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GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME FOUR
AN INVITATION TO RETURN—A SURVEY OF HOSEA—MALACHI
JOEL: PREPARING FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD
A SURVEY OF JOEL



The Heart of the Matter

The name Joel is a combination of two divine names in Hebrew: Jehovah and God. Together, they mean “Jehovah is God.” And the prophet with this name believed Jehovah was God, without reservation. God called Joel to interpret the contemporary events of his nation as well as predict some cataclysmic events of the future. Joel knew that repentance must precede revival. In Judah (the southern kingdom), a plague of locusts had recently devoured every green thing, leaving only desolation in their trail. Joel announced his conviction that the plague had been sent by God because of the sin of His people, Judah. But Joel also announced hope beyond their present circumstance. His message is certainly needed today.



Discovering the Way

1. Some Basics about Joel

Joel is the anonymous prophet—little is known of his background. We do know that he ministered in Judah and preached a message of repentance.

2. A Look into His Book

The book of Joel divides nicely into three sections: a message of devastation and warning (1:1–2:11), a message of supplication and repentance (2:12–17), and a message of restoration and hope (2:18–3:21).



Starting Your Journey

Three lessons linger from the book of Joel. First, disaster and calamity often carry messages directly from God. Second, it often takes a variety of divine “attacks” to get our attention. Third, when God restores the afflicted, He does so abundantly.



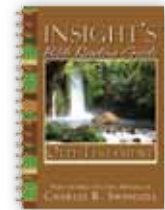
Tools for Digging Deeper



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JOEL

	The Plague of Locusts <hr/> The past plague <hr/> The future invasion <hr/> Historic Day of the Lord <hr/> Imminent Day of the Lord <hr/> <i>CHAPTERS</i> 1:1–2:11	The Call to Repentance <hr/> “Return to Me” <hr/> The character of God KEY: 2:13 <hr/> The universal appeal <hr/> <i>CHAPTER</i> 2:12–17	The Future of Judah <hr/> One of the greatest promises of hope in all the Old Testament <hr/> Concerning the Spirit of God <hr/> Concerning the judgment of God <hr/> Concerning the kingdom of God <hr/> Ultimate Day of the Lord <hr/> <i>CHAPTERS</i> 2:28–3:21
Emphasis	Desolation	Exhortation	Restoration
Emotion	Mourning now  Rejoicing later		
Parallel Verse	“For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; / Weeping may last for the night, / But a shout of joy comes in the morning” (Psalm 30:5).		
Theme	Repent, for the day of the Lord is near.		
Key Verses	2:12–14, 18, 25–27		
Christ in Joel	The coming of the Holy Spirit, who applies Christ’s redemption, is predicted in 2:28. Jesus Christ is the One who judges nations but who also restores His people.		

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