**Joel**

**The Day of the LORD**

**Introduction**

   Joel is the oldest of the prophetical books written some 30 years before Isaiah writes his book of prophecy. It is written in about 800 BC by Joel prior to the Babylonian captivity.

**Chapter One**

**The Locust**

**1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel. 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?**

   Joel asks the nation of Judah in the south a rhetorical question concerning what he will do unto Israel in the latter days at what he calls "**the Day of the LORD**".

   The answer of course is **no** they have not seen the things that are mentioned in this book in their days nor in the days of their fathers. This word of the LORD is not the history of bygone days but rather the future.

   There is no other prophecy book quite like the book of Joel because it speaks primarily of Israel and Judah's final time of judgment and chastening instead of focusing on the next thing that is about to happen, with the possible exception of a few verses in the beginning of chapter one.

**3 Tell ye your children of it, and *let* your children *tell* their children, and their children another generation.**

   God, through Joel, wants Israel to know what is to befall her in **the day of the LORD** and what is to come upon all the world just prior to the Millennial Kingdom, and he also wants them to know that everything that gets destroyed will be restored better than it ever was before in their future Kingdom.

**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 caterpiller eaten.**

   This is what will take place in the land of Israel during the time of Jacob's Trouble (the Tribulation Period). God then has his remnant flee into the wilderness where he can take care of them for three and a half years while two-thirds of Israel is destroyed because of unbelief. See Zechariah 13:8-9.

   I believe the references to the locusts and cankerworms in the following chapters back this up as a series of plagues in the Seventieth Week of Daniel. See Daniel 9:24-27

**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. 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. 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.**

 Who is this nation that is come up upon God's land without number? The book of Revelation speaks of a nation that has the teeth of lions:

**Revelation 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. 3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. 4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. 5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. 6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. 7 And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. 8 And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. 9 And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. 10 And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. 11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.**

   This is not a human army but an army of locusts from the bottomless pit that are like nothing the world has ever seen before on earth. These have the devil himself as their leader and they are also called **God's army** which he sends to torment those who have rejected him in Joel 2:25.

**8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth.**

   Wow! Unbelieving Israel along with the nations that come against Israel are going to lament **like a virgin** would who lost her husband before they were able to consummate their marriage.

   The love that two young people have prior to their marriage and prior to their coming together as husband and wife is almost always described as the most emotional time in any marriage. Feelings are so heightened at that time that they would do anything for their future mate.

   Israel will realize what she could have had if she would have obeyed God. During that time of great suffering that can only be compared to the young virgin losing her husband before they come together, Israel will realize that her kingdom will soon appear, and she will need to be ready to enter into it.

**9 The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD'S ministers, mourn.**

   The Temple will be rebuilt, and sacrifices will be reinstituted during the first half of the time of Jacob's Trouble (Daniel's Seventieth Week), but they will cease after the mid-point when the anti-Christ enters the Temple and proclaims that he is Israel's God.

   The priests will mourn because they eat from the offerings of the people and if the people have lost their means to make an offering then the priest won't be able to receive an offering from them and they will be starving. Remember that this is apostate Israel, not the remnant that has fled into the wilderness.

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

    What is the only thing that will save God's Elect (believing Israel)? Their repentance and acceptance of their Messiah. No Jew will enter into the kingdom that does not accept Jesus as their Messiah in that day.

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

   What is the day of the LORD? It is called the day of the LORD'S wrath, the day of the LORD'S vengeance, and also the day of the LORD'S anger.

   It is the time when nations will be judged according to how they treated the nation of Israel according to Obadiah 1:15. It is a day when all of the enemies that occupy God's land will be destroyed.

**16 Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, *yea,* joy and gladness from the house of our God? 17 The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered. 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. 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. 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.**

Even the animals lament to God because his destruction can turn even the vilest of sinners to him by bringing him to his knees. Israel will experience in the not too distant future a time that is unlike anything Hitler unleashed.

   The religious are being told to mourn here by Joel because they are not saved. The saved are the Little Flock or Remnant that are protected and fed in the wilderness.

**Chapter Two**

**The Great Army**

**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; 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 the Tribulation Period (the Time of Jacob's Trouble or the Seventieth Week of Daniel) whichever you want to call it. It is a time of seven years of Tribulation that shall come upon all the Earth but especially upon the nation of Israel.

   Joel continually announces **the day of the LORD** as "at hand" because it is in the future. Since Joel is the oldest Prophetical book and it deals with the day of the LORD (the Tribulation Period) Israel should understand that the Messiah will come first and be rejected before the day of the LORD can begin.

   Neither Joel nor any other Old Testament books knew anything about the age of Grace that we as members of the Body of Christ live in today because it is an un-prophesied time period that had been hid in God from before the foundation of the world.

   It was not revealed until Israel rejected her king, and her kingdom and God saved his number one enemy Saul of Tarsus, also called Paul, and made him the apostle of the Gentiles and gave him an abundance of revelations concerning the dispensation of grace for the body of Christ.

   Joel tells Israel that a great people such as never was, nor shall be, will descend upon them in the midst of darkness, and clouds no doubt caused by the fire we are about to learn about in the next verses:

**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.**

This is utter destruction, and this is after the locust have already done their damage. The land will be absolutely desolate but not for long as we shall see in a while.

**4 The appearance of them *is* as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. 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.**

   God comes back and destroys his enemies, and he brings a great people (army) with him from heaven to aid him in the battle.

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

   Have you ever seen firemen or someone who has just come out of a fire and notice all the black soot upon them? That is what anyone facing this army will look like. It will be a very dreadful day!

**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: 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. 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.**

  What an amazing army, but who are they? Are they human and if so, are they the Body of Christ which were with Christ in heaven? They are most likely the angelic host that fought alongside Michael against Satan and his angels and cast them out of heaven.

   Whoever they are they are no ordinary army as we see how they just slice through all opposition, and they are unable to be killed. There is precedence for these being angelic beings because God has sent his angelic horsemen upon chariots of fire to earth before to do his bidding. See 2 Kings 6:17

**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: 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?**

   Where there is fire there is smoke, and where there is smoke there is darkness. Nothing happens to the sun or the moon here, it is only the perception of them from the earth. The clouds block the sun and moon and their ability to shed light upon the earth just like when there is a volcanic eruption that darkens the skies.

**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: 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. 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?**

   One-tenth of Israel survives the day of the Lord because only one-tenth is willing to turn unto him with their whole heart. One-tenth shall enter into the kingdom with their king and become priests in the kingdom**.**

**15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: 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. 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?**

   Joel pleads with Israel to pray for God to bring an end to his wrath so that he will spare his people and that they do not have the heathen rule over them once all the smoke clears.

 That is exactly what God does. He shortens the day of his wrath so that the elect of Israel can enter into their kingdom. Believing Israel in that day is the Bride of Christ, not us today in the body of Christ.

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

   I believe Jesus himself will tell the remnant in the wilderness this very thing as they will be concerned about how they will survive in such a wasteland. It won't be a wasteland for long because God is about to send them an abundance of rain to wash away the filth and to restore the vegetation.

**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. 21 Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things. 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. 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.*24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. 25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpiller, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. 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. 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.**

  Here we learn that the locust and cankerworm, the caterpillar and the palmerworm all are sent by God into the land of Israel to strip it causing them to flee into the wilderness where they will be protected by God. They are called "My Great Army" in this chapter and we know it is God who is speaking here.

    After Israel and Judah repent, they will be brought back into the land, and it will be restored almost overnight by the latter rain which will enrich the ground that has the curse lifted from it and Israel will blossom into a paradise on Earth.

**Pentecost and Beyond**

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

   Here we have a prophecy that has been partially fulfilled over 2,000 years ago on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two. How do I know this? Because Peter tells us this in the same chapter.

   It will also happen again in the future after the Body of Christ is taken to Heaven in the Rapture. It is not happening today as Charismatics and Pentecostals claim. Notice also who it is that this pouring out of the Spirit is done upon. Israel!

   Who was Joel written to first of all? Israel! Who heard from 16 different languages the wonderful works of God? Israel did. Pentecost was not the beginning of the Church, but it was **the last days** according to Peter.

   Anything written or spoken of by the prophets is part of Israel's prophecy program and is not concerning the body of Christ! How do I know this? Because the Church which is His body is connected to the mystery program and has nothing to do with the prophecy program of Israel.

   The mystery program was kept hidden from the foundation of the world and was not made known to men until Paul received it by revelation from Christ. Joel could not have been talking about the mystery program because it was to remain a mystery until Paul received it from the risen Christ. See Romans 16:25, Ephesians 3:1-11.

**30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. 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.**

    The events in verses 30 through 32 have not happened yet because God interrupted his prophecy program with the nation of Israel and ushered in the mystery program that had been kept secret since the foundation of the world.

   It was literally hid in God, which is the only place secure enough to hide that important of a secret.  Why was het Church, which is Christ's body kept secret? Ephesians 3:9.

   Because had the princes of this world (Satan and his demons) known the consequences of crucifying Christ they would have never crucified the Lord of glory. Verses 30-32 all have to do with the Tribulation Period. See 1st Corinthians 2:7-9.

**Chapter Three**

**The Valley of Decision**

**1 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, 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.**

 Notice that God says through Joel that he will bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem. Israel will be attacked by a large brutal army and God will come to their rescue in the valley of Jehoshaphat which is also the valley of Megiddo or Armageddon.

**Isaiah 3:13 The LORD standeth up to plead, he standeth to judge the people.**

**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. 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; 5 Because ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodly pleasant things:**

    They cast lots for his people and gave a boy for an harlot, and a girl for wine that they might drink. Does this sound like Islam? Drinking and immorality are supposedly against the Quran, but there are times when the Quran allows the raping of the infidels' wives taken in war.

**Surah 4:24 says, And [also prohibited to you are all] married women except those your right hands possess. [This is] the decree of Allah upon you.**

   They are permitted to have sex with married women only if they are captured by their right hand in battle. They are not permitted in the Quran to rape married Muslim women.﻿

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

   At the onset of the Kingdom believing Israel will be regathered in the land and the nation will be born again in a day. Notice also that it says that the LORD will recompense Tyre and Sidon and the area of Palestine for selling God's people into slavery.

   He would return the favour upon them and sell them to the children of Judah who would in turn sell them to the Sabeans.

    The question is did this already happen or will it happen after the Tribulation Period ends? Was it fulfilled when Rome conquered Israel in 70 A.D.? Isaiah 45:14 seems to allude to it being an event in the past and not to the Tribulation Period.

   The Sabeans were located somewhere in Africa as they are mentioned along with Egypt and Ethiopia. It is clear however that many in Israel will be taken captive during the Tribulation Period.

**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: 10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I *am* strong. 11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD.**

    Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3 say the exact opposite when the Kingdom is established, and all of the weapons of man will be beaten into plowshares.

**Isaiah 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.**﻿

   This is not that day! This is when men will gather for war and God will fight Israel's battle here.

**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. 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. 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision. 15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.**

   This is spoken about in the fourteenth chapter of the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ:

**Revelation 14:15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe.**﻿

**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.**

    This agrees with Amos 2:

**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.**

    This agrees with Obadiah 17:

**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 of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.**

This agrees with Amos 9:

**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. 20 But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. 21 For I will cleanse their blood *that* I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.**

**The End**

   To submit your test simply copy the test and paste it **with the answers typed in bold font** and send it and send it for grading to: www.dofgbi.org

**Joel Tests 0.75 Credit Hours**

**Chapter One Test**

1. Did the events mentioned in the book of Joel happen in his days or prior?

2. What does Joel tell Israel to tell their descendants in verse 3?

3. What four insects/bugs plague Israel during the tribulation period?

4. Why are the drunkards told to awake, weep and howl?

5. What army is also mentioned in Revelation that comes upon Israel with the teeth of a lion?

6. What do these locust do to the land?

7. Why do the priests mourn?

8. What happens to all the crops in Israel?

9. What does Joel call the time of Jacob’s trouble? Verse 15

10. What do the beast of the field begin to do?

11. Besides the locust, what else devoured the pastures of the wilderness?

**Chapter Two Test**

1. What three things does Joel tell the inhabitants of Israel to do concerning the day of the LORD?

2. What causes darkness in the land of Israel?

3. Who are the great people mentioned in verse 3?

4. What are these soldiers able to do that we cannot?

5. How does the sun, moon and stars withdraw their light at this time?

6. What does God tell Israel to do in verses 12 and 13?

7. What the priests supposed to say to the LORD in verse 17?

8. What will the LORD’S response be to Israel in verses 19 and 20?

9. What will happen to the pastures of the wilderness in verse 22?

10. What two things does God promise to give the children of Zion after all the destruction in verse 23?

11. What is the result of God doing all this in Israel in verse 27?

12. What does the LORD promise to pour out after these things in verses 28 and 29?

13. Where is this mentioned in the book of Acts? Who is quoting Joel 2?

14. Did the wonders in the heavens and in the earth happen on the day of Pentecost?

15. What does Joel call the last day of the day of the LORD in verse 31?

16. Who are the remnant mentioned in verse 32?

**Chapter Three Test**

1. Who goes into captivity in those days?

2. Where does God gather the nations at in those days?

3. What does God do with those who have been taken into captivity in verse 7?

4. What does God do to those who have taken them into captivity in verse 8?

5. What does God sit to do in the valley of Jehoshaphat?

6. What happens to those in the valley of decision in verse 13?

7. Who are the “strangers” mentioned in verse 17 and where will they not be allowed to pass through?

8. What will happen to Egypt and Edom on this day?