



COMING UP... MAY 12 NO CLASS (*Mother's Day*) **MAY 19: 2 Kings part 4 (chs. 18-20)** MAY 26 NO CLASS (*Memorial Day*) **JUN 2: Micah** **JUN 9: Isaiah part 1 (chs. 1-39)**

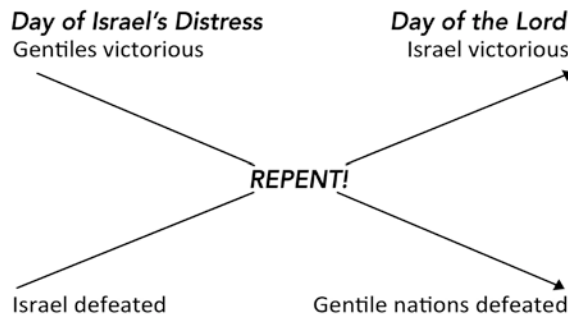
[See "Pre-Exilic Kings and Prophets in Israel and Judah" chart, p. 6]

JOEL SUMMARIZED IN A WORD OR PHRASE: "Day of the Lord"

WHAT IS THE "DAY OF THE LORD"?

- A.N.E.: When a mighty warrior-king could consummate an epic battle in a single day
- O.T.: A "day" of *tribulation* for Israel/Judah
Discipline/suffering for repentance/purification
- O.T.: A "day" of *triumph* for Israel/Judah
Gentile oppressors will be judged for their sins
- O.T.: A "day" of *reversal of fortunes*
Gentile nations will be "put down"
God will bountifully restore what He "took"

A REVERSAL OF FORTUNES



THE BASICS ...

Who: Who: Joel ("YHWH is God") **When:** pre-exilic; perhaps 835 B.C. **Where:** to Judah
Why: "Using a recent locust plague as an object lesson, Joel wrote of a future invasion in the Day of the Lord and of the blessing that would follow when Israel would repent and be restored by God." –Dr. Charles Dyer

LESSON THEME: "God will not allow His children to sin successfully." –Charles Spurgeon

A Present Crisis (1:1-20)

- A present "day" of tribulation for Judah
- God has sent drought and locusts as His discipline >
- He's seeking to gain His people's repentance
- A "day" of triumph
- The locust "army" can be driven back
- Agricultural fertility can be restored
- A reversal of fortunes
- At the Lord's direction, barrenness will be turned into fruitfulness ... with your repentance



A local farmer walks in a swarm of desert locusts in Meru, Kenya on February 9, 2021.

A Coming Conflict (2:1-27)

- A soon-coming "day" of tribulation for Judah
- A "locust-like" army will be God's discipline
- The Assyrian "locusts" will invade and devour
- Heart-level repentance and trust is required
- A "day" of triumph

With repentance and dependence on the Lord
Assyria will be driven back; Judah will be delivered

A reversal of fortunes

With repentance, the barrenness of calamity will be turned into the fruitfulness of deliverance

The Final Day (2:28–3:21)

The promise at the “dawn” of the final “Day”

Hebrews 1:2; Acts 2:14-21

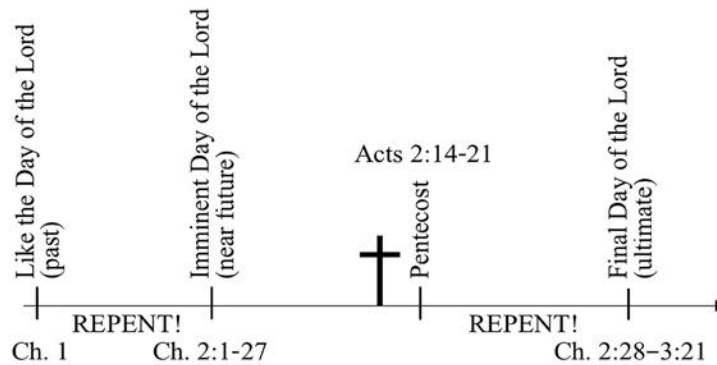
To paraphrase Peter: As surely as the things Joel predicted have come true (so far), so does this event announce the final “Day”

Meaning there will be *tribulation* ahead for Israel

Meaning eventually there will be *triumph* for Israel

Meaning one day Israel’s fortunes will be *reversed*

Peter’s Use of Joel



The Final Day of the Lord

An eschatological “day” of tribulation

Gentile oppression will be God’s discipline

Gentile armies of the world will gather against her

Heart-level repentance and trust will be required

A “day” of triumph

The Lord Himself will return, gather and lead His army in triumph over these Gentile nations

The Lord will judge the Gentile nations with respect to their sins against Israel

A reversal of fortunes (3:17-21)

Israel will live in the holy city of Jerusalem

Their barren land will be restored to fruitfulness

They will be a purified people

They will live in peace under the rule of their glorious King

But in 835 B.C. ...

Judah’s heart has grown colder and wandered

She’s satisfied with just “getting by” in her relationship with her Lord

She’s been negligent toward His Word

Maybe she has the “when/then” isorder

Maybe it’s just living in sin or spiritual adultery

The Lord has sent locusts ...

They need to repent ... TODAY!

APPLICATION: God won’t allow His children to sin successfully

How He Treats His Wandering Child

A “day” of tribulation

Have locusts been eating your life’s “crops?”

Have you become complacent, lazy or satisfied with just “getting by” in your relationship with the Lord?

Do you have the “when/then” disorder?

Have you been negligent or spiritually adulterous?

Are you just in outright sin?

Have you even noticed the barrenness yet?

When you look in the rearview mirror of your life are there patches of "waste" back there? Wasted days, months ... or even years?

You need to know that God has sent or allowed those "locusts" into your life to "eat up" and "devour"

He's done it—as He did to Judah—to get your attention, and to get you to turn to Him in repentance and trust

How He Treats the Repentant

Heart-level repentance

2 Cor 7:9-11

A "day" of triumph awaits

It's never too late!

He will drive the "locusts" back

His refreshing "rain" will fall again on your soul

He will cause new, bountiful life to spring up where before there was only barrenness

A reversal of fortunes awaits...

"You cannot have back your time, but there is a strange and wonderful way in which God can give back to you the wasted blessings, the unripened fruits of years over which you mourned ... It is a pity that they should have been locust-eaten by your folly and negligence; but if they have been so, be not hopeless concerning them."

C.H. Spurgeon

God will not allow His children to sin successfully; nor will He refrain from blessing the repentant.

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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YOUTUBE VIDEOS + HANDOUTS *Private link; page is not searchable*: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGhFjAlhYpqC2XYXZJXiwut_8g7P3qhF

PODCAST: <https://feeds.transistor.fm/old-testament-survey>

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JOEL

The Identification of the Locusts in Joel 1:4

The four types of locusts identified by Joel are apparently four successive stages in the development of the swarming desert locust. Joel 1:4 records the order in which the locusts appeared in the land, while 2:25 presents the logical order in which the locust develops (starting with the adult and then showing the development of their offspring). The order found in Joel 1:4 is as follows:

"Locust swarm" (NIV)/"Gnawing locust" (NASB) = young locusts
 "Great locusts" (NIV)/"Swarming locust" (NASB) = mature locusts
 "Young locusts" (NIV)/"Creeping locust" (NASB) = newly hatched locusts
 "Other locusts" (NIV)/"Stripping locust" (NASB) = younger locusts

John A. Thompson, "Translation of the Words for Locust," Bible Translator 25

Judgment on Israel in the Day of the Lord		Deliverance of Israel in the Day of the Lord	
history	prophecy	history	prophecy
Historical locust plague on Judah in Joel's day	Future locust-like plague in the Day of the Lord	Historical restoration of Judah in Joel's day	Future restoration of Israel in the Day of the Lord
1:1 1:20	2:1 2:17	2:18 2:27	2:28 3:21

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TIMELINE OF JOEL

The timeline shows the following events:

- 852: Jehoram becomes king of Israel
- 848: Elisha begins prophetic ministry
- 841-840?: Obadiah begins prophetic ministry
- 835: Joash becomes king of Judah; Joel begins prophetic ministry
- 794: Jeroboam II becomes king of Israel

The Ryrie Study Bible Expanded Edition, ©1995 Moody Bible Institute

“Joel wrote to warn his audience about a coming day in which God would judge His people. He compared this devastating judgment to a terrible locust invasion that had fairly recently swept through the land. What he said about this coming judgment has only seen partial fulfillment; some of it still lies in the eschatological future (i.e., the eschaton or end times for planet earth). God would send blessing as well as judgment, however, and this too has only come partially on the Israelites so far. The prophet warned his hearers that unless they repented of their empty formalism in worship, and turned back to Yahweh wholeheartedly, devastating judgment would overtake them. If they repented, God would pardon them and restore His blessings to them abundantly.”



“Joel” by James Tissot

TOM CONSTABLE



The Day of the LORD (2:1-32)

Joel 1:15; 3:14-16
 Isa 13:6-13
 Jer 46:10
 Ezek 30:1-5
 Amos 5:18-20
 Zeph 1:14-18; 2:1-3
 Zech 14:1-21
 Mal 4:5-6
 Acts 2:17-21
 1 Thes 5:1-4
 2 Pet 3:3-14

The day of the Lord is a central concept in the book of Joel. The term *day of the LORD* first appeared in the prophecy of Amos (Amos 5:18), but it did not originate with him. Amos was correcting a popular misunderstanding that the Israelites already held. They believed that the day of the Lord would be a joyous day of salvation when God would intervene in the world to judge Israel’s enemies and reestablish Israelite rule over all of greater Canaan. Amos warned them that the day of the Lord would not be light for them, but darkness, for they were in rebellion against the Lord (e.g., Amos 5:10-12, 21-27). Self-confident Israelites assumed that God was always on their side, but their sins had, in fact, made them God’s enemies, and they deserved his full punishment. A little over a century after Amos, Zephaniah said very similar things to the Judeans about the day of the Lord (e.g., Zeph 1:7-18). The theme became part of the standard vocabulary of the prophets, often being referred to simply as “that day” (Isa 2:11; 27:1; Jer 31:1; Hos 2:18; Mic 7:11; Zech 3:10).

Joel interpreted the locust plague much as Amos or Zephaniah would have done (see 1:7-9, 14-18). Joel saw the plague as a sign that the day of the Lord was near, and that God was judging the people of Judah and Jerusalem for their sins. Their only proper response was to gather in the Temple and repent. In the second half of the book, however, Joel foretold a day of the Lord yet to come. At that time, God would pour out his Spirit on Israel (2:28-32); he would restore his repentant people, vindicate them, and punish the nations that had oppressed them. In this way, Joel combines both understandings of the day of the Lord. It is a day of judgment for all who rebel against God, including sinful Israelites. But it is also a day of salvation for those who have listened to the words of the prophets and have turned to the Lord.

the DAY of the LORD

JOEL

A HEBREW AUTHOR, APPROX. 800 BC
 A HEBREW PROPHET
 IN THE 8TH CENTURY BC
 IN THE 8TH CENTURY BC

UNIQUE THINGS ABOUT JOEL:
 1.) NOT CLEAR WHEN IT WAS WRITTEN - LIKELY THE PERIOD OF 724-704 BC
 2.) JOEL IS FAMILIAR WITH PLANT OTHER SCRIPTURAL BOOKS
 3.) JOEL DOESN'T ACCUSE ISRAEL OF ANY SIN - HE ASSUMES YOU'VE READ THE OTHER PROPHETS

WALACHI
 OBADIAH
 EZRA
 ZEPHANIAH
 NAHUM
 ISAIAH
 AMOS

ISRAEL'S SIN LED TO DISASTER

BUT GOD'S MERCY CREATES HOPE

THE PAST BECOMES AN IMAGE OF THE FUTURE

FUTURE TIME WHEN GOD WILL DEFEAT EVIL & SAVE THE WORLD

VAST EVENTS WHEN GOD SAVED HIS PEOPLE & CONFRONTED EVIL

1 A VAST DAY OF THE LORD

2a A FUTURE DAY OF THE LORD

2b GOD'S RESPONSE

2c-3 THE FUTURE DAY OF THE LORD

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISASTER

A RECENT LOCUST SCARCITY IN ISRAEL

REMEMBER THE LOCUSTS OF 1200 BC (EX 10:1-13)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISASTER

AN IMMINENT DISASTER FOR JERUSALEM

THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR! WHO CAN ENDURE IT? (2:1)

DEFEAT OF THE INVADERS

3:10 GOD HAS FLEED WITH PASSION FOR HIS LAND AND HAD PITY ON HIS PEOPLE

RESTORATION OF THE DEVASTATED LAND

3:12-13

GOD WILL CONQUER EVIL AMONG ALL NATIONS

3:15-16

ISAIAH 13
 ZEPHANIAH 3
 EZEKIEL 38-39

GOD

CALL TO REPENTANCE

TO YOU, O LORD, I CALL!

HOW:

"FEAR YOUR HEAVY, NOT YOUR GARDENS" - GENUINE CHANGE

WHY:

"GOD IS GRACIOUS & COMPASSIONATE, SLOW TO ANGER, FULL OF LOVE" - GOD'S MERCY IS MORE POWERFUL THAN HIS GNAWING

ADAPTATIONS OF EXODUS 34:6

STRAKE YOUR PEOPLE, O LORD!

DIVINE PRESENCE AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE

2:27

GOD'S SPIRIT WILL FILL ALL HIS PEOPLE

2:28-29

ISAIAH 32:15-16
 ZEPHANIAH 3:13-14
 EZEKIEL 36:23-27

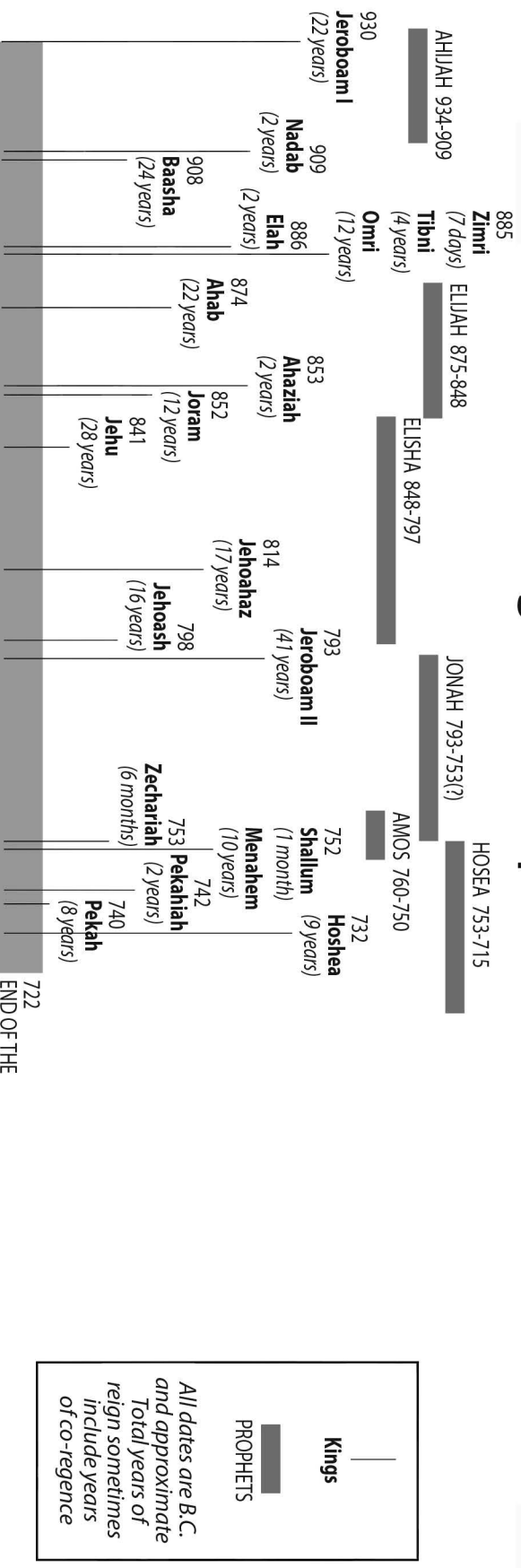
A NEW EDEN

RENEWAL OF ALL CREATION

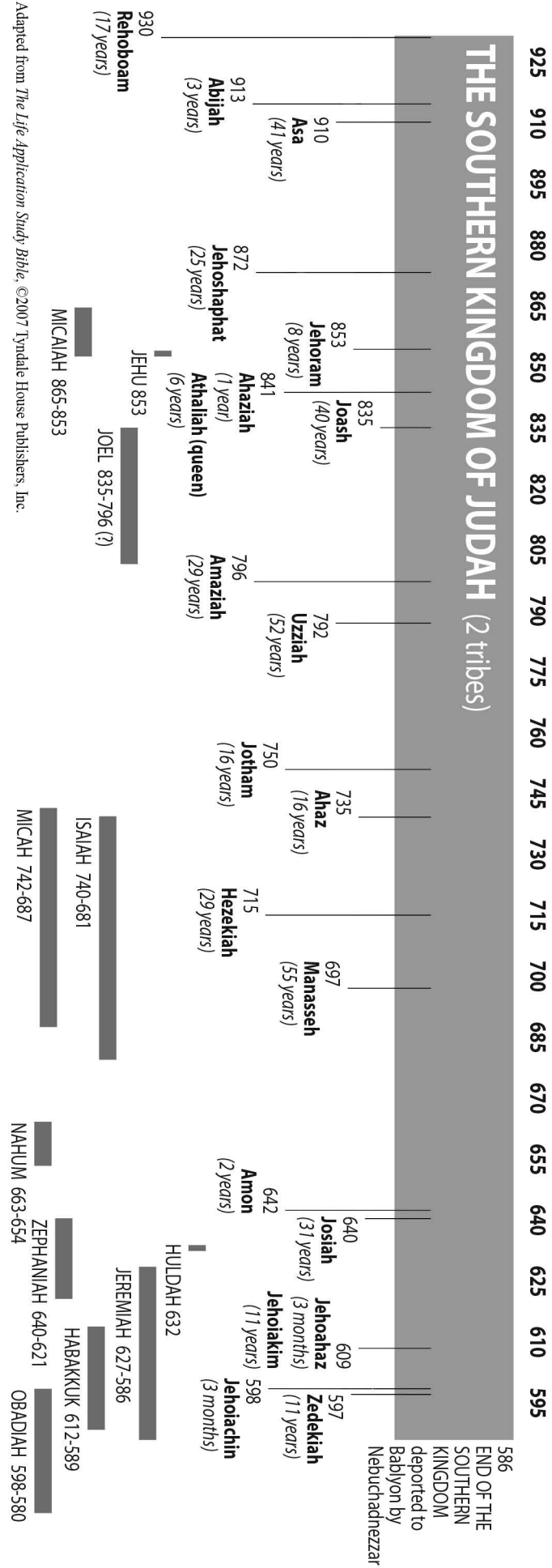
3:17-21

ISAIAH 35
 EZEKIEL 47
 ZEPHANIAH 14

Pre-Exilic Kings and Prophets in Israel and Judah



All dates are B.C. and approximate. Total years of reign sometimes include years of co-regence.



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