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"

- Focus: The Day of the Lord
  - ➤ when the Lord profoundly intervenes in the affairs of men to accomplish His purpose (i.e. His own exaltation)
- Occasion: A devastating locust invasion
  - ➤ God sends a literal locust invasion that destroys the land (1:2-20)
  - ➤ a foreboding warning of the approaching, climactic Day of the Lord (2:1-11)

Joel
"The Great & Awesome Day of the Lord"

The Call to Repentance (2:12-17)

- "now"—God extends His mercy based on His gracious character
- Nature of their sin—half-hearted, outward form, idolatry
- He will save His people to reflect His glory among the nations

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Joel: Part Two
"Restoration and the Valley of Jehoshaphat"

1. Immediate Blessing/Relief (2:18-27)

- In response to their repentance
- Restoration of the land—removing the locusts and the restoring the crops in abundance
- Purpose: they would know that Yahweh alone is God and in their midst

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Joel: Part Two
"Restoration and the Valley of Jehoshaphat"

2. Outpouring of His Spirit (2:28-32)

- *"after this"*—indefinite future
- Significance: to authenticate the presence of God and draw the individual into direct experience with God
- Followed by wonders in the sky that mark the onset of *The Day of the Lord*

Joel: Part Two
"Restoration and the Valley of Jehoshaphat"

3. Judgment of the Nations (3:1-21)

- "Valley of Jehoshaphat" (Yahweh judges); final judgment described in terms of a great battle
- This is the final "Day of the Lord"
- God will protect and save His people forever on this day
  - ➤ *Purpose:* Know that Yahweh is their God

Application of Joel

1. **Call upon the Lord and be saved**
   - Today is a day of mercy and opportunity for repentance
   - Universal—includes Gentiles
2. **Believers: God desires to be God alone in our midst**
   - He wants all of your heart
   - He will "fight against" you until He has all of you