JOEL – THE PRESENT DAY OF THE LORD

DON’T TURN YOUR BACK ON GOD

April 25, 2021
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• Joel Deals With The Problem For Israel When They Turned Their Backs On God

• Ease And Prosperity Can Lead People To Forget God

• Covenant Breakers Who Turn Their Backs On God w/o Repenting Will Lose Their Blessings -- Worship Experiences -- And Economy
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• Joel Is A Warning From God – About A Present Day And About A Coming Day – Marked By An Invading Enemy That Had The Potential To Change Every Part Of Life
OH, GENERATION OF VIPERS!
WHO HATH WARNED YOU TO FLEE FROM THE WRATH TO COME?

JOHN, YOU'RE A LEGALIST!

JOHN, YOU'RE PUSHING PEOPLE AWAY FROM JESUS.

JOHN, YOU NEED TO SHOW MORE LOVE, LOVE, LOVE!

JOHN, STOP JUDGING EVERYONE!!!

YOU NEED TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM FIRST.

YOU'RE NOT VERY CHRIST-LIKE, JOHN.

JOHN, YOU'RE BEING A STUMBLING BLOCK!

IF JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHED TODAY TO THE LUKEWARM CHURCH...
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JOEL IS A PROPHET

- Joel 1:1 (NIV) — 1 The word of the Lord that came to Joel son of Pethuel.
- Prophets Will Call People Back When They Have Strayed

JOEL DEALS WITH GIVE GROUPS OF PEOPLE:

- Elders
- Countrymen
- Drunken Sleepers
- Farmers
- Priests
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• JOEL SPEAKS TO THE ELDERS AND COUNTRYMEN

• Joel 1:2–4 (NIV) — 2 Hear this, you elders; listen, all who live in the land. Has anything like this ever happened in your days or in the days of your forefathers? 3 Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation. 4 What the locust swarm has left the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left the young locusts have eaten; what the young locusts have left other locusts have eaten.

• Have You Ever Seen Anything Like This?

• Everything We Have Trusted And Depended On Is Being Attacked & Reeling
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• A SWARM OF LOCUSTS HAS DESTROYED EVERYTHING

Joel 1:4 (NKJV) — 4 What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten.

• This Is The Mother Of All Invasions
• This Is The Time To React And Respond
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• JOEL ADDRESSES THE SLEEPING DRUNKARDS

• Joel 1:5–7 (NIV) — 5 Wake up, you drunkards, and weep! Wail, all you drinkers of wine; wail because of the new wine, for it has been snatched from your lips. 6 A nation has invaded my land, powerful and without number; it has the teeth of a lion, the fangs of a lioness. 7 It has laid waste my vines and ruined my fig trees. It has stripped off their bark and thrown it away, leaving their branches white.

• This Deep Stupor Is A Time Of Distress And Sorrow
• You Are Filled With ‘Spirits’, But You Are Empty Of The Spirit Of God

• Where There Is No Fruit -- There Is No Future
• The Blessing Is Gone
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• THE SADDEST OF WEDDINGS
• Joel 1:8–9 (NIV) — 8 Mourn like a virgin in sackcloth grieving for the husband of her youth. 9 Grain offerings and drink offerings are cut off from the house of the Lord. The priests are in mourning, those who minister before the Lord.

• A Young Bride Dressed In Black Her Spouse Has Died
• The Priests Are Deeply Grieved -- Their Livelihood Cut Off
• Everything Is Ruined: Fields, Grounds, Grain, Wine, Oil
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• JOEL DEALS WITH THE FARMERS: DESPAIR, WAIL & GRIEVE

• Joel 1:11–12 (NIV) — 11 Despair, you farmers, wail, you vine growers; grieve for the wheat and the barley, because the harvest of the field is destroyed. 12 The vine is dried up and the fig tree is withered; the pomegranate, the palm and the apple tree—all the trees of the field—are dried up. Surely the joy of mankind is withered away.

• A Time Of Shame, Disappointment, Despair, Great Grief!
• There Is No Harvest Left -- Your Economy Is Being Devoured
• A Devastating Attack Has Ruined Everything
• JOEL ADDRESSES THE TEMPLE PRIESTS: TURN BACK TO GOD

Joel 1:13–14 (NIV) — 13 Put on sackcloth, O priests, and mourn; wail, you who minister before the altar. Come, spend the night in sackcloth, you who minister before my God; for the grain offerings and drink offerings are withheld from the house of your God. 14 Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.

• A Call For Spiritual Leaders To Lead The Way Back To God
• To Prayer, Fasting, Contrition, Holiness, Humility, Repentance
• The Religious System Has Crumbled
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• **Why Fast And Pray?** Only God Can Stop This Invasion
• **God Has The Only Answer To The Unstoppable Locusts With Their Unquenched Appetites**

The Day Of The Lord Has Become:
• **Not A Day Of Blessing**
• **But Of Judgment**
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It Is Past Time To Get Right With God

• Repentance Alone Can Stem God’s Judgment
• If You Will Repent -- God May Relent
• The Enemy Can Be Overcome – The Hurts Can Be Healed

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV) — 14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
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• THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR
• Joel 1:15 (NIV) — 15 Alas for that day! For the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

• A Day Of Darkness Not Of Light

• This Is Not The Plight Of A Blessed People – Rather It Is A People Under Judgment
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• JOEL SUMS IT UP: FOOD, JOY, & GLADNESS ARE CUT OFF
• Joel 1:16–20 (NIV) — 16 Has not the food been cut off before our very eyes—joy and gladness from the house of our God? 17 The seeds are shriveled beneath the clods. The storehouses are in ruins, the granaries have been broken down, for the grain has dried up. 18 How the cattle moan! The herds mill about because they have no pasture; even the flocks of sheep are suffering. 19 To you, O Lord, I call, for fire has devoured the open pastures and flames have burned up all the trees of the field. 20 Even the wild animals pant for you; the streams of water have dried up and fire has devoured the open pastures.

• Everything They Have Counted On Has Broken Down
“TO YOU, O LORD, I CALL”

There Is A Place Of Hope

The Only Hope Is In Return

Not Tomorrow, But Today

Today is The Present Day -- The Immediate Day

Today Is The Day Of Salvation

Hebrews 3:15 (NIV) — 15 As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.”
• We Can’t Really Do Anything About Anyone Else -- But We Can Do Something About Ourselves

• We Can Still Make An Impact – Up To The Day Of The Lord
• This Is Still Today -- The Day Of Salvation

• *Today God Is Looking For Those Who Will Stand In The Gap For The Land (Ezekiel 22: 30)*
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• What About Us Will We Fight Or Will We Fail?
• Will We Stand In The Gap Or Hide In A Cave?

• Everything We Depend On Can Be Gone In A Minute

• Our Only Hope Is To Turn To The Lord
• Today -- It's Time To Heed The Call Of Joel
• “To You, Lord, I Call !”