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The Chapters of Joel

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Joel

SECTION OUTLINE ONE (JOEL 1-3)

Joel writes about current and future conditions in Israel.

I. CURRENT CONDITIONS (1:1-20): The worst locust plague in Judah's history has settled upon the land.

A. The devastation (1:1-12, 15-18)

1. The severity (1:1-4, 6-7, 15): The crops are consumed by a fourfold attack:
 - a. The cutting locusts (1:1-4a, 15)
 - b. The swarming locusts (1:4b)
 - c. The hopping locusts (1:4c)
 - d. The stripping locusts (1:4d, 6-7)
2. The sorrow (1:5, 8-12, 16-18): Hungry cries of anguish are heard everywhere.

B. The proclamation (1:13-14)

1. Dress in sackcloth (1:13a).
2. Declare a fast (1:13b-14a).
3. Gather in the Temple (1:14b).

C. The supplication (1:19-20): Both people and animals cry out for divine intervention.

II. COMING CONDITIONS (2:1-3:21): There will be three future "days."

A. The day of Pentecost (2:28-32; see also Acts 2:14-18; Rev. 6:12-14)

1. The contents (2:28-32)
 - a. God's Spirit will be poured out upon Israel (2:28-29).
 - b. Great signs will occur in the heavens (2:30-31).
 - c. Salvation will be offered to all (2:32).
2. The chronology (see Acts 2:14-18; Rev. 6:12-14)
 - a. Present fulfillment (see Acts 2:14-18)
 - b. Future fulfillment (see Rev. 6:12-14)

B. The day of the Lord---a title for the coming Great Tribulation (2:1-21; 3:1-16): Using the locust plague as an object lesson, Joel describes a future invasion where enemy soldiers (not insects) will ravage the land.

1. The alarm (2:1, 15)
2. The admonition (2:12-14, 16-17): God calls for Israel's repentance.
3. The assurance (2:18-21): God promises deliverance following this repentance.
4. The attack (2:2-11): A fierce and seemingly unstoppable foreign army will invade Israel, marching in precise fashion, causing great fear.
5. The anger (3:3-8): God is furious concerning Israel's past and future mistreatment by the pagan Gentiles.
6. The announcement (3:9-11): These pagan Gentiles are warned to prepare for the worst, for God himself will soon battle against them.
7. The assembling (3:1-2, 12): God plans to drive his enemies into the valley of Jehoshaphat (called the Kidron Valley in the New Testament) so he can kill them.
8. The annihilation (3:13-16): The enemies will be crushed like overripe grapes.

C. The day of Christ---a title for the Millennium (2:22-27; 3:17-21)

1. Body blessings---the provision of food (2:22-26; 3:18-19)
2. Soul blessings---the presence of God (2:27; 3:17, 20-21)