



Joel

**Old
Testament**

β 29th book of the Bible (out of 66)

β 0.23% of the verses in the Bible

β Written by Joel

Bad things are about to happen in the country. A massive swarm of locusts and a severe drought will devastate the land. What should we do? God gives a ready answer through Joel: repent. This is a call for everyone - the old and the young, the respectable and those that aren't! It's a universal command to all of God's people at that time. The Israelites had regularly heard God giving judgement on their neighbouring countries. They weren't following God, but instead worshipped false gods, so of course God would talk of punishment. However, this judgement is now aimed at God's people. *They* were now complacent in their faith and were self-centred. Restoration and blessing would come only after judgement and repentance.

Facts: Joel was a prophet to the Southern Kingdom of Judah, but we know nothing else about him. 'The Day of the LORD' is a phrase he uses a few times. A promise is given, that in the latter days the Spirit will be poured out on all people. This is quoted in Acts 2.

God's people needed to turn back to Him and turn away from their sins. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos and Zephaniah all spoke in a similar vein.

God didn't want the people of Judah to only respond outwardly, by tearing their clothes or putting ashes on their head. He desired that they changed their heart. Can you hear God speaking similar words to you? Stocktake your life. Don't be complacent with your attitudes and actions. Turn to God wholeheartedly today.

Aim to read the whole book over the next two weeks.