

JOEL 1

INTRODUCTION...

- **THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD**

- Our desire to is to teach through the whole Bible...
- **Acts 20:27** – “For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”
- We finished **Hosea** - the 28th book of the Old Testament - 5th of 16 prophetic books in the OT...
- We will start with **Joel** – the 2nd of what is known as the 12 Minor Prophets...

- **THE PROPHETS...**

- 1st - Who were the prophets...
 - The prophets of Israel were sent by God to call Israel to repentance...
 - But there was also an aspect of the Prophets to foretelling the future...
 - Not so much because God wanted His people to know what the future held...
 - But so that when the future came – people would see God knew in advance...
 - Because only the Lord is outside of time – only he sees the end from the beginning...
 - Prophecies are His fingerprint proving He is the author of the Word - **Isaiah 46:9-10**
- 2nd – The time of the prophets - the Divided Kingdom...
 - After the death of Solomon the Kingdom of Israel was split in two - 930 B.C.
 - The Northern 10 tribes – called Israel / Ephraim / or Samaria - ruled at first by Jeroboam...
 - Judah and Benjamin – called Judah – ruled at first by Rehoboam...
 - Israel would not be reunited again as one nation until May 14, 1948 – **Ezekiel 37:21-22**
 - 40 Kings would rule over the two kingdoms – 20 in Israel / 20 in Judah...
 - This is the period of Israeli history that we studied in **I and II Kings / II Chronicles**...
 - The period ended with the Diaspora - 722 B.C. - the fall of the Northern Kingdom ...
 - And 586 B.C. – when the southern Kingdom was taken captive to Babylon for 70 years!
- 3rd – Major and Minor Prophets...
 - There are 16 prophetic books in the Old Testament – broken up into 2 sections...
 - There are 4 Major Prophets – **Isaiah / Jeremiah / Ezekiel / and Daniel**...
 - And there are 12 Minor Prophets – from **Hosea to Malachi**...
 - They are not minor in that they are less important – they are just shorter in length...
 - They tend to be the least read / most unfamiliar books in the entire Bible!

- **THE BOOK OF JOEL – 3 THINGS...**

- 1st - Who wrote the book of **JOEL**...
 - Pretty straight forward – just look at the name at the top of the page!
 - There is very little dispute over the authorship of this book
 - His name means- Yahweh is God – YH-EL!
 - He was from the tribe of Judah – the son of Pethuel (*vision of God*) – **Joel 1:1**
- 2nd – When was the book written – Joel was a prophet to the Southern Kingdom...
 - Joel prophesied from 835 B.C. – until 796 B.C. – about 39 years in all
 - He prophesied during the reign of King Joash – the 8th King of Judah...
 - He was prophesying at the same time as Elisha in the Northern Kingdom!
 - The theme of the book – the Day of the Lord – we will talk more about this in chapter 1...
- 3rd – The division of the book...
 - Chapters 1- The destruction of Judah predicted – the vision of the locusts
 - Chapter 2 – Pouring out of the Spirit – the revival of the people of God

- Chapter 3 – The day of the Lord – the final judgment

THE DESTRUCTION OF JUDAH... (4 THINGS)

● 1ST – THE COMING JUDGEMENT... vs. 1-7

○ 1st – Sin has consequences... vs. 1-3

- Joel opens up by telling everyone to listen up – elders / inhabitants of the Land...
 - Something was about to take place such as had never been seen before...
 - God was going to bring complete devastation on the Southern Kingdom!
 - He was going to teach Judah a lesson – and He did not want them to ever forget it!
- They were to tell their children – grandchildren – great grandchildren...
 - God expected the lesson He taught Judah to be passed on...
 - Because if it was not – then the next generation would be doomed to repeat it!
 - It is not enough for us to know the Lord – learn our lessons – we need to pass them on!
 - Children do not know – they need someone to show them – teach them - **Ephesians 6:4**
 - If parents do not step up and instruct their children in Jesus – the world will
 - I fear to often children learn their values from TV / school / other kids
 - Rather than learning the truth of Jesus from their parents – the Word of God!

○ 3rd - The illustration of the locusts... vs. 4

- Joel describes a plague of locusts – divided into 4 different waves of destruction...
 - The locusts are thought to be 1 species – laid out in 4 different cycles of life...
 - The chewing locust – from a Hebrew root that means to devour...
 - The swarming locust – from a Hebrew root that means to multiply...
 - The crawling locust – from a Hebrew root that means to lick up (*good to the last drop*)...
 - The consuming – the climax of the plague – consuming anything that remains!
 - Very likely fulfilled in a literal devastating plague that hit Judah in the days of Joel...
 - In 1875 a swarm of locusts covered 198,000 square miles (*larger than California*)...
 - It was estimated to weigh 27.5 million tons - with some 12.5 trillion insects!
- But the 4 different waves – also represent 4 different Empires that would conquer Judah...
 - Beginning with Babylon – Medo Persia – Greece – and finally Rome!
 - Written some 250 years before Nebuchadnezzar first conquered Jerusalem!

○ 4th - Awake you drunkards... vs. 5-7

- Joel tells all those who drink wine to weep and wail – because the vineyards were gone...
 - The 'locusts' had consumed them – so there were no grapes left to make wine...
 - A strong nation without number – with the fierce teeth of a lion...
 - Speaking of the Babylonian Empire – using the same image as **Daniel 7**!
- This empire would ruin the vine of God / and stripped the fig tree – speaking of Judah
 - Predicting the Babylonian captivity – when Judah would be taken captive...
 - Nothing would be left in the land – it would be stripped bare!
 - But notice all this would come on Judah – while they were drinking and asleep!
 - The world around us is oblivious – they live for pleasure / fun...
 - They go about their daily lives assuming tomorrow will be just like today...
 - They do realize that Jesus is coming soon – judgment is right around the corner...
 - God has been patient desiring that people come to Jesus – saved – **II Peter 3:9**
 - But there will come a day – when people least expect it – when judgment will come!
 - **Romans 13:11** – “Wake up, for the coming of our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.”

- **2ND – THE RESULTS OF SIN... vs. 8-13**

- o 1st – Lament like a virgin for the husband of her youth... vs. 8-13
 - In Jewish culture a couple were betrothed for about a year before they were married...
 - It took a divorce / or death - to break a betrothal!
 - The idea is Judah should weep like a woman whose husband dies before the wedding day!
 - Rather than great joy – instead there would be overwhelming grief!
 - Because although Judah should have been the people of God...
 - Their sin had instead betrayed them – and they would end up rejected by God!
 - The drink offerings have been cut off from the House of the Lord...
 - The land mourns – because fields are wasted – wheat / wine / and oil...
 - The farmers are ashamed because – all the wheat has perished – all the trees withered...
 - With it the joy of men has also withered – misery is all that remains...
 - **Because sin cuts off the blessings of God in our lives – it devastates our lives!**
 - The Priests put on sackcloth and mourn – those who serve at the altar wail...
 - Speaking of the destruction of the Temple by Nebuchadnezzar – 586 B.C.
 - **Because sin cuts off our fellowship with the Lord – separates us from God!**

- **3RD – A CALL TO REPENTENCE... vs. 14-20**

- o 1st – Announce a fast – call the people together... vs. 14
 - Gather all the elders before God – and cry out to the Lord...
 - Because of the Day of the Lord is at hand – more on that in a moment!
 - Yet although devastation was coming – there was still time – there was still Grace!
- o 2nd – A great draught hit Judah... vs. 16-20
 - The food is cut off before our eyes – there is a famine in the Land...
 - Joy and gladness from the house of the Lord – because there is nothing to eat...
 - The seed shrivels – the grain withers - people abandon their barns...
 - The cattle and sheep groan – because there are no pastures to feed on...
 - The animals cry out to the Lord – because the streams have all dried up!
 - Fire has devoured the land – burnt up the fields and the trees!
 - Joel cries out – Oh Lord – I cry out to you...
 - **Psalm 51:17 - “You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God...”**
 - **Because God will always receive / CANNOT turn His back - on a truly repentant heart...**
 - **When we turn from our sin to Jesus – no matter what we have done – and repent...**
 - **Like the Prodigal son – we will find God comes running to embrace us!**

- **4TH – THE DAY OF THE LORD... vs. 15**

- o The phrase the Day of the Lord – is used 32 times in the Bible...
 - Used 27 times in the Old Testament / 5 times in the New Testament...
 - It is used 5 times in the book of Joel alone – it is the major theme of the book of Joel!
 - The companion term that precedes the Day of the Lord is ‘the Last Days’ – used in **Joel 2...**
 - Peter uses both terms on Pentecost in **Acts 2:17-21** in reference to the birth of the church!
 - **The term ‘Last Days’ is often misunderstood – we tend to think of Revelation...**
 - **The ‘Last Days’ began when the Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost - Acts 2**
 - **And will continue right up to the rapture of the church – I Thessalonians 4:16**
 - **In-between these two events – are the ‘Last Days’ – when anyone can call Jesus!**
- o 1st - The Day of the Lord – begins with rapture of the church...

- The 'Rapture' - from the Latin translation of the Greek word - *Harpazo*...
 - No one knows the exact day / hour - only the Father - **Mark 13:32** / **I Thessalonians 5:2**
 - The 'trumpet of God sounds' – the call for the church to go home - **I Thessalonians 4:14-17**
 - Those who have already died will receive their resurrected bodies first...
 - They will come back with Jesus - to meet us in the air in the rapture...
 - All those who believe in Jesus will be changed – *metamorphoo* – **II Corinthians 3:18**
 - Receive immortal bodies - **I Corinthians 15:53** - and we will be caught up to heaven!
- o 2nd - The Day of the Lord – will reveal the Antichrist...
- When the rapture of the church happens – concludes the time of the gentiles – **Romans 11:25**
 - God against begins to deal with Israel - begins the 70th week of Daniel – **Daniel 9:27**
 - It is also known as the time of Jacob's trouble – **Jeremiah 30:7**
 - The 7 years of Tribulation laid out in **Revelation 6-18**...
 - At the start of which the Antichrist – the son of perdition will be revealed...
 - **II Thessalonians 2:3** – "*That Day* [the Day of the Lord] *will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition...*"
 - This man has more than 30 titles in the Bible - the Man of Sin / the Son of Perdition...
 - The big mouth – **Daniel 7:8** / we most often refer to him as the Antichrist – **I John 2:18**
 - He will be a leader who will rise out of Europe – the little horn – **Daniel 7:8**...
 - He will make a peace treaty with Israel for 7 years after the Magog invasion – **Daniel 9:27**
 - North of the Dome of the Rock (*monument*) – in a place called the Dome of the Spirit...
 - He will rebuild the Temple – as proof he is the messiah – and Jews will embrace him!
 - **John 5:43** - "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive."
 - He will rule the worlds political system – he will be the government...
 - He will rule the worlds financial system – 666 – mark of the beast – **Revelation 13:16-18**
 - He will present himself as the Messiah – god come to earth - **Revelation 13:3-5**
 - But after 3 ½ years of the tribulation – he will enter the temple – into the Holiest of All...
 - There he will demand he is god – the Abomination of Desolation – **Matthew 24:15**
 - There is a good chance that this man is alive today – waiting for the right time...
 - Because he cannot be revealed until the church is removed – the Rapture...
 - If he revealed himself now – we would all know who he is – **II Thessalonians 2:7**
- o 3rd - The Day of the Lord – will reveal the wrath of Jesus Christ – **Joel 1:15**...
- God pours out His wrath and judgment on a God rejecting world!
 - Laid out in the Book of Revelation – 21 judgments in what we call the Tribulation!
 - They are broken up into 3 sets of 7 judgments – Seal / Trumpet / and Bowl judgments...
 - The terror will be so great - unless God limited it – no one would survive!
 - **Isaiah 13:6** – "*Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.*"
 - The good news is we will not be here for during this time of terror...
 - We will not be raptured at the end of the Tribulation - Post-Trib...
 - Because no man knows the day or the hour – **Matthew 25:13**
 - If we are in the Tribulation – if we count 3 ½ years from the Abomination of desolation...
 - We would know the exact day that that rapture of the church would take place!
 - We will not even be here for the first half of the tribulation - Mid-trip...
 - **I Thessalonians 5:9** – tells us we as believers are not appointed to wrath...
 - Yet the Tribulation is all about the wrath of God being poured out!
 - People hold a mid-trib view because of the last trumpet – **I Corinthians 15:52**...
 - They see this as last of the 7 trumpets blown in **Revelation 11:15**

- Believing the wrath of God only begins half way through the Tribulation...
 - But the wrath of God – the Day of the Lord – is not just the last 3 ½ years...
 - The trumpet judgments come after the 7 seal judgments (*before the bowl*)...
 - By the time the 6th trumpet is blown – 60% of the world has already perished!
- o 4th – The Day of the Lord – is the return of Jesus Christ...
- At the end of the 7 years of Tribulation...
 - The Antichrist will gather his army to the Valley of Megiddo - **Revelation 19:11-21**
 - Then Jesus will come out of Heaven on a white horse – King of Kings / Lord of Lords...
 - He will return with us – ten thousands of His saints – **Jude 1:14**
 - With one word he will defeat the Antichrist and his army – **II Thessalonians 2:8!**
 - And the Antichrist will be the first to be thrown into the Lake of Fire – **Revelation 19:20!**
 - The Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives - **Zachariah 14:4**...
 - The mountain will split in two – water will come out – giving life to the Dead Sea...
 - 30 days after the Return of Jesus – 1290 days after the Abomination of Desolation...
 - Jesus will judge the nations – those who survived the Tribulation – **Matthew 25:31-46**
 - Then Jesus will establish His Millennial Kingdom - **Revelation 20:1-4!**
 - Then we – the church - will rule and reign with Him for 1000 years – **I Corinthians 6:2-3**
 - At the end of the 1000 year reign - the 2nd Magog invasion ...
 - Satan – who was chained in the bottomless pit - **Revelation 20:3** – is released...
 - He will deceive the nations into one final rebellion against God - **Revelation 20:7-8**
 - But God will devour them by fire – and satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire!
 - Then all will stand before the throne of God to be judged for the works of their lives...
 - **Revelation 20:11-12** – “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it... And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God...”
 - There will be two sets of books opened - ‘The books’ and the Book of Life...
 - If your name is not found written in the Book of Life – the Books are opened...
 - Then you are then judged according to your works – written in The Books...
 - Every thing you do - every word you say - every thought you think...
 - Not to see if you will go to heaven or hell – but to show you why you go to hell!
- o 5th – The Day of the Lord – is the end...
- The conclusion of the Day of the Lord – is the destruction of the earth...
 - **II Peter 3:10** – “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”
 - Then God will then create a – prefect – sinless – New Heaven / New Earth - **Revelation 21-22**
 - Where those who believe in Jesus will live with Him forever!