

Judgment and Hope: A study of Joel, Obadiah and Malachi When God Gets Our Attention Joel 1:1-20

A. Who is Joel?

Joel is not a prophet that we know much about.

- His name means Yahweh is God.
- Possibly written around 500 BC, but there are many proposed dates that range to 600 BC.
- Best to base the understanding of Joel on the contents of book and not based on historical context.

B. An Out-of-Control Event (Joel 1:1-7)

What are some experiences in your life which you had no control over?

1. A message for everybody.
2. The destruction of the locusts.
3. The drunkards and the wine drinkers.

When what you are dependent on is taken away.

- The drunkards lose their access to alcohol.
- The rich lose their wealth.
- The powerful lose their power.

What were you dependent on that was lost due to the Pandemic? Or maybe the freeze?

C. Experiencing Mourning and Grief (Joel 1:8-13)

1. The loss of first love.
2. The loss of worship.
3. Agricultural and economic ruin.

Many in the church tend to try and minimize losses. (It was for the Best. It will all work out in the end. This is all a part of God's Plan.) Do they say these things because they are true, or because they want you to somehow feel better about life?

It is important to experience sadness and grief when you have experienced loss.

D. The Search for God (Joel 1:14-20)

What happens to your faith when you experience a loss?

- Joel called for the people to turn to God.
- The locusts were a part of God's judgment.

Are natural disasters caused by God or allowed by God?

Truth – Whether caused by God or allowed by God, His desire for us is to repent of our sins and turn to Him!

- Joel said even the animals suffer in this world and turn to God.

Conclusion: It is through suffering that our faith grows in God.