

INTRO REMARKS:

1. **Joel** [MSB, 1267-8; SOTI 338-41]

a. Outline

1. The Day of the Lord Experienced: Historical (1:1-20)
2. The Day of the Lord Illustrated: Transitional (2:1-17)
3. The Day of the Lord Described: Eschatological (2:18-3:21)

➤ The locust plague of 800 +/- BC

b. Major Themes

1. The Day of the Lord (1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14)

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<sup>1</sup> Notes prepared with help of The Master's Seminary BI 501 Bible Survey syllabus.

2:28-3:2 "It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. <sup>29</sup> "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. <sup>30</sup> "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, Blood, fire and columns of smoke. <sup>31</sup> "The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before **the great and awesome day of the LORD** comes. <sup>32</sup> "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape, As the LORD has said, Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls. <sup>1</sup> "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> I will gather all the nations And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; And they have divided up My land.

3:14-17 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For **the day of the LORD is near** in the valley of decision. <sup>15</sup> The sun and moon grow dark And the stars lose their brightness. <sup>16</sup> The LORD roars from Zion And utters His voice from Jerusalem, And the heavens and the earth tremble. But the LORD is a refuge for His people And a stronghold to the sons of Israel. <sup>17</sup> Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, And strangers will pass through it no more.

- In light of the future **Day of the Lord**, Joel's message is:

2:13 And rend your heart and not your garments." Now return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness And relenting of evil.

2:18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land and will have pity on His people

2. The Temple, Zion, Jerusalem (1:9, 13-14, 16; 2:14-17, 32; 3:1, 6, 16-18, 20-21)

3. The Nations (1:6; 2:17, 19; 3:2, 8, 9, 11, 12)

c. Purpose: Divine judgment will be visited upon Judah and the nations in the coming “Day of the Lord.”

Deut. 28:38 You shall bring out much seed to the field but you will gather in little, for the locust will consume it.

d. Bibliography

1) Exegetical: Allen, *Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah* (NICOT).

2) English Interpretation: Busenitz, *Joel & Obadiah*.

Garrett, *Hosea, Joel* (NAC).  
Hubbard, *Joel, Amos* (TOTC).

MacArthur, *Micah, Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Joel, and Obadiah: God's Comfort for His People*

3) Expository: Prior, *The Message of Joel, Micah & Habbakuk* (BST)

e. Selected Interpretative Problems

1) The Date of the Book [MSB, 1267]

- a) An Early Pre-exilic Date (Joash's Reign, 835-796 B.C.)
- b) An Eighth Century Date [EBC]
- c) A Seventh Century Date [Garrett]
- d) A Late Pre-exilic Date (597-586 B.C.)
- e) A Post-exilic Date (after 515 B.C.) [Allen; Hubbard; MMP; BKC]

2) The Attack of 2:1-11 [MSB, 1268]

- a) Locusts [Allen; Hubbard; FMP; MMP]
- b) A Human Army [Garrett; EBC; BKC]

f. Preaching/Teaching Joel