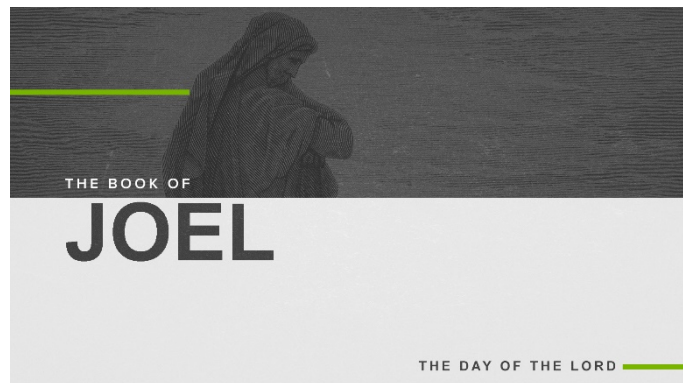


JOEL

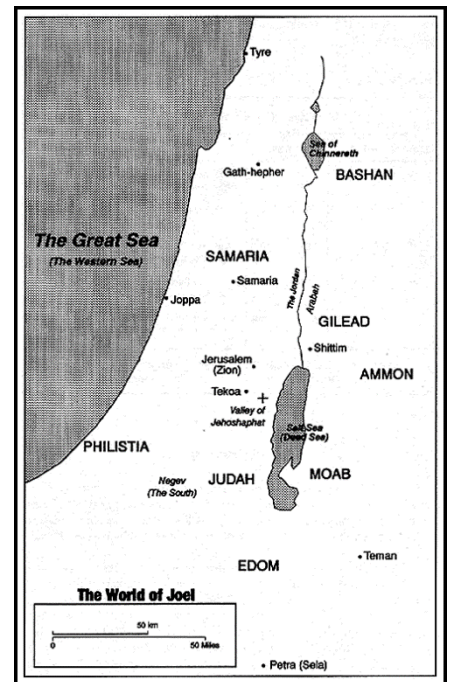
How familiar is the book of Joel to you?
What have been your previous impressions
of this book?



In the days of Joel, Israel experienced a devastating plague of locusts. The prophet interpreted this disaster as an effort to move Israel to repentance. At the same time this plague was a harbinger of a worse judgment to come.¹

1. Break into groups and some read Joel chapter 1; Joel chapter 2; and Joel chapter 3. Take time to reflect upon phrases and words used, new things learned, repeated phrases, words you're unsure of the meaning, questions you're asking and listening to what God is saying. Summarize your chapter together in a couple of brief statements.

2. What is our understanding of Joel's use of the phrase *the day of the Lord*? See 1:15; 2:1, 11,31; 3:14. How else is this phrase used in the Scriptures (see Compare this with the prophecies concerning the "day of the Lord" in these passages: Isaiah 2:12–21; 13:6–13; Jeremiah 46:10; Ezekiel 7:10–14; Amos 5:18–20; 8:9–10; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7, 14–16; Malachi 4:5)?



On the one hand, God's prophets and apostles identify the day of the Lord as the climactic event when God establishes his sovereignty, eradicates all evil, and brings lasting peace on a universal scale (e.g., Zeph. 1:14–18; 3:8–10; 2Thes. 1:9–10; 2Pet. 3:10). DeRouchie, R S.

the Day of the Lord as _____ punishment
the Day of the Lord as _____ renewal
the Day of the Lord as _____ fulfillment

¹ Smith, J. E. (1994). *The Minor Prophets* (p. 61). College Press.

3. In Joel 1:1–12, what do you see as the strongest imagery and statements in this description of the locust invasion? Then consider 2 Chronicles 6:28–31 where in Solomon's prayer of dedication for the temple he spoke of what the people should do in a time of locust invasion. How well does the book of Joel follow those guidelines?

4. What is most important in the call of God to His people in 1:13–14?

5. What is most significant in the call of God makes to His people in 2:12–17? (consider what is His particular message to you at this moment of your life?)

6. What promises from God do you see in 2:18–27?

7. In the New Testament, how do you see Joel 2:28–32 being fulfilled and referred to in Acts 2?

8. Consider the promises made in Joel 3 and what is their significance?

9. Reflect on what the book of Joel reveals of the character of God:

JOURNALING

What have you learned most or appreciated most in your study of the book of Joel?