

Joel #1

Chapter 1

- 1) Was this prophecy just given to the leaders of Israel?
- 2) Was the coming event to be a common occurrence?
- 3) What devastating natural occurrence was God using to describe the future judgment that was going to come upon Israel?
- 4) After reading verse 4, would you think this judgment would be very thorough and complete, or would you think that it would be sporadic and kind of hit and miss?
- 5) What seemed to be a big problem in the country according to verse 5?
- 6) The book seems to speak about two things: a devastating locust plague and the invasion of a devastating and powerful army. This is called *the near and far fulfillment* in prophecy. God will use something that is coming very soon, to prophesy something that is coming in the distant future. Was the locust plague (invading army) that was coming, going to be pretty scary?
- 7) What two illustrations are used in the scripture to describe Israel? (choose one)
 - a) A lion and a tiger
 - b) A vine and a fig tree
 - c) A jewel and a gem
- 8) What makes branches become white? a) Painting them b) Stripping the bark c) Smoke
- 9) How do plants usually get along after the bark is stripped off?
- 10) How does a virgin react when her fiancé dies before they marry?
- 11) Will temple worship continue?
- 12) Read vss. 10-12. What types of crops will be destroyed in Israel?
- 13) Read vss. 13 and 14. What should all of the leaders and minister have done?
- 14) The leaders did not cry out to God, so Joel cried out in verses 15-20.

“Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is _____, and it will come as destruction from the _____. Has not food been cut off before our eyes, gladness and joy from the house of our God? The seeds shrivel under their clods; the storehouses are desolate, the barns are torn down, for the grain is dried up. How the beasts groan! The herds of cattle wander aimlessly because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep _____. To Thee, O LORD, I cry; for fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame has burned up all the trees of the field. Even the beasts of the field pant for _____; for the water brooks are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.”
- 15) Does this seem to be a cry of frustration at the coming destruction, or is he asking God take it away?
- 16) Why do you think he knew that God was not taking it away? (think about what I said at the start question 14)
- 17) Do we often times receive punishment because we are unwilling to face and confess our sin?

Chapter 2:1-10

- 1) What was the trumpet used for in those days?
- 2) “The day of the LORD _____; surely it is _____!”
- 3) Does it sound like the locust plague (invading army) would be the biggest ever seen?
- 4) Chapter two seems to switch over to speak more about the invading army. How is the land described before the invading army comes through?
- 5) How is it described after they pass through?
- 6) What will escape the destruction?
- 7) In verses 4 & 5, what two powerful tools of battle are used to describe the coming army?
 - a)
 - b)
- 8) How do people react when they see this army coming?
- 9) Are they an extremely disciplined army or an undisciplined army?
- 10) Does the description of how they invade the cities seem to go way beyond the affects of a locust plague?

Joel #2

Chapter 2:11-32

- 1) In this book, the Lord is using the illustration of a coming catastrophic locust plague to predict the coming of an invading army in the future. He refers to it as, "His army", because it, "carries out _____"!
- 2) Yet even now," declares the LORD, " _____ to me with _____ your heart, and with fasting, weeping, and mourning; and rend your _____ and not your garments. "Now return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, _____ to _____, abounding in lovingkindness, and relenting of evil. Who knows whether He will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him.
- 3) Does it sound like there was a chance that God would change His mind on sending this invasion?
- 4) What is the difference between, "rending (tearing) your heart" and "rending your garments"?
 - a) One is more expensive b) One is outward and the other is inward (the outward can be faked)
- 5) Read verses 15-20. Was God prepared to defend Israel and drive away the invaders, if they repented and called upon Him?
- 6) According to verse 16, was the gathering to be for all *adults* in the land?
- 7) The priests were instructed to ask the Lord to act so that the nations around them would not as the question: " _____ is _____?"
- 8) Did the Lord promise to answer if the people humbled themselves?
- 9) According to verse 20, where does this invasion army come from?
- 10) These countries which are directly north of Israel: Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Russia. What is the name of the Russian capital, which is located, almost on a straight line, directly north of Israel?
 - a) Siberia b) Moscow c) Timbuktu
- 11) Why was Israel to rejoice and be glad?
- 12) What else did the Lord promise to give the land that would make it blossom?
 - a) Global warming b) New farming techniques c) The early and the latter rains
- 13) What did the Lord promise to make up for in verse 25?
- 14) Read verses 26&27. Who is going to do all of these things?
- 15) When this happens, He says: "my people will _____ be put to _____"!
- 16) Has this been fulfilled yet?
- 17) This had to be a national repentance. Why didn't it happen? (see verses 15-20)
- 18) What did He promise to do, "after this", in verses 28 & 29?
- 19) Look at Acts 2:16-21. Peter is quoting this passage in Joel. He said the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that was taking place was what Joel was talking about and that, "everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord shall be _____"!
- 20) Look at Acts 3:19. The total restoration that Israel would experience when they finally repented as a nation is called, "the times of _____".
- 21) Did the whole nation repent after Peter's call to repentance? (see Acts 2:41)
- 22) Peter told the nation that God would restore them and refresh them if they repented. Why didn't this happen? (see Acts 4:1-3)

Chapter 3

- 1) Is that restoration still coming?
- 2) Where will the nations be judged in a massive battle?
- 3) Describe how the Jews have been treated through history.
- 4) Did God just overlook the terrible things that nations did to Israel?
- 5) What is different about the call in verse 10, and what Micah 4:3 says will happen eventually?
- 6) What is the reason for this terrible judgment of the nations according to verse 13?
- 7) Has verse 17 been fulfilled yet?
- 8) In that day, where will a powerful spring originate according to verse 18?
- 9) Which two nations are singled out for punishment and why?
- 10) When will Jerusalem finally be destroyed?
- 11) Will God ever avenge the wrongs that are done to Israel?
- 12) Do you think it has been wise for our country to back Israel for the last 60 years?