

Joel 1

A Wake Up Call

I have reached that stage in life – where I no longer use an ALARM

A) INTERNAL CLOCK - 6-7 hours I am waking up!

Depending when go to bed - 5-6 am everyday

B) On a rare occasion when I am traveling – hotel – catch a flight early - Ask for a WAKE UP CALL - PHONE BLARRING

1) STARTLED – HEART BEATING – HORRIBLE WAY TO wake up

C) The Book of Joel is meant to serve as a wake up call of sorts

1) It is meant to **startle you – heart beating –**

Joel is in the section of the Bible known as the minor prophets

A) The Old Testament is divided between:

- ◆ the Law, the first five books,
- ◆ the history, Joshua through Esther,
- ◆ the Poetry, Job through Song of Solomon,

B) And then starting with Isaiah through the end of the Old Testament, you have the prophets

1. The prophets are divided between major prophets – Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and some put Daniel in that list

C) then the minor prophets – the final 12 books of the Old Testament that we begin studying tonight

1) Through the summer on Wed nights –

These books are called minor prophets, not because they are less important in what they say {NOT Major leagues vs Minor leagues

A) These guys are not pretend prophets trying to make it to the big leagues

B) Reason they are called Minor – simple reason their letters are shorter in length –

1) But not any less POWERFUL – Just Short and to the point!

C) Most of these we will cover in one night – a little longer on Jonah, Amos, Hosea, and Zechariah.

1) And Joel

Joel's major theme is the “day of the Lord” and the need for God's people to be prepared! – Great tie into our prophecy series

A) Joel refers to The Day of the Lord in all three Chapters

B) He sees the plague of locusts as

- 1) **an immediate day** of the Lord (Joel 1:1–20, 2)
- 2) the invasion of Judah by an army from the North as **an imminent day** of the Lord (2:1–27),
- 3) the final judgment of the world as the **ultimate day** of the Lord (2:27–3:21).

The Last Days vs the Day of the Lord

A) The “last days” is the Biblical term describing the period of time filled that starts with the Resurrection of Jesus and goes up to His 2nd coming.

B) It would include the rapture & the tribulation time.

C) The Day of the Lord has been debated – some see it as a shorter time period that begins with the Rapture – includes the Tribulation

1) and culminates at the 2nd coming and the Battle of Armageddon

Others see it as THE SPECIFIC DAY – Jesus returns and the battle of Armageddon takes place

A) Personally – I am good with either definition

B) It is referred to in Joel 2:31 as the great and awesome day of the Lord – the KJV rightly defines awesome as TERRIBLE

C) How can it be great and terrible at the same time!

1) It all depends on your point of reference – If you are with Jesus when he returns GREAT AND AWESOME

D) If you are with the Antichrist – TERRIBLE

E) THE DAY OF THE LORD – USHERS IN THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF JESUS

1) TALK MORE ABOUT The day of the Lord IN THE COMING WEEKS

One last thing by way of introduction

A) Joel writes in 3D! - as we go through this book you really need to look at it with your 3D glasses on – why 3D glasses?

B) Because there are 3 levels of application in this book

Joel on the one hand is dealing with the plague of locust and the work God wanted to do in their day through this book – **contemporary focus**

C) This book looks into the future when another army, not of locust but of people will invade the land, and usher in the Day of the Lord –

1) **end times focus**

D) Finally there is an **individual focus** – as this book speaks volumes to any of us that have gone through it, that have been bugged by trials and our own sin

E) So with a contemporary focus for their day,

- ❖ an end times focus for someday,
- ❖ and an individual focus for us today we will examine this little book starting with that first section...

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

A) The author is the Hebrew Prophet Joel

- ❖ “Joel” means “Jehovah is God” or the “Lord is God”

B) Joel was the “son of Pethuel” (1:1)

1) We don’t learn much about the life and ministry of the Prophet Joel in this book or anywhere else in the Bible. Why?

C) Because the Book of Joel isn’t about Joel – it’s about the coming of the Day of the Lord !

1) and God’s call on Israel and all men and women everywhere to repent, turn away from their sins, and get ready to meet the Lord face to face, before it is too late.

D) Anne Graham Lotz – **Joel is a Nobody – who becomes a Somebody** – why? Received the word and he shared it with others

1) Somebody in Heaven’s eyes

E) Jesus, Peter and Paul all quote Joel and the apostle John alludes to his writings in two different places in the book of Revelation.

1) Pretty impressive for a guy we know nothing about!

Lesson: You want to be a somebody in the eyes of heaven?

A) Learn to take God’s word and share it with others.

B) Learn something new? God shows you something neat - Share it

1) Treat unbelievers like they are interested – “I read something awesome or learned something new – you want to hear it?” Be surprised – DARE YOU

C) I HAVE titled Ch.1 – A Wake up call – notice how it starts

Hear this, you elders, And give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, Or even in the days of your fathers? 3 Tell your children about it, Let your children tell their children, And their children another generation.

4 What the **chewing** locust left, the **swarming** locust has eaten; What the **swarming** locust left, the **crawling** locust has eaten; And what the **crawling** locust left, the **consuming** locust has eaten.

5 Awake, you drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you drinkers of wine, Because of the new wine, For it has been cut off from your mouth.

6 For a nation has come up against My land, (**Idea is they came like a nation**) Strong, and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion. 7 He has laid waste My vine, **And ruined My fig tree; (Vine and Fig tree – both pics of Israel)**

He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white. 8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the husband of her youth. 9 The grain offering and the drink offering Have been cut off from the house of the Lord; **The priests mourn, who minister to the Lord.**

IF there had been newspapers in Joel’s day, the headlines might have read:

**LOCUSTS INVADE THE LAND!
NATION FACES SEVERE ECONOMIC
CRISIS
No End to Drought in Sight**

Writing from the perspective of a Plague of Locust that devastated the Land

A)What would a Plague of locust look like - My wife's beach chair consumed by bees

B)NOTE THE question in V.2 – **Has anything like this happened in your days, Or even in the days of your fathers?**

1)This is serious: Nothing like this has ever happened before!

C)God would often use natural disasters to get his people's attention

I think he does the same thing today too!

A)When something happens that is like something that has never happened before – it can be a warning sign from God – WAKE UP

B)We have had several of these in recent years?

2013

- ❖ Hurricane Sandy – Frankenstorm – \$65 billion dollars in damage and destroyed the coast lines of NY and NJ
- ❖ Tornado - Moore OK – category 5 winds 200 mph
- ❖ Yosemite Rim fire burned for 10 weeks worst fire in 20 years

2014

- ❖ Hottest year on Record and the coldest winter on record.
- ❖ Winter temps for 35 degrees below the average for most of the nation

2015

- ❖ Denver snowfall broke a record held for 103 years
- ❖ Washington state Wild fire was the largest in Washington state history it burned over a million acres and cost over \$253 million dollars
- ❖ Oregon wildfires burned over 1.6 million acres – cost over \$211 million

Both states have recently legalized Weed and Gay marriage.

Even CNN - Please pay close attention to the following facts that record-breaking natural

disasters have increased significantly all over the world since 2002.

A)Global Warning – Polar Vortex – El Nino –
B)Or could it be – God is trying to get our attention!

Social Disasters:

- ◆ Mass shootings have tripled since 2011 – conservative number – One web site – 4 people or more Killed – 1 every day in 2015
- ◆ Alcohol – #1 killer of teens
- ◆ Sex traffic epidemic
- ◆ **Porn industry – more sales than Apple, Microsoft, Google, Amazon combined.**

Financial Disasters - 2008 – Economist like Wall street journal – bracing for another major collapse this year.

Terrorist Disasters – 911 – The worst

A)ISIS will make a major hit on the USA this year

C)God says to Israel – WAKE UP – HEAR THIS

WHO'S ATTENTION IS HE AFTER?

His audience - Elders – Older wiser

Tell kids Everything was passed on by ORAL TRADITION IN THIS DAYS –

A)STORIES – NO DATA RETRIEVAL – NO WEB

B)Generations are affected – 911 – forever changed – Airport security

C)**V.5 AWAKE Drunkards** – Those sin openly flaunt it – the drunkards represented all the careless people in the land whose only interest was sinful pleasure.

D)No more partying –

1)Keep in mind that bread and wine were staples in the Jewish diet, so that even the people who didn't get drunk were affected by the loss.

V. 9 The Priest – nothing to sacrifice – grain offerings are affected –

A)Not only were the people in need, but so was the temple.

B)Nobody could bring the proper sacrifices because no meal, wine, or animals were available

1)Worship is affected

V.10 is heavy –

10 The field is wasted, **The land mourns**; For the grain is ruined, The new wine is dried up, The oil fails.

The Business people – Farmers WERE AFFECTED !

A)Agriculture was major Business

11 Be ashamed, you farmers, Wail, you vinedressers,

For the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field has perished.

12 The vine has dried up, And the fig tree has withered;

The pomegranate tree, The palm tree also, And the apple tree—

All the trees of the field are withered; Surely joy has withered away from the sons of men. Mourning for the Land

B)EVERYTHING IS AFFECTED

C)The call to weep, mourn – ashamed - indication they were at fault – brought on by their sin!

13 Gird yourselves and lament, you priests; Wail, you who minister before the altar; Come, lie all night in sackcloth, You who minister to my God; For the grain offering and the drink offering Are withheld from the house of your God.

Twice he mentions the priest – Why it starts with them

A)This was more than a social problem – economic problem – generational problem – Spiritual problem

B)Where it starts - Priest mourn – **Now before you think – great – doesn't apply to me –**

C)Remind you of Peter - Peter calls us a Royal Priesthood 1 Peter 2:9

So This chapter is a wake up call for Israel.

A)who should've known better than to live in such sin because they have been given the Holy Scriptures and the prophets...

B)Wake up call for the Church and for the people who say they are followers of the Lord Jesus

1)Who should know better than live in such a way

C)Revival – Starts in the house of God!
Revive – bring the dead to life.

D)Steps to Revival in V.14

Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land Into the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD.

Consecrate a fast:

A)Make getting right with God so important that even eating isn't as important {Fast whatever.

B)Deny ourselves pick up our cross and follow Jesus

1)Paul – I discipline my body – make it my slave

2)Discipline yourself toward godliness – 1 Tim 4:7

C)We don't like that kind of talk – Love grace we love mercy

But there is a call in scripture toward spiritual disciplines to get in shape- Spiritually

A)Getting in shape spiritually is a lot easier than getting in shape physically.

B)Biggest frustration about working out at my age – takes so long to get in shape

1)Lose it so quick – 1 mission trip eating bad and very little exercise – set me back 2 months

C)So painful to get back in the Gym – trying

But when you get out of shape spiritually – spiritual muscles bounce right back

A)Just takes some discipline – get up early

B)Turn off the TV

C)Prayer walks –

1)Dig into a book.

D)The Lord is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him

Consecrate a Fast:

Call a sacred assembly: Call for God's people to come together and repent

A)**Gather the elders:** The leaders of the people should make a special point to be part of the work of repentance

B)**And all the inhabitants**

C)**This is what concerns me – NO URGENCY**

1)**National Day of prayer – 100 people**

Consecrate a Fast:

Call a sacred assembly

Cry out unto the Lord: Finally, simply cry out to God and trust that He will respond in mercy

A)**Pray diligently – pray fervently**

B)**Cry out – God responds to Desperation**

C)**Bartimaeus – Cried out even louder**

D)**Do we know we are sick? IN Need?**

15 Alas for the day!

For the day of the Lord is at hand;

It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.

16 Is not the food cut off before our eyes,

Joy and gladness from the house of our God?

17 The seed shrivels under the clods,

Storehouses are in shambles;

Barns are broken down,

For the grain has withered.

18 How the animals groan!

The herds of cattle are restless,

Because they have no pasture;

Even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment.

19 O Lord, to You I cry out;

For fire has devoured the open pastures,

And a flame has burned all the trees of the field.

20 The beasts of the field also cry out to You,

For the water brooks are dried up,

And fire has devoured the open pastures.

You think this is bad ? When the real day of the Lord comes – this will not even compare ! –

Throughout the history of Israel God would send
mini – Days of the Lord

Wake up Calls – Assyrians/ Babylonians

AD 70 – Hitler – Stalin -