

RUSSELL SANDERS
THE MINOR PROPHETS
BOOK 3 – JOEL

The Book of Joel gives one of the most informative looks into the future, especially with regards to the end times Day of the LORD.

The name Joel means Jehovah is his God. Joel was a contemporary with the Prophet Elisha and his ministry was in Judea.

Chapter one tells how the land will be wasted away by natural events sent by God due to their backslidden condition. This includes insects devastating all their harvests and severe droughts drying up the fields. Verses 14 and 15 call for a solemn assembly with fasting and crying out in repentance because ***“The Day of the LORD is at hand...as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.”*** (vs. 15.)

This Day of the LORD is described and begins with Joel 2:1-10. The alarm trumpet is sounded in Zion (Jerusalem) as a mighty army falls upon it. Verse 11 shows God’s response in bringing His army to fight for Zion. This speaks prophetically of the end times Battle of Armageddon. As the people of Zion weep and fast and render their hearts unto God, (vs. 12-13) He will bring them deliverance.

The initial response comes in verses 28-29 as God pours out His Spirit upon the people which was fulfilled at Pentecost in Acts chapter 2. The final response comes at The Day of the Lord when wonders are shown in the heavens above and the earth below with blood, fire, smoke, the sun turning dark and the moon to blood. (Verses 30-31.)

In chapter three, all nations are gathered against Israel, but in verse 16 it says, ***“The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice out of Jerusalem”*** to give strength (victory) to the children of Israel. His people shall then be established forever. (v. 20.)

The key for us today is that you must ***“rend your heart...unto the LORD (Joel 2:13).”*** At the end time, we will be established in His eternal kingdom.

We shall face hard and troubled times that will come, but it will be worth it all as we endure, knowing we will see the LORD.