stink.
- In response to the prayers of the priests, God will drive the northern army away and punish them because of the terrible things that they had done.
- God has the power to defeat the powerful northern army.
- God is going to defeat the powerful northern army.

Joel 2:21: "Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things."

- God tells the people of Israel to not be afraid.
- God tells the people of Israel to be glad.
- God tells the people of Israel to rejoice.
- The reason the people of Israel shouldn't be afraid, but should rejoice, is because God will do great things.
- It's good to be glad and rejoice when God does great things.
- Since God will do great things, we don't need to be afraid.
- The Day of the Lord will be very terrible, but it will end in rejoicing because God will save His people.

Joel 2:22: "Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength."

- God tells the animals of the field to not be afraid.
- The reason the animals shouldn't be afraid is because the pastures will return and the trees will bear fruit again.

- After the Day of the Lord has ended, there will be beasts of the field in this world.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, the pastures will return.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, the wilderness will come to life.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, there will be trees again.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, the trees will bear fruit again.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, the fig tree will bear fruit again.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, the vine will yield fruit again.
- After Israel repents and the priests cry out to God, the Lord will bless their land. The plants and trees will return and there will be food again.
- The reason life will return to this world after the tribulation is because Israel repented.
- God has the power to bring the wilderness to life.
- God has the power to cause trees to grow and bear fruit.
- There are times when God blesses a nation by causing plants to grow and trees to bear fruit.
- God has the power to bless a nation with food.
- God has the power to take away, and to give.
- There are times when animals are afraid.

Joel 2:23: "Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month."

- God tells the Israelites to be glad.
- God calls the Israelites the children of Zion.
- God tells the Israelites to rejoice in Him, because of the good things that He will give them.
- It's good to rejoice in the promises of God, even if we haven't received them yet.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, God will give His people the former rain.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, God will give His people the latter rain.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, God will send rain upon Israel in the first month of their calendar.
- God has the power to send rain upon a nation.
- God is the one who gives rain.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, there will be rain in this world.

Joel 2:24: "And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil."

- After the Day of the Lord has ended, God will give the Israelites an abundance of wheat, and will fill their (threshing) floors.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, God will give the Israelites abundant crops and will overflow their vats with

wine.

- After the Day of the Lord has ended, there will still be wheat in this world.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, there will still be grapes in this world.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, people will still make wine.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, there will still be olives.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, God will give the Israelites an abundance of (olive) oil.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, God will give the Israelites an abundance of food.
- Wine is a blessing, and is something that God will give Israel in abundance after the Day of the Lord.

Joel 2:25: "And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you."

- During the seven-year tribulation, the locust ate Israel's crops. God will restore what was eaten after the tribulation ends.
- During the seven-year tribulation, the cankerworm ate Israel's crops. God will restore what was eaten after the tribulation ends.
- During the seven-year tribulation, the caterpillar ate Israel's crops. God will restore what was eaten after the tribulation ends.

- During the seven-year tribulation, the palmerworm ate Israel's crops. God will restore what was eaten after the tribulation ends.
- During the seven-year tribulation, the terrible army destroyed Israel's crops. God will restore what was destroyed after the tribulation ends.
- God says that the terrible army that will come against Israel during the tribulation is His army.
- God says that the terrible army that will come against Israel during the tribulation will be sent by Him.

Joel 2:26: "And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed."

- After the Day of the Lord has ended, the Israelites will have plenty of food to eat.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, the Israelites will eat and be satisfied.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, the Israelites will praise the name of the Lord their God.
- The reason the Israelites will praise the Lord is because of the wonderful things that He did for them.
- After the Day of the Lord has ended, the Israelites will never be ashamed again. This implies that Israel will never again rebel, or become pagan, or be judged by God, but will instead remain steadfast and faithful forever.
- The purpose of the tribulation isn't to destroy the Israelites. Instead it will drive them to repentance, and then God will greatly bless them and give them a new

heart so they never rebel again.

- It's a great blessing to have plenty to eat, and to eat until we're satisfied.
- It's good to praise God when He does wonderful things for us.
- It's good to praise God for the food that He gives us to eat.

Joel 2:27: "And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed."

- After the Day of the Lord, the Israelites will know that God is in their midst.
- After the Day of the Lord, God will be in the midst of the Israelites.
- After the Day of the Lord, the Israelites will know that the Lord is their God.
- After the Day of the Lord, the Israelites will know that there's no other god except for the God of Israel.
- After the Day of the Lord, the Israelites will never be ashamed again.
- The focus of the Day of the Lord (the seven-year tribulation) is on Israel and their repentance. There's no mention of the church at all.

Joel 2:28: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:"

- After the Day of the Lord, God will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.
- After the Day of the Lord, the Holy Spirit will be in this world in a mighty way.
- After the Day of the Lord, the sons of the Israelites will prophesy.
- After the Day of the Lord, the daughters of the Israelites will prophesy.
- The gift of prophecy doesn't exist during the church age, but it will exist again after the Day of the Lord. There will be true prophets once more.
- After the Day of the Lord, the Israelites will bear children (both sons and daughters).
- After the Day of the Lord, God will speak to people through prophets.
- After the Day of the Lord, God will speak to the old men of Israel through dreams.
- In this present age God doesn't speak to people through dreams, but He will do that again after the Day of the Lord.
- After the Day of the Lord, people will still grow old. There will be old men.
- After the Day of the Lord, God will speak to the young men of Israel through visions.
- In this present age God doesn't speak to people through visions, but He will do that again after the Day of the Lord.
- After the Day of the Lord, God will give new revelation to mankind. This will come through prophets, and dreams,

and visions.

Joel 2:29: "And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."

- After the Day of the Lord, God will pour out His Spirit upon servants and handmaids.
- After the Day of the Lord, there will be servants.
- After the Day of the Lord, there will be handmaids.

Joel 2:30: "And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke."

- Before the Day of the Lord begins, God will show wonders in the heavens (the sky).
- Before the Day of the Lord begins, God will show wonders in the earth (the ground).
- God uses wonders in the heavens (the sky) to warn people that the Day of the Lord is approaching. This means that God uses heavenly objects as signs in order to communicate with mankind.
- Before the Day of the Lord begins, God will use wonders of blood to warn that the tribulation is near.
- Before the Day of the Lord begins, God will use wonders of fire to warn that the tribulation is near.
- Before the Day of the Lord begins, God will use pillars of smoke to warn that the tribulation is near.
- Before the Day of the Lord begins, God will use a multitude of miraculous signs in both the sky and in the ground to warn people that the Day of the Lord is at

hand. It won't come without warning.

Joel 2:31: "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD come."

- Before the Day of the Lord begins, the sun will be turned into darkness.
- Before the Day of the Lord begins, the moon will be turned into blood.
- God will use signs of the sun and moon to warn people that the Day of the Lord is near. This means that He uses heavenly objects as signs.
- The Day of the Lord is great and terrible.
- God tells people in advance what the signs of the tribulation are, so that people can watch for them.

Joel 2:32: "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."

- Whoever shall call on the name of the Lord will be delivered.
- There will be deliverance in mount Zion.
- There will be deliverance in Jerusalem.
- God will deliver the remnant of the Jews if they call upon His name.
- In the Day of the Lord, the city of Jerusalem will still exist.
- The reason a remnant of the Jews will exist is because the

Lord will call them. God is going to create the remnant.

Joel 3

Joel 3:1: "For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,"

- This chapter is talking about end times events that happen in relation to the Day of the Lord (the seven-year tribulation).
- In the Day of the Lord, God will rescue the Jews from captivity and return them to the land.
- In the Day of the Lord, both Judah and Jerusalem will be in captivity. God will rescue them and provide deliverance.
- God is the one who will rescue Judah and Jerusalem from their end-times captivity.

Joel 3:2: "I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land."

- In the Day of the Lord, God will gather all nations and bring them to the valley of Jehoshaphat.
- The reason all nations will gather together in the valley of Jehoshaphat is because God has brought them there. Their gathering was His doing.
- The reason God is going to gather all nations in the valley of Jehoshaphat is to judge them for scattering the Jews among the nations, and for taking away land that God

had given to the Jews.

- God becomes angry when nations scatter the Jews.
- God considers the Jews to be His people.
- God considers the land of Israel to be His land.
- God becomes angry when nations take land away from Israel.
- Scattering the Jews from their land brings God's judgment upon nations.
- Taking land away from Israel brings God's judgment upon nations.
- God calls Israel His people and His heritage.
- When nations attack Israel and the Jews, God takes it personally.
- The nations have scattered the Jews and taken Israel's land, and God is going to punish them for it.
- In the end-times, God is angry with all nations for scattering His people the Jews.
- In the end-times, God is angry with all nations for taking land away from Israel.
- God is going to punish all nations for the evil things they've done to the Jews.
- In the end times, the nations will scatter the Jews.
- In the end times, the nations will take land away from Israel.

Joel 3:3: "And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they

might drink."

- In the end-times, God is angry with the nations for selling the Jews into slavery.
- In the end-times, the nations will sell the Jews into slavery.
- In the end-times, slavery will exist.
- In the end-times, people will sell the Jews into slavery and spend the money on harlots.
- In the end-times, prostitution will exist.
- In the end-times, people will sell the Jews into slavery and spend the money on wine.
- God becomes angry when people sell the Jews into slavery.
- God is going to punish the nations for selling the Jews into slavery.
- In the end-times, the nations of the world will be immoral. They will sell people into slavery in order to hire prostitutes.
- God considers the Jews who were sold into slavery to belong to Him. He calls them His people.

Joel 3:4: "Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence? and if ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head;"

- In the end-times, God is angry with Tyre.
- In the end-times, God is angry with Zidon.

- In the end-times, God is angry with the coasts of Palestine.
- In the end-times, Tyre exists.
- In the end-times, Zidon exists.
- In the end-times, people dwell along the coasts of Palestine.
- God warned Tyre, Zidon, and those who live along the coasts of Palestine that if they come against Him then He will speedily fight back against them.

Joel 3:5: "Because ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodly pleasant things:"

- In the end-times, Tyre and Zidon and those who live along the coasts of Palestine will take silver and gold that belongs to God, and will take other valuable possessions that belong to Him as well. (This most likely means looting Israel, or the temple in Jerusalem.)
- God is angry with Tyre and Zidon, and those who live along the coasts of Palestine, for robbing Him.
- In the end-times, Tyre, Zidon, and those who live along the coasts of Palestine will rob God and carry His belongings into their temples.
- In the end-times, Tyre, Zidon, and those who live along the coasts of Palestine will have pagan temples.
- God becomes angry when people steal from Him.
- God becomes angry when people take His possessions and put them into pagan temples.

Joel 3:6: "The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border:"

- In the end-times, God is angry with Tyre, Zidon, and those who live along the coasts of Palestine for selling the Jews to the Greeks as slaves.
- In the end-times, Tyre, Zidon, and those who live along the coasts of Palestine will sell the Jews into slavery to the Greeks in order to remove the Jews far from their homeland. It will be a deliberate act of oppression against the Jews.
- God believes in national borders, and becomes angry when nations violate them.
- In the end-times, the Greeks will exist.
- In the end-times, Israel will be defeated and the Jews will be sold into slavery.
- In the end-times, the Greeks will be involved in the slave trade and will buy slaves.
- In the end-times, slavery won't be illegal.

Joel 3:7: "Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your recompence upon your own head:"

- In the end-times, God will rescue the Jews that were sold into slavery and will bring them home.
- In the end-times, God will punish the nations that sold the Jews into slavery.

Joel 3:8: "And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: for the LORD hath spoken it."

- In the end-times, God will punish the nations that sold the Jews into slavery by selling them as slaves to the Jews, who will then sell them to the distant Sabeans. God will do to them what they did to the Jews.
- In the end-times, the Sabeans will be involved in the slave trade.
- In the end-times, the Sabeans will exist.
- In the end-times, the Jews will sell their enemies into slavery.
- In the end-times, the Sabeans will live far away from the Greeks.

Joel 3:9: "Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:"

- In the end-times, God challenges the Gentiles to go to war against Him.
- In the end-times, God challenges the Gentiles to send their mighty men into battle.
- In the end-times, God challenges the Gentiles to send all their men of war into battle.

Joel 3:10: "Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong."

- God is mocking the Gentiles who are going to go to war

against Him. They think they're strong, but in reality they're weak.

- God tells the Gentiles to turn their farming instruments into weapons of war, and bring those to the battle (where they will be utterly useless).
- The phrase "let the weak say, I am strong" is actually mocking Gentile nations that are going to go to war against God Himself. It's something God is saying to mock His enemies.
- It seems that this major end-times battle will be fought with old-fashioned weapons (swords and spears).
- Those who fight against God may think that they're strong, but in reality they're weak.
- There are times when God mocks His enemies.

Joel 3:11: "Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD."

- God commands the Gentile nations to assemble themselves together and come to the battle.
- In the end times, the Gentile nations are heathen (pagans).
- God calls the Gentiles to send their mightiest soldiers to the battle.
- God isn't afraid of the combined might of all the end-times Gentile nations.
- God has the power to call nations to the battlefield.

Joel 3:12: "Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about."

- God calls the end-times Gentile nations to the valley of Jehoshaphat.
- An important end-times battle will be fought in the valley of Jehoshaphat, and all Gentile nations will send soldiers there.
- In the end-times, God will judge the Gentile nations in the valley of Jehoshaphat.
- God is going to judge the end-times Gentile nations.
- God is calling the nations to gather so that He can judge them. They're being called to judgment.

Joel 3:13: "Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great."

- When the Gentile nations gather in the valley of Jehoshaphat, they will be utterly slaughtered. God compares it to a ripe harvest that will be reaped with a sickle.
- The wickedness of the end-times Gentile nations is great.
- God compares the valley of Jehoshaphat (where the Gentile nations will gather) to a press that's full and vats that are overflowing. It's a mighty harvest that He will reap.
- God will punish the end-times Gentile nations for their sins.

Joel 3:14: "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision."

- Great multitudes of Gentile soldiers will gather in the valley of Jehoshaphat in the end-times.
- God calls the valley of Jehoshaphat the valley of decision (because that's where He will judge the Gentiles).
- This battle will take place in the Day of the Lord (the tribulation era).

Joel 3:15: "The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining."

- When this battle takes place in the end-times, the sun will be darkened.
- When this battle takes place in the end-times, the moon will be darkened.
- When this battle takes place in the end-times, the stars will be darkened.
- This end-times battle will be accompanied by signs in the heavens. This is yet another case where an important end-times event is signified by some sort of visible heavenly sign that includes the sun, moon, and stars.
- Sometimes God uses the sun, moon, and stars as signs.

Joel 3:16: "The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel."

- In the end times, the Lord will roar out of Zion.

- In the end-times, the Lord will speak from Jerusalem.
- In the end-times, God will be in Israel.
- In the end-times, the heavens will shake.
- In the end-times, the earth will shake.
- In the end-times, the Lord will be the hope of the Israelites.
- In the end-times, the Lord will be the strength of the Israelites.
- The Israelites will still exist in the end times. They won't be wiped out.
- God calls the Israelites His people.
- God cares about the Israelites.
- God is going to save the Israelites.
- God cares about Jerusalem.

Joel 3:17: "So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more."

- In the end-times, Israel will know that the Lord is their God.
- In the end-times, God will dwell in Zion.
- Zion is God's holy mountain.
- God says that mount Zion belongs to Him.
- In the end-times, Jerusalem will be holy.
- The reason that Jerusalem will be holy in the end-times is because God will dwell in Zion.

- In the end-times, no strangers will pass through Jerusalem any more.
- God is going to save Jerusalem.

Joel 3:18: "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth out of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim."

- In the end-times, the mountains will bring forth much new wine.
- God considers wine to be a blessing.
- In the end-times, God will bless Israel with an abundance of new wine.
- In the end-times, the hills will bring forth an abundance of milk.
- In the end-times, cattle will still exist.
- In the end-times, grapes will still exist.
- God considers milk to be a blessing.
- In the end-times, God will bless Israel with an abundance of milk.
- In the end-times, the rivers of Judah will be full of water. They won't be barren or dry.
- In the end-times, a fountain will flow forth out of the house of the Lord.
- In the end-times, a temple of God will exist. (This is a reference to the millennial temple.)
- In the end-times, the fountain that flows out of the

temple will water the valley of Shittim.

Joel 3:19: "Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land."

- In the end-times, Egypt will be a desolation.
- In the end-times, Edom will be a desolate wilderness.
- The reason Egypt will be a desolation is because of their sins against the Jews.
- The reason Edom will be a desolation is because of their sins against the Jews.
- The reason Egypt will be a desolation is because they shed innocent blood in their land.
- The reason Edom will be a desolation is because they shed innocent blood in their land.
- God is angry with nations that sin against the Jews.
- God is angry with nations that shed innocent blood.
- God punishes nations that sin against the Jews.
- God punishes nations that shed innocent blood.
- In the end-times, Egypt will sin against the Jews.
- In the end-times, Edom will sin against the Jews.
- In the end-times, Egypt will shed innocent blood in their land.
- In the end-times, Edom will shed innocent blood in their land.
- In the millennium, some parts of the world will be a desolate wilderness.

Joel 3:20: "But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation."

- In the end-times, the nation of Judah will dwell forever. It will never be destroyed or pass away.
- In the end-times, the city of Jerusalem will dwell forever. It will never be destroyed or pass away.
- More generations of people will be born after the seven-year tribulation.
- God isn't going to destroy the Israelites. Instead He's going to save them and greatly bless them, and will preserve them forever.

Joel 3:21: "For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion."

- In the end-times, God is going to cleanse the Israelites.
- Up to this point God hasn't cleansed the Israelites, but that will change in the end-times.
- In the end-times, God will dwell in Zion.
- The reason God will cleanse the Israelites of their sins is because He will dwell among them.