Joel - Outline

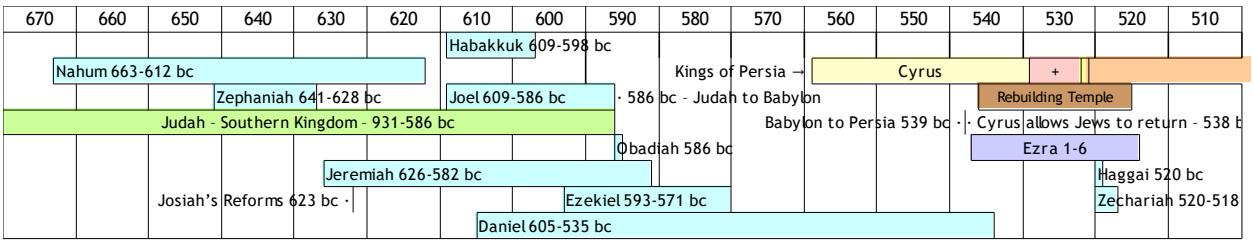
Author: Joel (1:1), the son of Pethuel. His name means "Yahweh is God" and it appears to be a popular name. There are thirteen men in total who are named Joel, including the prophet.[1]

- The son of Samuel — 1 Samuel 8:2; 1 Chronicles 6:28,33
- A descendant of Simeon — 1 Chronicles 4:35
- A descendant of Reuben — 1 Chronicles 5:4, 8
- A descendant of Gad — 1 Chronicles 5:12
- A descendant of Levi, not Samuel's son — 1 Chronicles 6:36
- A descendant of Issachar — 1 Chronicles 7:3
- One of David's Mighty Men — 1 Chronicles 11:38
- A Levite, Chief of the sons of Gershom, father of Heman, one of three Gershomite brothers who David placed in charge of the treasures of the house of the Lord — 1 Chronicles 15:7, 11, 17; 23:8; 26:22
- Leader of the half tribe of Manasseh (west of the Jordan River) — 1 Chronicles 27:20
- A Levite of the Kohathites who was one of the men instructed to repair the temple by Hezekiah — 2 Chronicles 29:12
- One of the men guilty of intermarrying with non-Israelite women — Ezra 10:43
- A Benjamite who was in charge of overseeing the city under Nehemiah — Nehemiah 11:9
- The prophet, who is also quoted in Acts — Joel 1:1; Acts 2:16

Pethuel's name is only mentioned here in the Bible.

Date: The exact date of his prophecy is not known but based on the content it is likely to have been after the death of Josiah in 609 bc and before the fall of Jerusalem in 586 bc. This makes it likely that Joel was a contemporary of Habakkuk and Jeremiah in Jerusalem and Daniel and Ezekiel who were in Babylon, although we don't know if he had any formal interaction with any of them.[2]

The mention of Egypt and Edom as Judah's enemies in 3:19 gives a hint to the time frame of Joel's prophecy. He also mentions the cities of Tyre and Sidon, the Philistines, and the Greeks (literally, sons of Javan[3]) also give a hint to the future



Occasion: God was again sending a prophet to urge His people to stop worshiping idols, humble themselves, and return to worshiping God with their heart and not just ritual sacrifices. If it is after the death of Josiah, Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim, his sons, who ruled after him reinstated idol worship after his father had removed it from the land (2 Kings 23; 2 Chronicles 36).

Summary: The book can be divided into three parts.

1. A plague of locusts sent by God and a call to repentance (1:1-20
2. An army from the north will descend upon Jerusalem and Judah; a call for the nation and to begin a time of intercessory fasting and prayer (2:1-17)

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1 (Meyers; Orr "Joel (1)")
2 (Galan et al. 132–133; Orr "Joel (2)")
3 (*NASB*) a translation note in the references

3. A promise of God's Day of Wrath, a future restoration of His people and the land, and a fresh sending of His Spirit upon "all mankind" calling them to be His people (2:18-3:21)

Group[4]	C	V	Description
The Devastation of Locusts	1	1-3	A call to consider the current state of the world
		4-7	"Locusts"[5] sent to strip the land and the people need to wake up
		8-12	Worship of the Lord will cease and the land no longer produces crops
Starvation and Drought		13-20	A call to fasting and prayer, asking God for His help
The Terrible Visitation	2	1-17	An army is approaching and God's minister and God still seeks true repentance from His people
Deliverance Promised		18-20	God will respond if His people return in humility
		21-27	God has done good in the past and can be counted on to do good again
The Promise of the Spirit		28-29	An outpouring of His Spirit on God's people
The Day of the Lord		30-32	God will make Himself known to the universe and will save those who seek Him
The Nations will be Judged	3	1-8	God promises restoration of the land and judgment on the nations who oppressed His people
		9-17	The day of the Lord's judgment is announced, that it is near
Judah Will Be Blessed		18-21	Judah and Jerusalem will be restored by God forever and its enemies (Egypt and Edom) will be devastated

Key Words: Old Testament, Prophecy, Joel, Outlines

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Bibliography

Galan, Benjamin et al. *Bible Overview*. Torrance: Bristol Works, Rose Publishing, 2012. Print.

4 (*NASB*) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

5 (Orr "Locust") Locusts, sometimes translated "grasshoppers", are often used allegorically as "instruments of God's wrath" and are used to describe armies and horses (Exo 10:4-19; Deu 28:38, 42; 2Ch 7:13; Job 39:20; Psa 78:46; 105:34; Jer 51:14, 27; Joe 2:4; Nah 3:15-17; Rev 9:3, 7). Joel (1:4; 2:25) uses four types of locusts to describe the total devastation of the land: gnawing, swarming, creeping, and stripping, and as God's army. This could be allegorically referring to the locusts in their different life stages and how they grow and the damage they do to vegetation throughout their growth cycle. In the same way, this could be used to picture how an army would strip the land of any crops for food and trees to make instruments of war as they proceeded through a land.

Meyers, Rick. *E-Sword, the Sword of the Lord with an Electronic Edge*. Franklin, TN: e-Sword, 2013. Web.

(NASB) New American Standard Bible. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.

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