

## Outline of Joel

The book of Joel is addressed to the Southern Kingdom. Joel and Obadiah were roughly contemporaries about the same time as Elijah and Elisha in the 9th century B.C. The name Joel means “Jehovah is God.”

I. Introduction .....	1:1
II. Recent Covenant Chastisement of God.....	1:2-20
A. Locust Plague .....	1:2-15
B. Drought.....	1:16-20
III. The Northern Army (Future: Day of the Lord) .....	2:1-32
A. The Army Described .....	2:1-11
B. Call to Repentance .....	2:12-17
C. Deliverance of Judah.....	2:18-32
1. Material blessing .....	2:18-27
2. Spiritual blessing.....	2:28-32
IV. Judgment in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Valley of Decision).....	3:1-21
A. Time and Location .....	3:1-2a
B. Reason for the Judgment .....	3:2b-3
C. Judgment against Tyre, Sidon, and Philistia .....	3:4-8
D. Battle and Destruction of the Armies of the Nations .....	3:9-14
E. Restoration of Judah.....	3:15-21

## Notes

- Note the verses that show the prophecy is directed to the southern kingdom: 2:1, 15, 23, 32, 3:1, 6, 8, 16-21.
- The use of Joel 2:28-32 in Acts 2:15-21 requires some explanation. Was Joel completely fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost, or is something a little more subtle going on with Peter’s use of the Joel passage? I take it that Peter is saying that the Spirit’s activity and the offer of salvation are similar, by analogy, to that prediction made by Joel in 2:28-32. Note several items in support:
  - Joel 2 is in an eschatological context; Acts 2 is not.
  - There is no fulfillment formula used in Acts 2 (“this is...”)
  - There are not many common elements between the prophecy and the historical event in Acts. Certainly the natural disasters and phenomenon from Joel did not occur in Acts 2. Not all people were given the Spirit, etc.
  - Peter does not cite the whole passage
- Note that the locusts of chapter 1 are literal; the army of chapter 2 is not of locusts but rather a national army from the north, namely Assyria. Normally (as the next point illustrates) locust plagues come from the south. This army is from the north. Also chapter 2 explicitly says that we are dealing with an army of people (2:2, 5). Finally, the northern army is a common player in Biblical eschatology (see Dan. 11:40).
- Note: “The last locust plague to hit Israel was in 1959, followed by a smaller incident in 1961. Of course, Israelis also recall the plague of locusts afflicted the Egyptians prior to the Exodus, as commemorated each year in the Passover Seder.”

(<http://web.israelinsider.com/Articles/Travel/4339.htm>). Yahoo News had a story of the recent (November 2004) locust plague. These locusts came from Egypt to southern Israel.