

Minor Prophets: Joel

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I. Introduction. Joel's name means Jehovah is God.

II. Joel was ministering to the southern kingdom in light of references to the temple and Zion.

III. Joel is likely dated to the pre-exilic period.

A. There is no mention of a king in the group, so no king was likely reigning. (II Kings 11)

B. It is listed early in the Hebrew Bible.

C. The enemies are people like the Philistines, Edomites and Egyptians. Other nations became their enemies later.

D. Amos quotes Joel. (Joel 3:16, Amos 1:2; Joel 3:18, Amos 9:13)

IV. Structure.

A. Historical.

1. Joel speaks in the first half of the book.

2. The theme is judgment.

3. The problem has to do with desolation. (1:1-4)

4. There are four invasions of bugs picturing the invasions of outside nations.

a. There is the destitution of the drunkards.

b. There is the destitution of the people themselves.

c. There is the destitution of the priests. There is the destitution furthered by the drought. The Day of the Lord is both a general and specific time of judgment. (Jeremiah 46:2)

d. There is the suffocation of the prophets and beasts.

B. Prophetical.

1. From 2:18 on God speaks.

2. The theme is deliverance.

V. Application.

A. Worldly treasures are temporary.

B. God can use “bugs.” God can speak to us through little things.

C. Our little sins cause agony toward other people. Even the beasts suffered because of the sins of the people.

Application questions:

1. What argument for an early dating of Joel do you find most convincing? Why?

2. Compare and contrast the two sections of the book. How does the speaker explain the differences?

3. What little thing might God be speaking to you through in your life now? Explain.
