

The Minor Prophets “The Twelve”

Hosea	Nahum
Joel	Habakkuk
Amos	Zephaniah
Obadiah	Haggai
Jonah	Zechariah
Micah	Malachi

Prophetic Ministry: 850 – 430 B.C.

Joel

“The Great & Awesome Day of the Lord” (“Yahweh is God”)

- “The Day of the Lord”—focus of the book; used 5x (1:15; 2:1; 2:11; 2:31; 3:14)
- **Message:** Yahweh, the God of Israel--He alone is God and will alone be exalted (2:27)

Joel

“The Great & Awesome Day of the Lord”

Historical Setting

Date: Uncertain (no kings mentioned)

- early pre-exilic (850-800 B.C.)
- late pre-exilic (700-600 B.C.)
- late post-exilic (500-400 B.C.)

Audience: Judah & Jerusalem

Occasion: A devastating locust invasion

Joel

“The Great & Awesome Day of the Lord”

Structure

1) 1:2-2:17

- The locust plague—an ominous warning of the approaching Day of the Lord

2) 2:18-3:21

- The promise of the Lord to restore/bless His people and judge the nations

Joel: Part One

Devastation: Locusts & the Day of the Lord

1. The Locust Invasion (1:2-20)

- 1:15: harbinger of a yet greater and more dreadful day

The Lord’s relationship to “natural” calamity

- He is sovereign over all movements of nature, including calamities/disasters
- They serve as a foreboding warning of the day of God’s overwhelming judgment

Joel: Part One

Devastation: Locusts & the Day of the Lord

2. The Day of Yahweh (2:1-11)

- **Definition:** “that period of time when the Lord dramatically, profoundly, and intimately intervenes in the affairs of men, either for wrath or blessing
- Emphasis on devastation brought by a great army (like locusts)
- This is the language of final judgment—the climactic coming of the Lord and His army

Joel: Part One

Devastation: Locusts & the Day of the Lord

3. The Call to Repentance (2:12-17)

- “now”—God extends His mercy based on His gracious character
- He desires our whole heart, not just outward form
- He will save His people to reflect His glory among the nations