

## **Life-Study of Joel – Messages 1-4**

### **Introduction**

- In Hebrew the name Joel means “Jehovah is God.”
- **Subject:** The devastation of the human government on Israel in four stages and the destruction of Christ over the devastators and His reign among Israel in the restoration.
- **Central Thought:** The nations, as the locusts, devastate Israel consecutively in four empires, from the first king of Babylon, to Antichrist, the last Caesar of Rome; they will be overcome and terminated by Christ, who will set up the kingdom and reign among the saved Israel in the age of restoration.

### **The Revelation concerning Christ**

- In the book of Joel, Christ is revealed in **His coming with His overcomers** as the mighty ones to defeat Antichrist and his army.
- Christ is revealed also in **His judgment of the nations**; the judgment of the living.
- Finally, Christ is revealed in **His dwelling in the holy mountain of Zion** within Jerusalem to reign among Israel to be their God, shelter, and stronghold.

### **The Day of Jehovah**

- The **day of Jehovah** in the book of Joel is the **day of the Lord** in the New Testament.
  - The word “day” is used mainly in the sense of the Lord’s **judgment** for His governmental dealing.
  - Before the Lord comes, it is “man’s day,” in which man judges.
- The final day of Jehovah will begin at the **sixth seal** and end at the judgment of the **great white throne**. The time from the sixth seal to the beginning of the thousand-year kingdom will be a little more than three and a half years. Thus the day of the Lord will last for about 1,003.5 years.
  - There will be natural calamities of the sixth seal upon the sun, moon, stars, heavens, and earth.
  - Severer calamities of the first four trumpets upon the earth, sea, rivers, sun, moon, and stars follow.
  - Finally, the three woes, the fifth, sixth, and seventh trumpets.

- All the calamities, plagues, and woes from the sixth seal to the seventh bowl constitutes the **great tribulation** where the religious and political Babylon the Great will be destroyed.
- At the end of the day of the Lord, there will be the judgment of the **great white throne** by Christ over the dead men, the demons, and probably the fallen angels.
- Finally, the heavens and the earth will be renewed with intense burning heat to be the **new heavens and the new earth for the New Jerusalem**.

### **The Plague of the Locusts (The Nations)**

- **Joel 1:4** – What the cutting locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten;/And what the swarming locust has left, the licking locust has eaten;/And what the licking locust has left, the consuming locust has eaten.
  - The **cutting locust** refers to the Babylonian Empire.
  - The **swarming locust** refers to the Medo-Persian Empire.
  - The **licking locust** refers to the Grecian Empire.
  - The **consuming locust** refers to the Roman Empire.
- **Joel 1:6** – For a nation has come up against My land,/Mighty and without number;/Its teeth are the teeth of a lion,/And it has the cutting teeth of a lioness.
  - The nation mentioned in verse 6 came to devastate the land of Jehovah, devouring and breaking the people into pieces and making the land a desolation.
  - There was no food, no wine, no meal offering, and no drink offering for the priests to offer to God in His temple, and no pasture for the beasts, herds of cattle, and herds of sheep.
- The Bible covers four things: **God's chastisement** on His elect people, **God's punishment** of the nations, the **manifestation of Christ**, and the **restoration**. These four are covered in Joel.
  - God sent the locusts to devastate Israel. This was His chastisement for Israel's great evils.
  - Joel reveals that God will punish and judge the Gentile nations.
  - Joel speaks concerning the outpouring of the processed, consummated, compound Spirit, the Spirit of God compounded with Christ's humanity, Christ's death and its effectiveness, and Christ's resurrection with its power.
  - Now we are waiting the glorious day of restoration, which consummates in the New Jerusalem in the new heaven and new earth.

## The Turn of Jehovah to His Elect, Israel

- Joel 2:12-17 reveal in what way Jehovah's elect should return to Him.
  - With all their heart.
  - With fasting, weeping, and mourning.
  - Jehovah's elect should rend their hearts and not their garments.
  - Jehovah says to "Blow a trumpet in Zion." This is to make a declaration in a triumphant spirit.
  - Jehovah wants His elect to call a solemn assembly and to let the priests weep between the porch and the altar for having lost the blessing.
- God desires to bless His own land. The holy land, a particular area of land, is God's land.
  - With the rich produce of the land.
  - By the rains: the former rain and the latter rain.
  - By driving away from the peoples the enemies sent by Him as the locusts.
- God is willing to save His elect, Israel.
  - By pouring out His Spirit (as the former rain) upon them.
  - Through their calling on the name of Jehovah.
- There are three outpourings of the Holy Spirit. These three outpourings work together for the salvation of Israel.
  - The outpouring on the day of Pentecost.
  - The outpouring just before the great tribulation upon the Jews.
  - The outpouring upon the besieged Jews, who will have no way to escape the persecution of Antichrist.

## The Judgment of Christ Upon the Nations

- The purpose will be to recompense the nations' mistreatment of Israel during the great tribulation.

## The Victory of Christ with His Overcomers Over the Nations and His Reign Among Israel in the Age of Restoration

- Christ with His overcomers as the mighty ones will defeat Antichrist and his armies at Armageddon.
- After the defeat of Antichrist, Christ will reign among Israel on the holy mountain of Zion.

- As Christ reigns in Jerusalem, He will be a **shelter and a stronghold** to the children of Israel.
- Christ's reign among Israel will be in the **restoration**.

### **The Controlling Prophecy of the Four Locusts in the Book of Joel**

- Joel's prophecy is **more controlling** than Daniel's.
- The controlling factors in Daniel are on the surface, whereas the factors in Joel are **hidden, concealed**, in a mysterious way.

### **Through the Roman Locusts God's Redemption and the Preaching of the Gospel Being Carried Out**

- The final stage of God's sending of the locusts is the Roman Empire.
- It was through the Roman locusts that both **God's redemption** and the **preaching of the gospel** were carried out.
  - The gospel was spread throughout the Roman Empire, and then to other parts of the world.

### **Three Things Taking Place on Earth Today**

- Today three things are taking place on earth.
  - The **consuming** by the Roman locusts.
  - Then **suffering** of Israel.
  - The **manifestation** of Christ.

### **The Need for a Clear View**

- We all need to have a clear view of the age in which we are living, of where we are, and of what our goal should be.
  - We are living in an age in which our **God is still moving**.
  - We are in the **Body of Christ**, the organism of the Triune God.
  - Our goal is to **enlarge** the manifestation of Christ intrinsically.

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