

THE PROPHECY OF JOEL: PART 1 (Joel 1:1-20)

I. Background and Overview

A. Author and Date

1. Joel's name means "Yahweh is GOD"
2. Joel prophesied in JUDAH
2. Written BEFORE the nation's EXILE

B. Prophecy is of the DAY of the LORD (1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14)

1. Does not refer to a particular TIME or DURATION
2. Looks toward a GENERAL period in the FUTURE of the Lord's WRATH and JUDGMENT
3. Unveils God's POWER and HOLINESS
4. Also described in terms of PROMISE and HOPE

II. The CONTEMPORARY "Day of the Lord" (Joel 1:1-20)

A. SOURCE of the message (1:1)

1. The MESSAGE is the WORD of the LORD
2. The MESSENGER is JOEL son of Pethuel

- B. Command to CONSIDER the devastation (1:2-4)
 - 1. Speaking to EVERY INHABITANT of the land
 - 2. Described a RECENT destruction by LOCUSTS
- C. Command to MOURN the SCOPE of the devastation (1:5-12)
 - 1. DRUNKARDS are called to awake from their wine and WEEP
 - 2. The NATION, in the figure of a VIRGIN BRIDE, is to mourn the death of her GROOM
 - 3. The PRIESTS are to mourn the dearth of the OFFERINGS
 - 4. The LAND is to mourn the RUIN of the FIELDS
 - 5. FARMERS and VINE DRESSERS are to mourn the TOTAL loss of their crops
- D. Summons to REPENTANCE and REFORMATION (1:13-14)
 - 1. DEMONSTRATE repentance
 - 2. Consecrate a national FAST
 - 3. Assemble EVERYONE at the TEMPLE for PRAYER
- E. Warns of FURTHER judgment in the FUTURE (1:15)
- F. Summarizes their immediate CONDITION (1:16-20)
- G. Reminds them of their only SOURCE of HELP (1:19a)

III. Lessons

- A. God DEMANDS the OBEDIENCE of His people
- B. God is PATIENT, but He will not WITHHOLD His WRATH forever
- C. God CHASTENS His people to bring them to REPENTANCE