

The Prophet of Pentecost

Joel

PROPOSITION: "The day of the Lord" is a phrase that Joel used to provide the best understanding of his basic message.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Not much is known about Joel. He might have been the earliest of the literary prophets.
2. He was a pious, courageous, and godly preacher who followed a locust plague with a cry for repentance.
3. The purpose of his book was...
 - a. To warn of the need for humility and repentance,
 - b. To warn of the punishment coming upon the enemies of God, and
 - c. To speak of the ultimate victory and glory of God's cause.
4. The book of Joel may be outlined in three points:
 - a. The Plague of Locusts: A Sign of Judgment (1:1-2:11)
 - b. The Plea to the People: A Call to Repentance (2:12-17)
 - c. The Promise of the Future: A Vision of Blessing (2:18-3:21)

DISCUSSION: In Joel, "the day of the Lord" is...

I. A day of temporal judgment (1:15).

- A. The locust plague was a warning of "the day of the Lord" yet to come.
- B. For the people to understand what was going to happen, the prophet called attention to what had already happened (1:16-20).
- C. The warning includes a call to repentance and restoration (1:14-2:1).

II. A day leading to repentance (2:11).

- A. Joel says, "It is not too late."
- B. If the people will turn to the Lord in genuine repentance (hearts not garments), God will be merciful (2:12, 13).
- C. If man will repent, God will relent (2:14).

III. The day of Pentecost (2:28-32; cf. Acts 2:16-21).

- A. Peter's use of Joel 2:28-32 makes it clear that this "day of the Lord" was pointing to Pentecost.
- B. This was the day on which men could "call on the name of the Lord" and be saved (Acts 22:16).
- C. Joel was not the only one to foretell this day, though he may have been the first (cf. Psa. 118:19-26; Mal. 3:2-4:5).

IV. The day of promises (3:14).

- A. The end of the prophecy has a word picture of multitudes in "the valley of decision."
- B. Though the day is described in gloom, "the Lord is a refuge to his people" (3:16).
- C. Blessings of "that day" (3:18) are enumerated.
- D. In contrast to the plenty provided by the Lord is the picture of the utter desolation of the enemies of God and His people (3:19).

CONCLUSION:

1. Joel's major plea is for national repentance that required humility.
2. Joel also dealt with judgment by God in time and at the end of time.