


WHAT THE  
**B**IBLE  
IS ABOUT

7



ISRAEL

O.T.

**JOEL**

### Predictive/prophetic

- “Predictive” means that whatever is predicted is yet to come but will happen sometime in the future.
- We also call them “prophecies.” Dictionaries today may have trouble defining “prophecy” and try to add: claimed, as if divinely inspired, uttered, etc.
- By whatever name:
  - 1,239 predictions comprise 28.5% of the OT and
  - 578 predictions comprise 21.5% of the NT.
- Furthermore, almost 81% have already come true (including every one other than in the “End Times”).

Why and how does the Bible claim to use prophecy?

### Position description - Prophet

- The primary role of an OT prophet was not to predict. Successful prediction and miracles validated their status.
- A prophet served as God’s representative to communicate God’s word to his people.
- They made known God’s holiness of God and the people’s covenant obligations; denounced injustice, idolatry, and empty ritualism (religion); and called God’s covenant people, Israel, to repentance and faithfulness.
  - Before exile to Babylon, prophets often denounced rampant social injustice and oppression of the poor.
  - After the exile, their messages turned more specifically to the promise of national renewal and the spiritual blessings that come with trusting God and obeying His will.

## The Fine Print

- Those claiming to speak for God were held to strict standards. Even if predictions came true, they had to be 100% accurate.
  - If he/she says “Let us follow other gods . . . and let us worship them” (Deut. 13:2), reject him/her (Deut. 13:3).
  - If spoken word “does not take place or come true, that is a message the LORD has not spoken” (Deut. 18:22; etc.).
- The punishment for speaking falsely in God’s name was death (Deut. 18:20).
- Being a legitimate mouthpiece for the word of the Lord was often dangerous. People frequently mocked, rejected, persecuted, and even killed God’s prophets (2 Chron. 36:16; Jer. 11:21; 18:18; 20:2, 7–10).

## Stephen, the first martyr of the new covenant

- Stephen pointedly asked, “Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute?” (Acts 7:52).



## The Biblical case for prophecy (and prophets)

1. "Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'" (Isaiah 46:10)
2. "For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7)
3. "As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old...." (Luke 1:70)
4. "... the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation." (1 Corinthians 14:3)
5. "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21)

## Selah

- God, as far as we know, is the only one who can "see the end from the beginning." Both Testaments are full of prophecy.
- Almost 81% of Biblical prophecies have come true so far, including every single one that could have.
- Almost every book in the Bible (OT and NT) includes predictions (prophecies).
- Fulfilled prophecy is used to validate Scripture and prophets.
- Pretending to be a prophet was a really bad idea.
- Being picked by God to serve as His prophet usually meant that bad things would happen to you while on earth.
- Prophecies could take different forms (of, wait, that's NEW).

## Hermeneutics

- Interpretation of Scripture is called “hermeneutics”.
- Our hermeneutics will be affected by our world view, our culture, and any presuppositions that we hold.
- Eastern (Jewish) and western (Gentile) mindset (aka philosophy) developed separately along different lines.
  - The western mind views prophecy merely as prediction and fulfillment.
  - In addition to prediction/fulfilment, the Jewish mind saw prophecy as a recurring pattern.
  - As the Gospel spread in the Greco-Roman world, the Church lost sight of its Jewish roots. Reliant on the philosophies of Aristotle and Plato, it forgot that the Bible had Jewish roots.

## 4 Basic Questions the Worldviews help answer

1. Who am I?
2. Where did I come from?
3. Where am I going?
4. To whom (if anyone) am I accountable?

## Overview of Hermeneutics



### Greek (West) Model

- Prophecy = Prediction → Fulfillment



### Hebrew (East) Model

- As above, plus:
- Prophecy = Pattern (Types, et al)

## A few typical Types

- The sacrifice of Isaac
- Ark of the Covenant
- The Tabernacle
- The Sacrifice on the brazen altar
- The Mercy Seat in the sanctuary
- The Water from the Rock
- The Manna from the sky
- The Brazen Serpent lifted up
- The Passover Lamb
- The Scapegoat
- Metaphors

## Hebrew versus Greek Mindset

### Western Perspective

- Form (concrete thinking)
- Men create gods
- Make God understandable
- Separate Secular / Religious
- Separate Heaven and Earth
- Passive descriptions
- Flexible beliefs
- Impersonal relationships
- Creed (state your beliefs)
- Linear logic

### Eastern Perspective

- Function (abstract thinking)
- God creates man
- Elevate God in awe
- Parts of a unified whole
- Coexistent
- Active descriptions
- Fixed (strict) beliefs
- Personal relationships
- Deed (live your beliefs)
- Block logic

## Hebrew versus Greek Mindset

### Western Perspective

- Escape this sinful world and go to dwell with God.
- Right thinking leads to right conduct.
- The kingdom of heaven is in heaven, not on earth.
- Jesus is coming to take us away from this world.
- I have faith; I'm saved.
- Message: get your ticket or you might miss the train.

### Hebrew Perspective

- Prepare a fit place for God's dwelling on earth.
- Right conduct leads to right thinking.
- The kingdom of heaven will be on earth.
- Jesus is coming to reign over this world.
- Faith without works is dead.
- Message: the Kingdom is coming; get ready to serve.



## Forms of biblical prophecy

The Bible uses **almost every available literary form** to convey its prophetic messages, including but not limited to:

- **Prediction/fulfilment** (our Western model)

79%

65% ● **Oracles** - a prophecy thought to have come directly from a divine source.

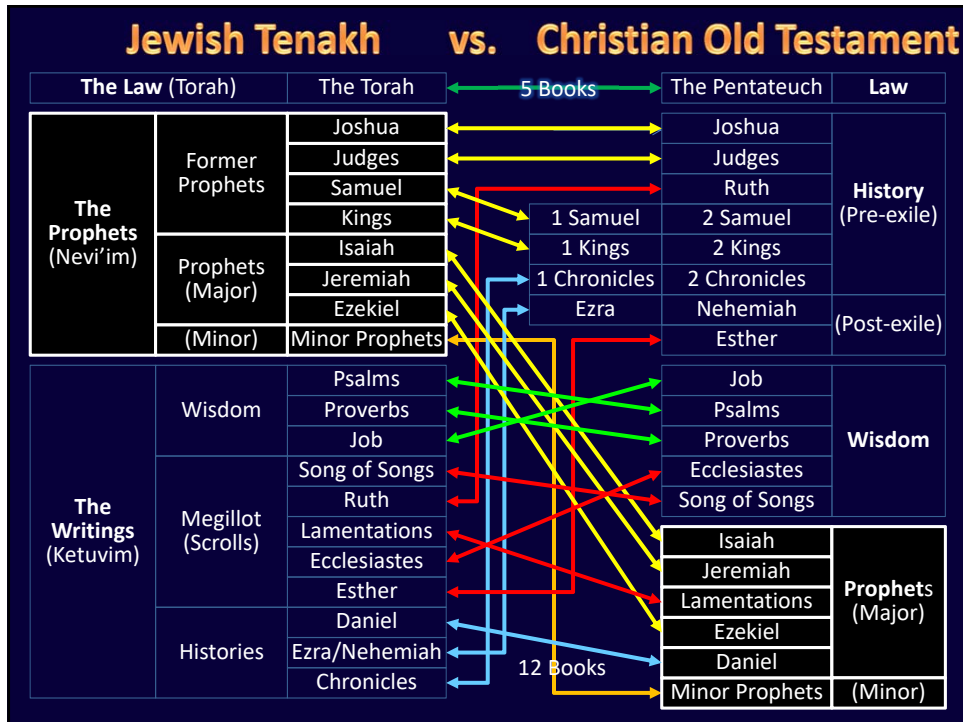
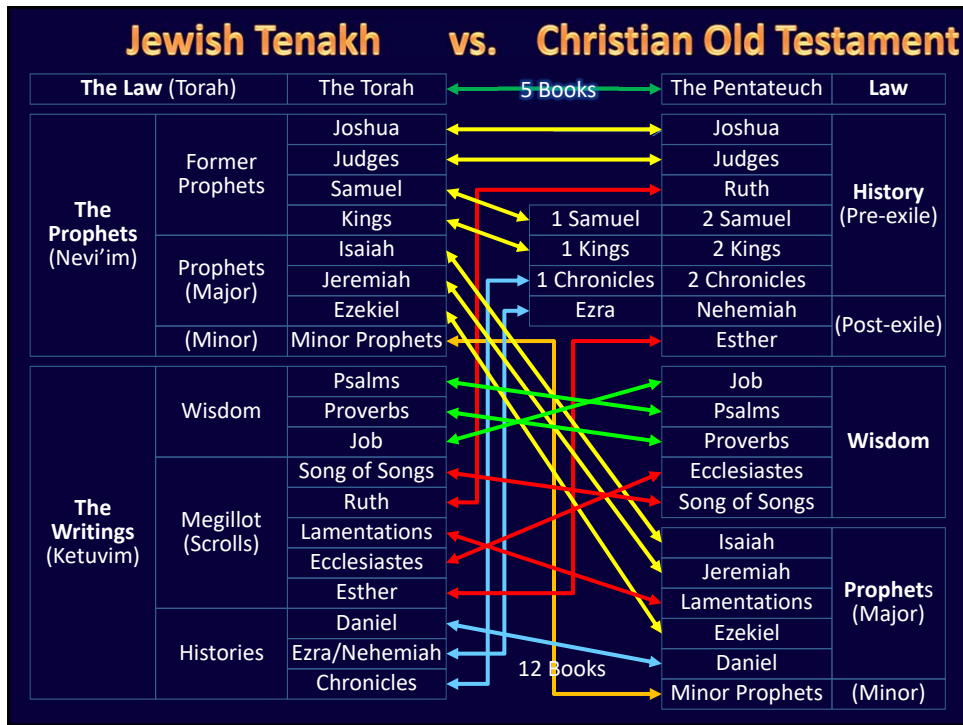
9% ● **Figurative** – a prophecy w/non-literal meaning (simile, metaphor, hyperbole, allusion, paradox, idiom, etc.).

5% ● **Symbolic** - a prophecy shaped in images or words that represents some final fulfilment.

- **Typological** – prophecy in the form of a person, event, or thing in history that prefigures a corresponding reality. In other words, a recurring pattern.

21%





## The Bible is internally consistent

Its 31,124 verses (KJV) refer to other parts 100,000s\* of times.

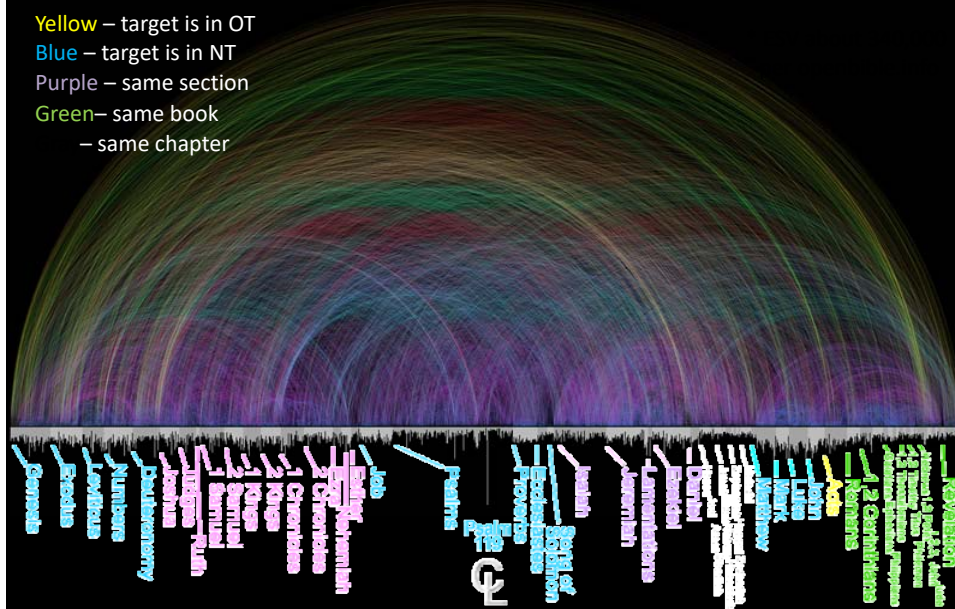
Yellow – target is in OT

Blue – target is in NT

Purple – same section

Green – same book

– same chapter



## A central Bible tenet

The **New Testament** is in the  
Old Testament **concealed**,  
the **Old Testament** is in the  
New Testament **revealed**.

## The Bible is internally consistent

Its 31,124 verses (KJV) refer to other parts 100,000s\* of times.

Yellow – target is in OT  
Blue – target is in NT  
Purple – same section  
Green – same book  
Light Green – same chapter

8,362 of these 31,124 verses (27%) are predictive, covering 1,817 specific predictions.

“Predictive” means that they would happen later. We call this phenomena “prophecy”.

1,239 predictions are in the Old Testament (28.5%).  
 578 predictions are in the New Testament (21.5%)

## The Prophetic Books

### Major Prophets

### Minor Prophets

These titles are unfortunate and give many people the **wrong** ideas of **worth!** They represent book **size** only!

## Major and Minor Prophets

- There are 42 prophets (*navi*) in the Old Testament, including five women (*neviah*)<sup>1</sup>.
- Sixteen prophets are accorded large sections (books):
  - Four have longer books (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and Ezekiel). They are called “major prophets”.
  - Twelve have smaller books. The Hebrew Bible treats these as a single book called “The Book of the Twelve Prophets”.
- John the Baptist was the last prophet of the Old era. Jesus Christ brought in a new age of prophetic truth.

1. Isaiah’s wife; Huldah; Miriam; Deborah; Noadiah

## Timeline of the Prophets

	950	900	850	800	750	700	650	600	550	500	450	400
	Egypt			Assyria				Babylon	Persia			
	N & S Kingdoms				Judah alone		Exile	Post-exile				
	▲ Solomon dies			▲ Israel falls		▲ Judah falls		▲ 1 <sup>st</sup> captives return				
<b>Major Prophets</b>					Isaiah		Jeremiah/Lam. Daniel Ezekiel					
<b>Minor Prophets</b>	Obadiah Joel		Jonah Amos Hosea		Micah		Nahum Zephaniah Habakkuk		Haggai Zechariah		Malachi	
<b>Other Prophets and OT Books</b>			Elijah Elisha						Esther Ezra Nehemiah			

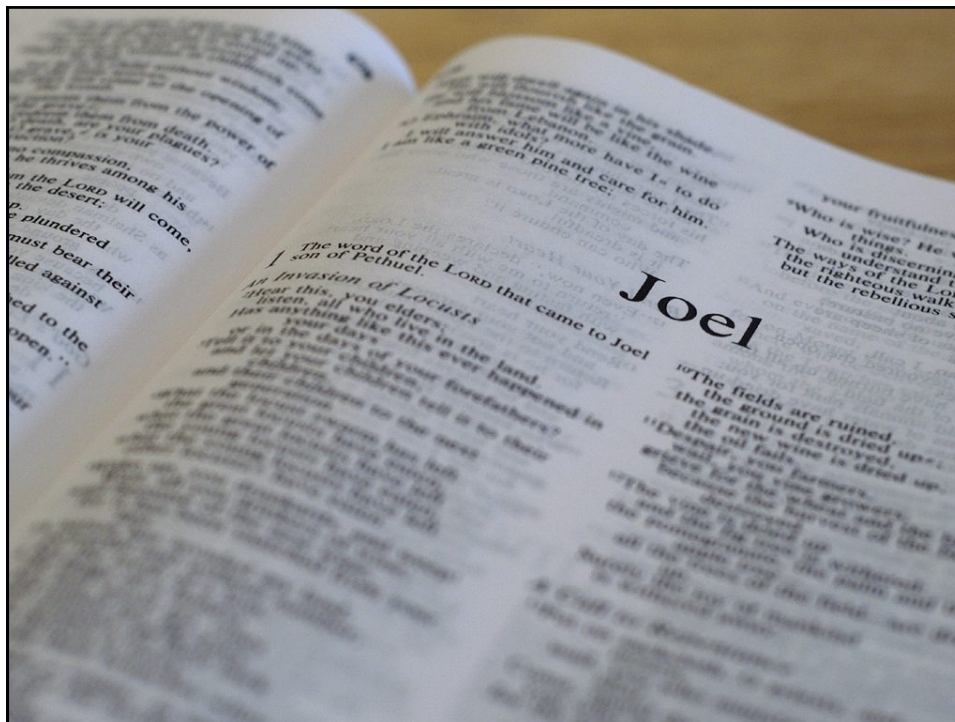
## Chronological Order of the Prophets

- |   |                     | <u>Prophesied</u>   |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| ● <b>Before the Exile – (before 606 BC)</b> |                     |                     |
| ● Obadiah                                   | to Edom             | 887 B.C.            |
| ● Jonah                                     | to Nineveh          | 862 B.C.            |
| ● Joel                                      | to Judah            | 800 B.C. (835-756?) |
| ● Amos                                      | to Northern Kingdom | 787 B.C.            |
| ● Hosea                                     | to Northern Kingdom | 785 - 725 B.C.      |
| ● Isaiah                                    | to Judah            | 760 - 698 B.C.      |
| ● Micah                                     | to Judah            | 750 – 710 B.C.      |
| ● Nahum                                     | to Nineveh          | 713 B.C.            |
| ● Zephaniah                                 | to Judah            | 630 B.C.            |
| ● Habakkuk                                  | to Judah            | 626 B.C.            |
| ● Jeremiah                                  | to Judah            | 629 – 588 B.C.      |
| ● <b>During the Exile (606 – 538 BC)</b>    |                     |                     |
| ● Jeremiah                                  | .....               | 629 – 588 B.C.      |
| ● Ezekiel                                   | .....               | 595 – 574 B.C.      |
| ● Daniel                                    | .....               | 607 – 534 B.C.      |
| ● <b>After the Exile (after 538 BC)</b>     |                     |                     |
| ● Haggai                                    | .....               | 520 B.C.            |
| ● Zechariah                                 | .....               | 520 – 518 B.C.      |
| ● Malachi                                   | .....               | 397 B.C.            |
- (All dates approximate)

## The Minor Prophets

- These books are called "The Minor Prophets" solely because of size, not relevance to our lives.
- Don't be tricked into missing these overwhelmingly rich studies.





KEY THEME

# The day of the Lord

See Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11,31; 3:14

Joel

## KEY POINTS

- God is judging Judah, but He will bless and restore them again when they repent.
- God will judge all the nations on Judah's behalf.

Joel

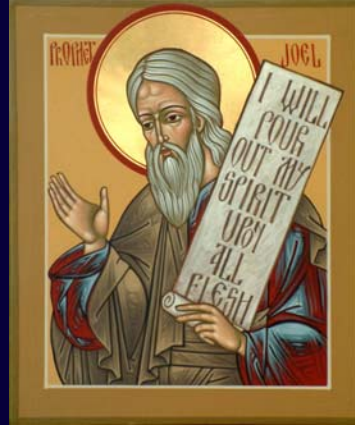
## KEY VERSE

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,  
Return to Me with all your heart,  
And with fasting, weeping and mourning;  
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.

Joel 2:12–13

## The Prophet Joel

- Joel ("Yahweh is God"), son of Petuel ("Sincerity of God"), did not discuss himself.
- He prophesied during the time of King Joash of Judah (r. 836-796 BC).
- After King Ahaziah died, Queen Athaliah tried to kill all her grandchildren, but baby Joash was hidden in the Temple complex by his aunt Jehosheba and Jehoiada the high priest, (2 Kgs 11-12; 2 Chr 23-24).
- Seven years later, Joash was crowned king of Judah (2 Kgs 11:12) and Queen Athaliah was slain by her own people (2 Kgs 11:16).



Joel ("Yahweh is God")  
Judah c. 835-820 B.C.

**God disciplines**

His people,

but He also

**defends** them.



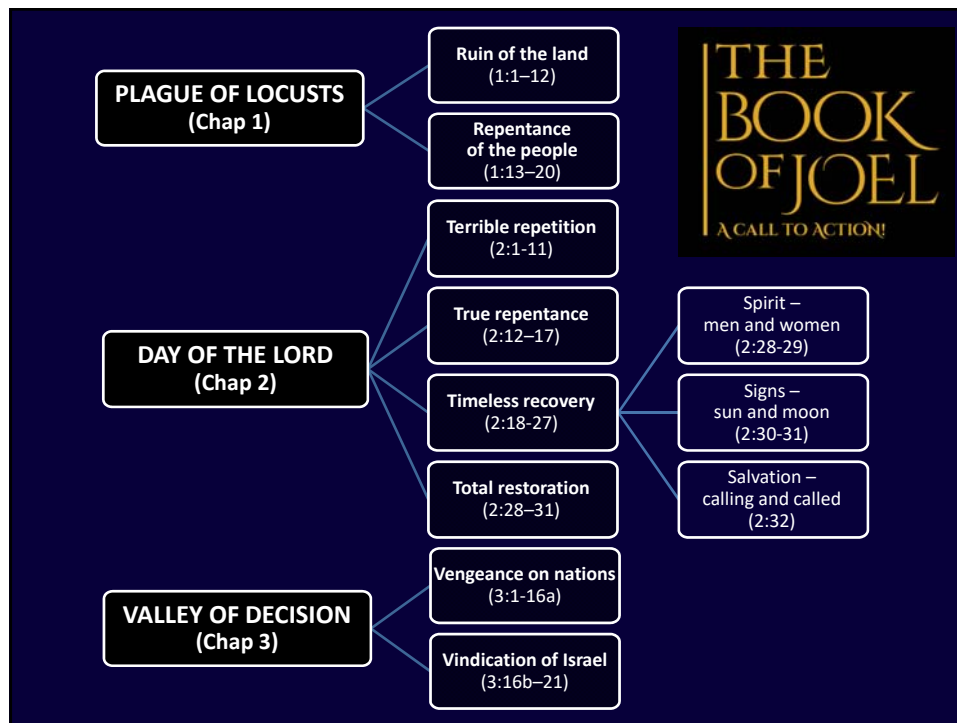
## Historical context

- In 1491 BC (per Ussher), God sent a locust plague on Egypt to deliver Israel from slavery (8<sup>th</sup> Plague, Exodus 10:1-20).
- Now, some 660 years later, He was judging His people with the same form of plague for straying from Him.






Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Per the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, when hungry, a one-ton horde of locusts can eat the same amount of food in one day as 2,500 humans.



<b>Outline</b>	
<b>THE IMMEDIATE DAY OF THE LORD (1:1–20)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hear!</b> Elders, citizens. (1:2–4)</li> <li>• <b>Wake up!</b> Drunkards. (1:5–7)</li> <li>• <b>Mourn!</b> Farmers. (1:8–12)</li> <li>• <b>Call a fast!</b> Priests. (1:13–20)</li> </ul>
<b>THE IMMINENT DAY OF THE LORD (2:1–27)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The invading army, like locusts (2:1-11)</li> <li>• The call to repent (2:12–17)</li> <li>• The promise of restoration (2:18–27)</li> </ul>
<b>THE ULTIMATE DAY OF THE LORD (2:28–3:21)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Before</b>—Spirit poured out (2:28–32)</li> <li>• <b>During</b>—judgment poured out (3:1–16)</li> <li>• <b>After</b>—blessing poured out (3:17–21)</li> </ul>

<b>The Day of the Lord</b>		
<b>THE IMMEDIATE DAY OF THE LORD</b>	 <b>830 BC</b>	Joel wanted king Joash (r. 836-796 BC) and the people of Judah to understand what God was saying to them through the locust plague and the drought. He uses the unprecedented locust plague as a metaphorical conquering army.
<b>THE IMMINENT DAY OF THE LORD</b>	 <b>701 BC</b>	The future invasion of Judah by Assyrians during the reign of King Hezekiah (r. 715–686 BC). Jerusalem was miraculously delivered by the Angel of the Lord who killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night.
<b>THE ULTIMATE DAY OF THE LORD</b>	 <b>T.B.D.</b>	God will judge all the nations of the earth. Everything will change when the King comes back to begin His reign! Joel promises a Holy City, a restored land, a cleansed people, and a glorious King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

## Joel 1 - The Immediate Day of the Lord

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

### The Land Laid Waste

<sup>2</sup> Hear this, you elders,  
And give ear, all you inhabitants of the land!  
Has *anything like* this happened in your days,  
Or even in the days of your fathers?

<sup>3</sup> Tell your children about it,  
Let your children *tell* their children,  
And their children another generation.

<sup>4</sup> 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.



## Locust breeding cycle

Locusts are Orthopterans. 24,000 different species, some up to 10" in length. Larvae go through 4-13 stages; can take 6-7 years to fully mature. A single hormone when activated causes locusts to swarm. They can fly 17 hours at a time. In 1889, a swarm in the Red Sea covered 2,000 square miles. Density in a swarm can be up to 120 million locusts/square mile! Each female locust can lay 250-300 pods; with 70-80 eggs/pod.

### Nymph (Hopper)

*gazam*, Gnawing locust  
Eggs hatch within 10-20 days;  
has wing buds but no wings.  
Pass through five hopper  
phases over 4-8 weeks.

### Consuming Locust

*yekeq*, Consuming locust  
"Cankerworm" 3" long; 1"  
antennae.



### Adults

*arbeh*, Swarming locust  
Most common winged locust.  
Eight-week lifespan.

### Fledglings

*chaciyl*, Licking locust  
"Caterpillar." Third phase  
Old skin; small wings take at  
least a week or more to harden.

**Joel was not talking about four different kinds of locusts, but four successive swarms of locusts.**

## Interesting possible parallel



### Four Plagues of Locusts

The nation is in desolation:

- Chewing locust
- Swarming locusts
- Crawling locust
- Consuming locust

Failure of Man;  
God steps in.



### Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

The nation is in desolation:

- False peace
- War breaks out
- Famine
- Pale horse of death

Failure of Man;  
God steps in.

5 Awake, you drunkards, and weep;  
And wail, all you drinkers of wine,  
Because of the new wine,  
For it has been cut off from your mouth.'

6 For a nation has come up against My land,  
Strong, and without number;  
His teeth *are* the teeth of a lion,  
And he has the fangs of a fierce lion.  
7 He has laid waste My vine,  
And ruined My fig tree;  
He has stripped it bare and thrown *it* away;  
Its branches are made white.

8 Lament like a virgin\* girded with sackcloth  
For the husband of her youth.  
9 The grain offering and the drink offering  
Have been cut off from the house of the LORD;  
The priests mourn, who minister to the LORD.\*\*



\* A young bride  
who lost her  
husband in the first  
year of marriage.

\*\* Because they  
cannot fulfil the  
Temple sacrifices.

- 10 The field is wasted,  
The land mourns;  
For the grain is ruined,  
The new wine is dried up,  
The oil fails.
- 11 Be ashamed, you farmers,  
Wail, you vinedressers,  
For the wheat and the barley;  
Because the harvest of the field has perished.
- 12 The vine has dried up,  
And the fig tree has withered;  
The pomegranate tree,  
The palm tree also,  
And the apple tree—  
All the trees of the field are withered;  
Surely joy has withered away from the sons of men.

### Mourning for the Land

- 13 Gird yourselves and lament, you priests;  
Wail, you who minister before the altar;  
Come, lie all night in sackcloth,  
You who minister to my God;  
For the grain offering and the drink offering  
Are withheld from the house of your God.
- 14 Consecrate a fast,  
Call a sacred assembly;  
Gather the elders  
*And* all the inhabitants of the land  
*Into* the house of the LORD your God,  
And cry out to the LORD.
- 15 Alas for the day!  
For the day of the LORD *is* at hand;  
It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.  
<sup>16</sup> Is not the food cut off before our eyes,  
Joy and gladness from the house of our God?

Now switching to  
an invasion of  
demons.

First mention of  
Day of the LORD.

- 17 The seed shrivels under the clods,  
Storehouses are in shambles;  
Barns are broken down,  
For the grain has withered.
- 18 How the animals groan!  
The herds of cattle are restless,  
Because they have no pasture;  
Even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment.
- 19 O LORD, to You I cry out;  
For fire has devoured the open pastures,  
And a flame has burned all the trees of the field.  
20 The beasts of the field also cry out to You,  
For the water brooks are dried up,  
And fire has devoured the open pastures.

Total devastation

But worse is coming

### Four Days in Scripture

1. **Man's Day** (). Dan 2: image of man; "judgment" = "day." The Day of Man started in Daniel 2.
2. **Day of Christ** (1 Cor 1:7,8; 5:5; 2 Cor 1:14; Phil 1:6, 10; 2:16). The Day of Christ climaxes at the Rapture (John 14:1-3).
3. **Day of YHWH** [Day of the Lord] (Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14). The Day of the Lord is also mentioned in the following books: Amos 5:18; Zeph 1:7, 14-2:2; Isa 2:1-21, and 13:9.
4. **Day of God** (1 Pet 3:12). The Day of God is the climax at the end of the Millennium.

## 26 Synonyms for Day of the Lord; 196 uses

Day of Trouble	Day of Destruction
Day of Vengeance	Day of Battle and War
Day of Wrath	Day of thy power
Day of Their Calamity	Day of Grief and Desperate Sorrow
Day of Christ	Day of the Lord's Sacrifice
Day of the Lord's Anger	Day of Trouble and Distress
His Day	Day of Trumpet and Alarm
Day of Darkness	Day of Wasteness and Desolation
Day of Clouds and Thick Darkness	Day of His Coming
In the Wrath of the Lord of Hosts	Day of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Day of His Fierce Anger	Wrath of the Lamb
Day of Distress	Great Day of His Wrath
Day of Indignation	

## The book of Joel makes two main points

1. God is in control of world events. Nothing happens anywhere in the world that is outside of God's control; nothing that happens to a believer is outside of God's control.
2. God responds to repentance. Where there is true repentance, God will respond accordingly.

## Future Joel 2 - The Imminent Day of the Lord

### The Day of the LORD

Gentile Invasion; Armageddon  
Joel 2:1-10

- 1 Blow the trumpet in Zion,  
And sound an alarm in My holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble;  
For the day of the LORD is coming, for it is at hand:
- 2 A day of darkness and gloominess,  
A day of clouds and thick darkness,  
Like the morning *clouds* spread over the mountains.  
A people *come*, great and strong,  
The *like of whom has never been*;  
Nor will there ever be any *such* after them,  
Even for many successive generations.
- 3 A fire devours before them,  
And behind them a flame burns;  
The land *is* like the Garden of Eden before them,  
And behind them a desolate wilderness;  
Surely nothing shall escape them.

Like Mount Sinai

- 4 Their appearance is *like* the appearance of horses;  
And *like* swift steeds, so they run.
- 5 With a noise *like* chariots over mountaintops they leap,  
*Like* the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble,  
*Like* a strong people set in battle array.
- 6 Before them the people writhe in pain;  
All faces are drained of color.
- 7 They run *like* mighty men,  
They climb the wall *like* men of war;  
Every one marches in formation,  
And they do not break ranks.
- 8 They do not push one another;  
Every one marches in his own column.  
Though they lunge between the weapons,  
They are not cut down.
- 9 They run to and fro in the city,  
They run on the wall;  
They climb into the houses,  
They enter at the windows like a thief.

Locusts  
Demon locusts  
Horses

KJV. "...shall gather blackness."

Look  
and act  
*like* an  
army



Like locusts.



- <sup>10</sup> The earth quakes before them, the heavens tremble;  
The sun and moon grow dark,  
And the stars diminish their brightness.  
<sup>11</sup> The LORD gives voice before His army,  
For His camp is very great;  
For strong *is the One* who executes His word.  
For the day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible;  
Who can endure it?

**Destruction of invaders**  
Joel 2:11

### A Call to Repentance

- <sup>12</sup> “Now, therefore,” says the LORD,  
“Turn to Me with all your heart,  
With fasting, with weeping, and  
with mourning.”

**Repentance of Judah**  
Joel 2:12-17

- <sup>13</sup> So rend your heart, and not your garments;  
Return to the LORD your God,  
For He *is* gracious and merciful,  
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;  
And He relents from doing harm.



## 2 Chronicles 7:14

God personally told Solomon:

**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** I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

- 14 Who knows *if* He will turn and relent,  
And leave a blessing behind Him—  
A grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?
- 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion,  
Consecrate a fast,  
Call a sacred assembly;  
<sup>16</sup> Gather the people,  
Sanctify the congregation,  
Assemble the elders,  
Gather the children and nursing babes;  
Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber,  
And the bride from her dressing room.
- 17 Let the priests, who minister to the LORD,  
Weep between the porch and the altar;  
Let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD,  
And do not give Your heritage to reproach,  
That the nations should rule over them.  
Why should they say among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?' "

### The Land Refreshed

- 18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land,  
and pity His people.
- 19 The LORD will answer and say to His people,  
"Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil,  
And you will be satisfied by them;  
I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.
- 20 "But I will remove far from you the northern *army*,  
And will drive him away into a barren and desolate land,  
With his face toward the eastern sea  
And his back toward the western sea;  
His stench will come up, and his foul odour will rise,  
Because he has done monstrous things."
- 21 Fear not, O land;  
Be glad and rejoice,  
For the LORD has done marvellous things!

**Response of YHWH**  
**Joel 2:18-27**

- 22 Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field;  
For the open pastures are springing up,  
And the tree bears its fruit;  
The fig tree and the vine yield their strength.  
23 Be glad then, you children of Zion,  
And rejoice in the LORD your God;  
For He has given you the former rain faithfully,  
And He will cause the rain to come down for you—  
The former rain,  
And the latter rain in the first *month*.  
24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat,  
And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.



- 25 “So I will restore to you the years that  
The swarming locust has eaten,  
The crawling locust,  
The consuming locust,  
And the chewing locust,  
My great army which I sent among you.

The LORD will  
return what  
the locusts  
destroyed!

- 26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,  
And praise the name of the LORD your God,  
Who has dealt wondrously with you;  
And My people shall never be put to shame.  
27 Then you shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel:  
I *am* the LORD your God and there is no other.  
My people shall never be put to shame.

#### God's Spirit Poured Out

- 28 “And it shall come to pass afterward  
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your old men shall dream dreams,  
Your young men shall see visions.  
29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants  
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.  
30 “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth:  
Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

Effusion of the Spirit  
Joel 2:28-29

- <sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness,  
And the moon into blood,  
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.
- <sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass  
*That* whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved.  
For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be  
deliverance, as the LORD has said,  
among the remnant whom the LORD calls.



### The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: [and then quoted Joel 2:28–32 to them]."

(Acts 2:14-17)

## Joel 3 - The Ultimate Day of the Lord

### God Judges the Nations

Judgement of the Nations  
Joel 3:1-16

- <sup>1</sup> "For behold, in those days and at that time,  
When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,  
<sup>2</sup> I will also gather all nations,  
And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat\*;  
And I will enter into judgment with them there  
On account of My people, My heritage Israel,  
Whom they have scattered among the nations;  
They have also divided up My land.
- <sup>3</sup> They have cast lots for My people,  
Have given a boy *as payment* for a harlot,  
And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.

\* "Jehoshaphat" means "The LORD judges"; aka "The Valley of Decision".

- 4 “Indeed, what have you to do with Me,  
O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia?  
Will you retaliate against Me?  
But if you retaliate against Me, Swiftly and speedily I will  
return your retaliation upon your own head;  
5 Because you have taken My silver and My gold,  
And have carried into your temples My prized possessions.  
6 Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem  
You have sold to the Greeks,  
That you may remove them far from their borders.
- 7 “Behold, I will raise them  
Out of the place to which you have sold them,  
And will return your retaliation upon your own head.  
8 I will sell your sons and your daughters  
Into the hand of the people of Judah,  
And they will sell them to the Sabeans,  
To a people far off;  
For the LORD has spoken.”

- 9 Proclaim this among the nations: “Prepare for war!  
Wake up the mighty men,  
Let all the men of war draw near,  
Let them come up.
- 10 Beat your plowshares into swords  
And your pruning hooks into spears;  
Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’”
- 11 Assemble and come, all you nations,  
And gather together all around.  
Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD.
- 12 “Let the nations be wakened,  
and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;  
For there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.  
13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.  
Come, go down; For the winepress is full,  
The vats overflow—  
For their wickedness *is* great.”

**Beat your  
plowshares into  
swords** and your  
pruning hooks into  
spears; let the weak  
say, **‘I am strong.’**

- 14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!  
For the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision.

**Whose decision** will it be? **God's!**  
**He will decide** each person's  
**eternal destiny.**

- 15 The sun and moon will grow dark,  
And the stars will diminish their brightness.

- 16 The LORD also will roar from Zion,  
And utter His voice from Jerusalem;  
The heavens and earth will shake;  
But the LORD will be a shelter for His people,  
And the strength of the children of Israel.

**Full Kingdom blessing**  
**Joel 3:17-21**

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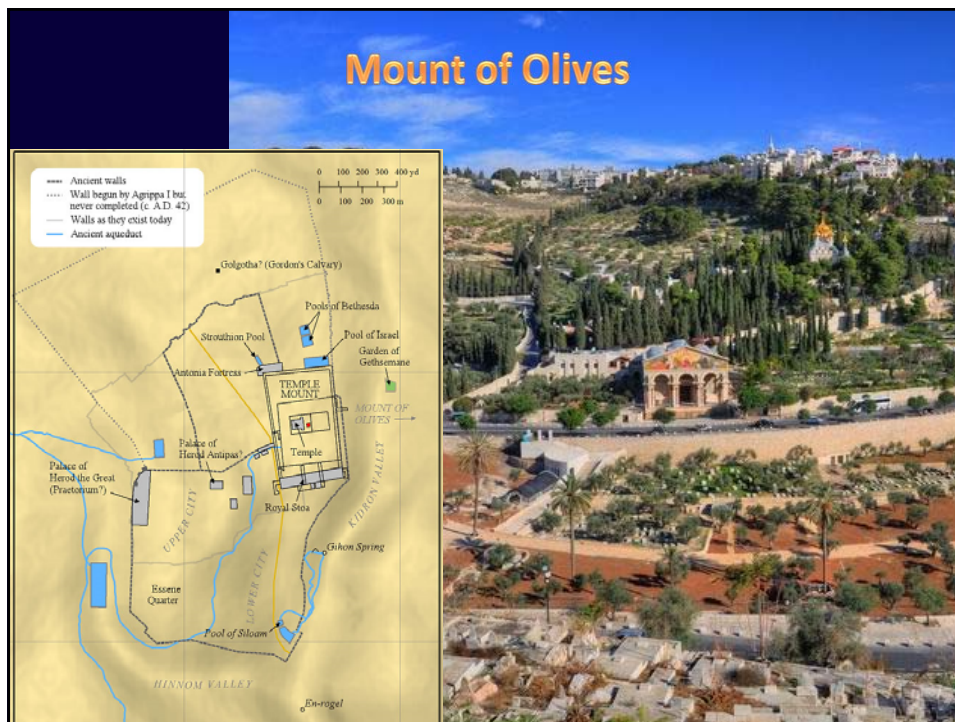
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Alien, stranger,  
one alienated  
from God,  
estranged.

- 17 "So you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God,  
Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain.  
Then Jerusalem shall be holy,  
And no aliens\* shall ever pass through her again."

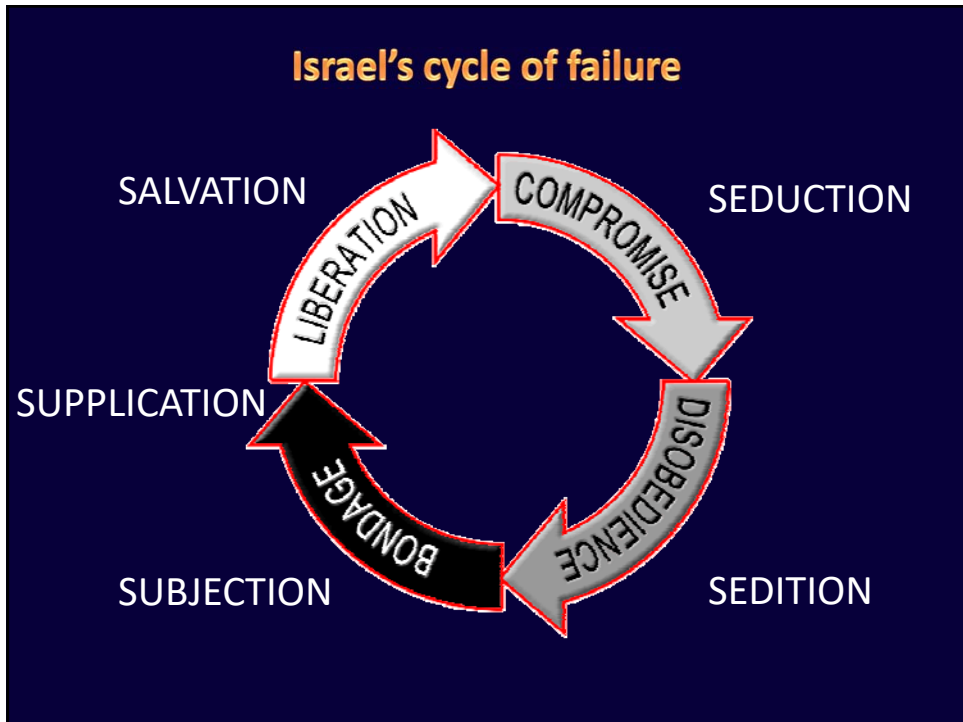
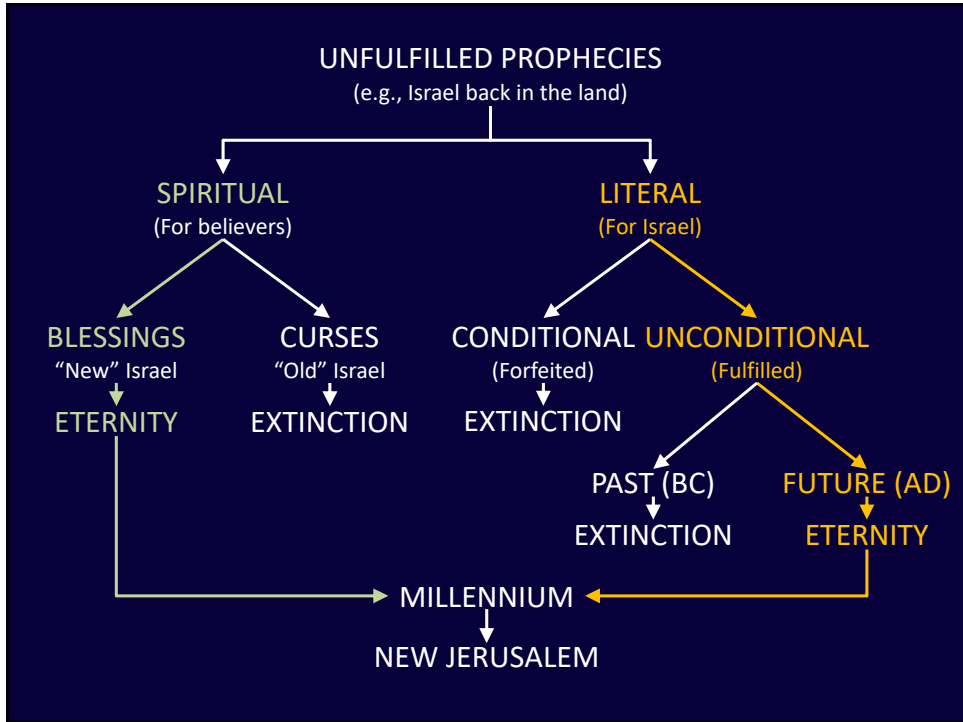
## Looking from the Mount of Olives across the Valley of Decision to Jerusalem



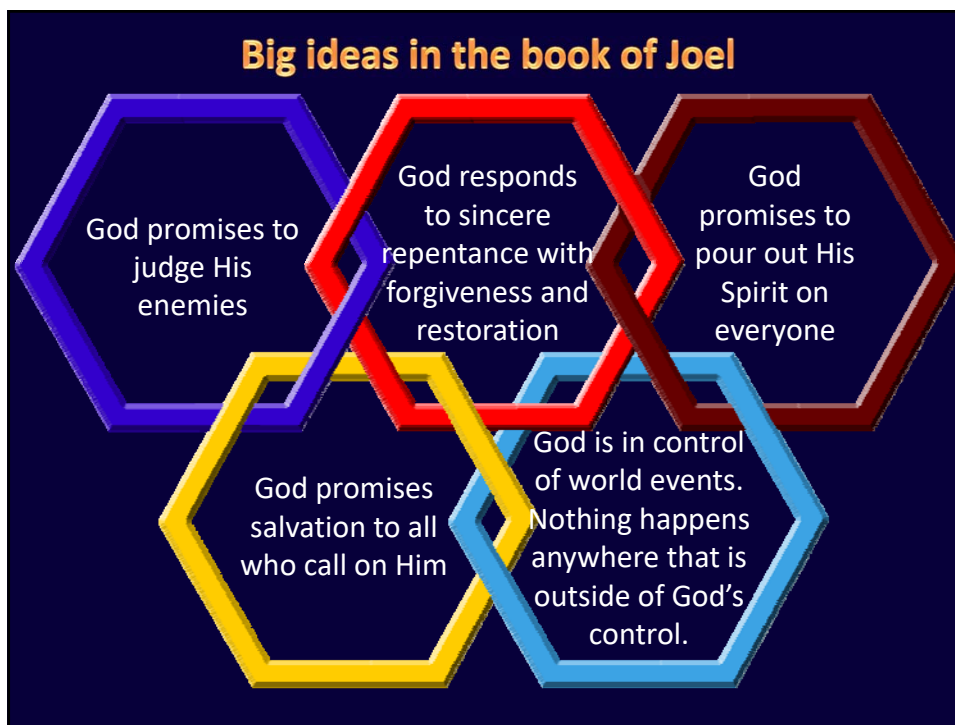
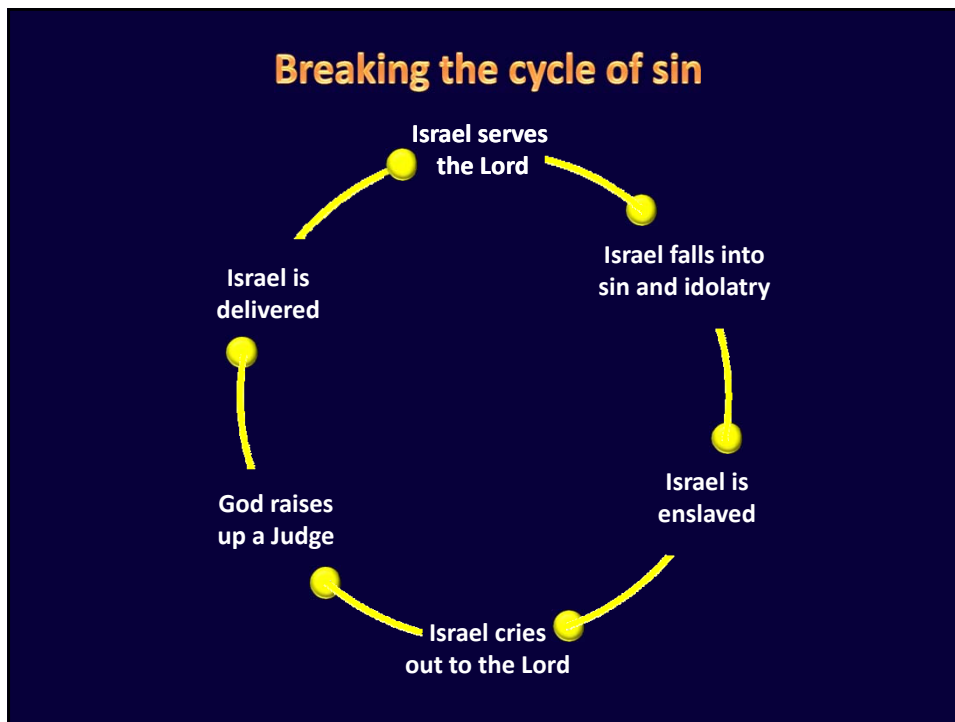


### God Blesses His People

- 18 And it will come to pass in that day  
*That* the mountains shall drip with new wine,  
 The hills shall flow with milk,  
 And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water;  
 A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD  
 And water the Valley of Acacias.
- 19 “Egypt shall be a desolation,  
 And Edom a desolate wilderness,  
 Because of violence *against* the people of Judah,  
 For they have shed innocent blood in their land.
- 20 **But Judah shall abide forever,  
 And Jerusalem from generation to generation.**
- 21 For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed,  
 whom I had not acquitted; for the LORD dwells in Zion.”







## Specific messages in Joel's prophecy

**ELDERS, CITIZENS** (Hear!) Joel 1:2–4

**DRUNKARDS** (Wake up!) Joel 1:5–7

**FARMERS** (Mourn!) Joel 1:8–12

**PRIESTS** (Call a fast!) Joel 1:13–20

WHY IS THE **KING** OF JUDAH **NOT** MENTIONED?



### Queen Athaliah

2 Kings 11;  
2 Chronicles 22:10 - 23:15

Athaliah, daughter of Israel's King Ahab, married Judah's King Jehoram (r. 849 – 842 BC) and gave birth to Ahaziah (r. 842 - 841 BC). Jehoram died prematurely by disease, and Ahaziah was killed only a year later.

- Athaliah usurped the throne and murdered every heir of King David who might be a rival to the throne. She reigned as queen from 841 – 835 BC.
- But her daughter Jehosheba rescued Ahaziah's baby son Joash, and with her priest husband Jehoiada, kept him hidden for six years in the Temple.
- When Joash was seven Jehoiada orchestrated a coup to overthrow hated Queen Athaliah and place King David's rightful heir Joash on the throne.
- Jehoiada secretly amassed a large force at the temple by detaining all workers when their shifts ended. He armed and stationed them strategically in the temple perimeter. When all was ready he brought out Joash, proclaimed him king, and crowned him to great celebration.
- Athaliah came to inspect the commotion and started shouting, "Treason!" Jehoiada ordered his men to kill her and anyone remaining loyal to her. This was done, and the celebration continued.

### Why does Joel mention priests but not a king?

