

**Divided Kingdom Period:
The Prophets to Judah: The Day of the Lord *Joel 1:1-3:21***

Joel is considered by many Bible scholars to be the first of the writing prophets. The prophet himself does not identify his time by giving us the kings as many do. *The Reese Chronological Bible* dates him at 828. This would make him preach during the reign of Joash. (see **STEPS IN TIME III**)

Joel means, "*Jehovah is God.*" We know very little about the prophet personally. Only that he was the son of Pethuei. (*Joel 1:1*)

Joel, one of twelve Minor Prophets, introduces us to a theme of prophecy called, "*The Day of the Lord*" He make at least five specific references to it. (*Joel 1:15; 2:1-2; 2:10-1; 2:30-31; 3:14-16*) All four of the Major prophets; Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel made reference to this day. Joel stressed repentance also. Joel has also been called the "*Pentecost prophet*" because of his prophecy that was fulfilled at Pentecost. Compare *Joel 2:28-29* and *Acts 2:1-4; 14-21*

Allow me to simply outline Joel as follows for us.

I- The Plague of Locust. *Joel 1:1-14*

II- The Day of the Lord *Joel 1:15-3:21*

I- The Plague of Locust. *Joel 1:1-14*

The prophet used a local historical event to illustrate what the Day of the Lord will be like. The thing about this plague was it was more severe than any before. This gave Joel the backdrop to introduce the Day of the Lord, which would also be unlike any others before. Joel compared the locust to an invading army. *1:6-7*. The locust were very destructive of the crops. He tells the

drunkard, farmers and priest to lament and mourn the loss.

I remind us that Joel emphasized repentance. He tells the people to call a, "***Solemn assembly...and cry unto the Lord.***" *Joel 1:14*.

II- The Day of the Lord *Joel 1:15-3:21*

Joel moved very smoothly from the locust plague to the Day of the Lord. You are probably wondering just what this day is. With the chance of over simplifying it allow me to state it is the "*great tribulation.*"

Joel 2:1-11 gives a very graphic picture of this day to come. We can safely say this day is yet future. However, in the midst of this we see again the preaching of repentance. *Joel 2:12-15*.

Allow me to set in content here a very important thing. I remind us that the prophets preached the captivity and restoration of Israel. God indeed is going to restore Israel but it will not be because He decided to ignore her sin but because she repents. By bringing the repentance prophecy to the table Joel helps us better understand the restoration prophets.

2:18 there is a big word, "***Then.***" This is after repentance of *2:17*. We have already looked at the prophecy of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Joel 3 gives us an interesting prophecy also. He prophesied about the gathering of the nations in the valley of Jehoshaphat. God is calling them to this valley for judgment concerning how they treated Israel. They in fact will come against Israel and God will intervene.

Christ is going to again return to Jerusalem and bless the land. **3:18-21.**

Application to Life:

- 1- God is a God who knows the beginning from the end and has declared it. We can trust Him with our past, present as well as our future.
- 2- God will restore Israel but will never turn His head to ignore sin.
- 3- God is a God of redemption and restoration.
- 4- The Holy Spirit's coming was not an afterthought of God but was the way He

planned to empower and equip the church.

Review of Session:

- 1- What does the name Joel mean?

- 2- What time period is the "Day of the Lord?" _____

- 3- What did Joel emphasize for the restoration of Israel? _____

- 4- In what valley will God call the nation to judgment? _____

**Divided Kingdom Period:
The Prophets to Judah: Who Is Like God *Micah 1:1-7:20***

Micah means, "*Who is like Jehovah.*" You will recall that one of the reoccurring themes of the prophets Amos and Hosea concerning Israel, the Northern Kingdom, was captivity and restoration. Micah gave this same message to the Southern Kingdom, Judah. He also had a great deal to say to the Northern Kingdom before they are taken captive.

Micah was a contemporary of the prophets Isaiah, Amos and Hosea. He prophesied during the reigns of Jothan, Ahaz and Hezekiah. He was from a town some 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

The most noted words of Micah are the giving of the birth place of Messiah. We will attempt to understand the prophet Micah with the following outline.

- I- Certainty of Judgment. *Micah 1-3***
- II- Messiah in Micah. *Micah 4-5***

III- Indictment of Sin and Promise of Blessing. *Micah 6-7.*

I- Certainty of Judgment. *Micah 1-3*

Micah 1:2-7 gives the prediction of judgment. **2:9** says *her "wounds are incurable."* He knows the judgment is certain and calls for others to join in the mourning. **1:10-16.**

Micah 2 gives some of the specific sins. Note **2:1-2.** You will however notice the theme of redemption running through the book as well. **2:12-13.**

II- Messiah in Micah. *Micah 4-5*

Micah 4 and 5 teach us about the kingdom of the Messiah. **4:1-2** says that *"in the last days it shall come to pass..."* This will be the restoration of the kingdom because of the Davidic covenant.

4:3 says there will be peace as it speaks of the millennial reign of Messiah.

STEP 18

5:1 tells us there will be a "**smitten judge**" to come.

5:2 is beyond a doubt the most familiar verse of Micah. Micah tells us Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. Messiah will be the smitten judge.

5:4-6 also taught about the Second Advent of Christ.

III- Indictment of Sin and Promise of Blessing. Micah 6-7.

Micah 6 gives us the indictment of the sins of God's people. God calls it His, "**controversy.**" He reminded them of His deliverance from Egypt, **6:3-4. 6:8** gave the things that God required of them. "**to do justly...love mercy...walk humbly with thy God...**"

Micah 7:1-6 continues the exposure of their sins but **7:7-20** gives the attitude of the remnant of Israel. They kept faith and trusted the Lord that He would restore the nation according to His promises. The prophet ask the question that has no answer, "**Who is a God like unto thee.**" The reason there is no answer is because there is none like Him. **7:18-21** tells us what kind of God He is.

Application to Life:

- 1- God still requires the same of His children today, "**to do justly...love mercy...walk humbly with thy God...**" We should be about these tasks.
- 2- The coming of Messiah was to be in Bethlehem and it was so. We should be reassured of who this Christ child was.
- 3- Our God is a God of redemption and mercy.

Review of Session:

- 1- What does the name Micah mean?

- 2- Quote the verse that tells where Messiah would be born. Micah__:_
"

_____"
- 3- What does the Lord require of us?

- 4- Who is like God? _____

Why? _____

