

Book of Joel ~ Discussion Questions

1. Who did Joel say this prophecy was for? (1:3) Does that also include us today?
2. Joel does not give a reason for the plague of locusts as other prophets do. Why do you think God may have brought about this plague? Punishment or warning?
3. Joel issues a call to mourn to all the people, farmers, and priests. In addition to mourning, what did he say that the people should do? (1:13-14)
4. Joel says the plague of locusts will be as nothing compared to the coming of the Lord's army described in Chapter 2. What does the Lord ask us to do before this occurs? (2:12-16) Often, prophets say to tear your clothes and put on sackcloth; instead, what does Joel say to do in 2:13?
5. Joel uses the phrase "return to the Lord" many times. Do you think this applies to only those people who believed in the Lord when they were younger and turned away later on or does it also apply to believers? Some people think the phrase "return to the Lord" describes a continuous process of repenting to the Lord for your sins and asking his forgiveness. What do you think?
6. What does the "Day of the Lord" refer to? (Joel 1:15, 2:1, 2:11, 2:31, 3:14, Isaiah 13:6, 13:9, Ezekiel 30:3, Amos 5:18-20, Zephaniah 1:7-9, Zechariah 14:1, Malachi 4:5-6, Acts 2:20, 2 Peter 3:10)
7. Could the "Day of the Lord" also refer to Christ's second coming or day of final judgement? (1 Corinthians 5:4-5, 1 Thess 5:1-3, Revelation 6:15-18, 16:13-14)
8. Should believers in Christ fear the Day of the Lord? What is the promise to believers for that day? (Joel 2:32, 3:16, Isaiah 2:17-18, Romans 11:25-26)
9. In Chapters 1 and 2, Joel tells the Jews to return to the Lord. But in Chap 3:1-16 about the enemies of Israel, he only talks about their judgement and punishment by the Lord and does not tell them to repent or return to the Lord. What do you think about that? Don't you think the people of these nations should be given a chance to repent?

Doesn't this idea of total destruction contradict the discussion between Abraham and God about God's decision to destroy Sodom? (Genesis 18:16-33). What did God finally do? (Genesis 19:24-25)

Since Joel Chapter 3 was a prophecy for the future, do you think there are nations today that God would not allow to repent, that he would simply judge and totally destroy? What nations do you think they might be?