

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Joel 3:12-21**.
- B. Joel is known as the prophet of Pentecost. That which Joel said (in 2:28-32), Peter quoted on the birthday of the church.
- C. The theme of the book: the Day of Jehovah (judgment and salvation).  
The message of the book: natural and national calamity causes repentance.
- D. Joel:
  1. Is a name meaning "Jehovah is God."
  2. He was not a priest, but a man of prayer, a seer, and a prophet.
- E. Tonight, we shall briefly look at this great book. Here is a simple three point outline:
  1. The plague. The famous locust plague as a warning of coming judgment.
  2. The prophecy. The famous words fulfilled on the day of Pentecost in Ac. 2.
  3. The promise. To understand the prophetic words, "the day of Jehovah."
- F. The people did not repent at the preaching of Joel, as did the Gentiles at the preaching of Jonah, but later did when Tiglath-Pileser entered the land. This action on the part of Judah is in keeping with Moses' warning in Deut. 18:20-22.

## I. THE PLAGUE.

- A. Scripture texts: Joel 1:1-2:27.
- B. Joel is famous for his description of the coming locust plague on Judah.  
(Read supplementary material.)
- C. Seven generations will talk about this great plague (**1:1-3**). One commentator states that 5 months of eating locusts requires 7 years of recovery.
- D. Joel's graphic description of the plague is found in **1:4-12; 2:12-17**.
  1. Notice the different stages of locust growth in 1:4.
  2. "Return to Me" says the Lord in 2:12-17.
- E. God promises blessings after the plague in **2:18-19, 26-27**.

## II. THE PROPHECY.

- A. Scripture text: **Joel 2:28-32**.
- B. Joel is speaking only to the Jews and they would not interpret "all mankind" to include the Gentiles. Neither did Peter in Ac. 2:39.
- C. Not every Israelite had the HS under the OC (Num. 11:29). Under the NC, Jesus gives the HS to every baptized believer (Jn. 3:34; Ac. 2:38; Rom. 8:9, 11).
- D. Joel is speaking of a remnant of a remnant:
  1. Verse 32a speaks of those who will be delivered. These are the ones who will become Xians on the day of Pentecost.
  2. Verse 30-32b speaks of those who will survive and escape the final destruction on Jerusalem that Jesus mentions in Mt. 24.
  3. The graphic images of 2:30,31 which are repeated in Mt. 24:29, are to be interpreted as a sign of coming judgment. As the Jews saw the locusts, so should the brethren be warned in Mt. 24 of impending doom.

## III. THE PROMISE.

- A. Scripture text: **Joel 3:12-21**.
- B. Joel discusses "the day of Jehovah." In the study of the OT prophets, one comes to see that there are many "days of Jehovah." It means an earthly judgment on a wicked people.

- C. Verse 12 says “valley of Jehoshaphat” which could also be rendered “valley of Jehovah’s judgment.”
- D. Verse 13 speaks of the wine press of God, which is a metaphor of judgment.
- E. Verses 18-21 could be Messianic. The blessings spoken of here in figure could actually be speaking of things to come in the NT church.
- F. If the people will repent they shall be victorious over sin and any Gentile enemy. God will bless. (Verse 19 says take a lesson from the sin of the Edomites as spoken of by Obadiah.)

### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. There are several good lessons we can learn from Joel;
  - 1. The plague:
    - a. Natural disasters can help turn men back to God.
    - b. Judgment on any wicked nation is inevitable.
  - 2. The prophecy:
    - a. God delights in giving all men everywhere the gift of the Spirit.
    - b. God has spared men of judgment through the preaching of Joel and Jesus (Mt. 24).
  - 3. The promise:
    - a. The term “the day of Jehovah” is explained.
    - b. Joel teaches the great value there is in repentance.
- B. A great day of Jehovah is coming and it will be the final one.
- C. Have you taken advantage of the Spirit that is given to all men who obey X?
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.