The Chapters of Joel

Harold Willmington

Liberty University, hwillmington@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/outline_chapters_bible

Part of the Biblical Studies Commons, Christianity Commons, and the Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons

Recommended Citation


This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the A Guide to the Systematic Study of the Bible at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in An Alliterated Outline for the Chapters of the Bible by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.
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).
   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)