

~JOEL, BOOK OF (616)

.. Time Of Writing

.. Authenticity

.. Highlights Of Joel

- **An inspired book of the Hebrew Scriptures written by, Joel the son of Pethuel.**
- **The word of Yehowah that occurred to Joel the son of Pethuel (Joel 1:1)**
- **Virtually nothing is known about this prophet's life. From his references to Judah, Jerusalem, and Yehowah's house there, it may be inferred that he prophesied in Judah and perhaps resided in Jerusalem.**
- **Grain offering and drink offering have been cut off from the house of Yehowah, the priests, the ministers of Yehowah, have mourned. (Joel 1:9)**
- **Sanctify a time of fasting. Call together a solemn assembly. Gather together the older men, all the inhabitants of the land, to the house of Yehowah your God, and cry to Yehowah for aid. (Joel 1:14)**
- **Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of Yehowah, weep and say; Do feel sorry, O Yehowah, for your people, and do not make your inheritance a reproach, for nations to rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples; Where is their God? (Joel 2:17)**
- **And it must occur that everyone who calls on the name of Yehowah will get away safe, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will prove to be the escaped ones, just as Yehowah has said; and in among the survivors, whom Yehowah is calling. (Joel 2:32)**
- **For, look! In those days and in that time, when I shall bring back the captive ones of Judah and Jerusalem. (Joel 3:1)**
- **I will also collect together all the nations and bring them down to the low plain of Jehoshaphat, and I will put myself on judgment with them there on account of my people and my inheritance**

Israel, whom they scattered among the nations, and they apportioned out my own land. (Joel 3:2)

- **And out of Zion Yehowah himself will roar, and out of Jerusalem he will give forth his voice. And heaven and earth certainly will rock, but Yehowah will be a refuge for his people, and a fortress for the sons of Israel.**
- **For, look! In those days and in that time, when I shall bring back the captive ones of Judah and Jerusalem. (Joel 3:1)**
- **And you people will have to know that I am Yehowah your God, residing in Zion my holy mountain. And Jerusalem must become a holy place, and as regards strangers, they will no more pass through her. (Joel 3:17)**
- **And it must occur in that day that the mountains will drip with sweet wine, and the very hills will flow with milk, and the very streambeds of Judah will all flow with water. And out of the house of Yehowah there will go forth a spring, and it must irrigate the torrent valley of the Acacia Trees. (Joel 3:18)**
- **As regards Egypt, a desolate waste it will become, and as regards Edom, a wilderness of desolate waste it will become, because of the violence to the sons of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood. (Joel 3:19)**
- **But as for Judah, to time indefinite it will be inhabited, and Jerusalem to generation after generation. (Joel 3:20)**
- **The fact that he mentioned, the low plain of Jehoshaphat.**
- **I will also collect together all the nations and bring them down to the low plain of Jehoshaphat, and I will put myself on judgment with them there on account of my people and my inheritance Israel, whom they scattered among the nations, and they apportioned out my own land. (Joel 3:2)**
- **Let the nations be aroused and come up to the low plain of Jehoshaphat, for there I shall sit in order to judge all the nations round about. (Joel 3:12)**

- Implies that he wrote his book after Yehowah's great victory on behalf of King Jehoshaphat. But the exact period involved is in question.

.. Time Of Writing

- Scholars variously assign the book of **Joel** dates from before **800 B.C.E.** to about **400 B.C.E.** Regarding their arguments in favor of a late or an early composition for the book, The **International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia** [edited by James Orr, 1960, Vol. III, p. 1690] observes:
 - Many of the arguments adduced are of a negative kind, i.e. consideration of what the prophet does **not** mention or refer to, including the Chaldeans, the Assyrians, a Judean king, and the ten-tribe kingdom, and the argument from silence is notoriously precarious.
 - Similarly, whether **Joel** quoted other prophets or was quoted by them cannot be established with certainty. A date after the Babylonian exile would be indicated if;
 - And it must occur that everyone who calls on the name of Yehowah will get away safe, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will prove to be the escaped ones, just as Yehowah has said, and in among the survivors, whom Yehowah is calling. (**Joel 2:32**)
 - Quoted
 - And in Mount Zion is where those escaping will prove to be, and it must become something holy, and the house of Jacob must take possession of the things for them to possess. (**Obadiah 1:17**)
 - On the other hand, not only Obadiah but even the much earlier prophet Amos.
 - And out of Zion Yehowah himself will roar, and out of Jerusalem he will give forth his voice. And heaven and earth certainly will rock, but Yehowah will be a refuge for his people, and a fortress for the sons of Israel. (**Joel 3:16**)
 - And he proceeded to say; Yehowah, out of Zion he will roar, and out of Jerusalem he will give forth his voice, and the pasture

grounds of the shepherds must go to mourning, and the summit of Carmel must dry up. (**Amos 1:2**)

- May have quoted from **Joel**. This would mean that **Joel** wrote his book no later than the time of Uzziah.
- The words of Amos, who happened to be among the sheep raisers from Tekoa, which he visioned concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah the king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, the king of Israel, two years before the earthquake. (**Amos 1:1**)
- Perhaps about **820 B.C.E.** Though not conclusive, the place occupied by the book of Joel in the **Hebrew** canon between Hosea and Amos seems to favor the earlier period.

•• **Authenticity**

- The Jews did not question the canonicity of the book of Joel but placed it second among the minor prophets. It also harmonizes completely with the rest of the Scriptures, as is evident from the numerous parallels between **Joel** and other Bible books.
- It is a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick gloom, like light of dawn spread out upon the mountains. There is a people numerous and mighty, one like it has not been made to exist from the indefinite past, and after it there will be none again to the years of generation after generation. (**Joel 2:2**)
- The great day of Yehowah is near. It is near, and there is a hurrying of it very much. The sound of the day of Yehowah is bitter. There a mighty man is letting out a cry. (**Zephaniah 1:14**)
- That day is a day of fury, a day of distress and of anguish, a day of storm and of desolation, a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick gloom. (**Zephaniah 1:15**)
- Its appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like steeds is the way they keep running. (**Joel 2:4**)
- As with the sound of chariots on the tops of the mountains they keep skipping about, as with the sound of a flaming fire that is devouring stubble. It is like a mighty people, drawn up in battle order. (**Joel 2:5**)

- Before it the land has become agitated, the heavens have rocked. Sun and moon themselves have become dark, and the very stars have withdrawn their brightness. ([Joel 2:10](#))
- And he opened the pit of the abyss, and smoke ascended out of the pit as the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun was darkened, also the air, by the smoke of the pit. ([Revelation 9:2](#))
- And the likenesses of the locusts resembled horses prepared for battle, and upon their heads were what seemed to be crowns like gold, and their faces were as means faces. ([Revelation 9:7](#))
- But they had hair as women's hair. And their teeth were as those of lions. ([Revelation 9:8](#))
- And they had breastplates like iron breastplates. And the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running into battle. ([Revelation 9:9](#))
- And Yehowah himself will certainly give forth his voice before his military force, for his camp is very numerous. For he who is carrying out his word is mighty, for the day of Yehowah is great and very fear-inspiring, and who can hold up under it? ([Joel 2:11](#))
- Look! I am sending to you people Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and fear-inspiring day of Yehowah. ([Malachi 4:5](#))
- Look! I am sending to you people Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and fear-inspiring day of Yehowah. ([Malachi 4:5](#))
- If you would return, O Israel, is the utterance of Yehowah, you may return even to me. And if you will take away your disgusting things on my account, then you will not go as a fugitive. ([Jeremiah 4:1](#))
- If you would return, O Israel, is the utterance of Yehowah; you may return even to me. And if you will take away your disgusting things on my account, then you will not go as a fugitive. ([Jeremiah 4:1](#))

- **And Yehowah went passing by before his face and declaring; Yehowah, Yehowah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness and truth. ([Exodus 34:6](#))**
- **Yehowah, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, pardoning error and transgression, but by no means will he give exemption from punishment, bringing punishment for the error of the fathers upon sons, upon the third generation and upon the fourth generation. ([Numbers 14:18](#))**
- **But you, O Yehowah, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness and trueness. ([Psalms 86:15](#))**
- **And he would remember concerning them his covenant, and he would feel regret according to the abundance of his grand loving-kindness. ([Psalms 106:45](#))**
- **The sun itself will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and fear-inspiring day of Yehowah. ([Joel 2:31](#))**
- **Look! The day of Yehowah itself is coming, cruel both with fury and with burning anger, in order to make the land an object of astonishment, and that it may annihilate the lands sinners out of it. ([Isaiah 13:9](#))**
- **For the very stars of the heavens and their constellations of Kesil will not flash forth their light, the sun will actually grow dark at its going forth, and the moon itself will not cause its light to shine. ([Isaiah 13:10](#))**
- **Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ([Matthew 24:29](#))**
- **And then the sign of the Son of man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will beat themselves in lamentation, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ([Matthew 24:30](#))**
- **And I saw when he opened the sixth seal, and a great earthquake occurred, and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the**

entire moon became as blood. (**Revelation 6:12**)

- And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as when a fig tree shaken by a high wind casts its unripe figs. (**Revelation 6:13**)
- And the heaven departed as a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and every island were removed from their places. (**Revelation 6:14**)
- And the kings of the earth and the top-ranking ones and the military commanders and the rich and the strong ones and every slave and every free person hid themselves in the caves and in the rock-masses of the mountains. (**Revelation 6:15**)
- And they keep saying to the mountains and to the rock-masses; Fall over us and hide us from the face of the One seated on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. (**Revelation 6:16**)
- Because the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand? (**Revelation 6:17**)
- The fulfillment of **Joel's** prophecies furnishes yet another argument for its authenticity. As foretold, Tyre, Philistia, and Edom experienced Yehowah's judgments.
- And, also, what do you have to do with me, O Tyre and Sidon and all you regions of Philistia? Is it the treatment that you are giving me as a reward? And if you are giving such treatment to me, swiftly, speedily I shall pay back your treatment upon your heads. (**Joel 3:4**)
- As regards Egypt, a desolate waste it will become, and as regards Edom, a wilderness of desolate waste it will become, because of the violence to the sons of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood. (**Joel 3:19**)
- On the day of Pentecost in the year **33 C.E.**, the apostle Peter showed that the outpouring of God's spirit upon the disciples of Jesus Christ was a fulfillment of **Joel's** prophecy.
- And after that it must occur that I shall pour out my spirit on every sort of flesh, and your sons and your daughters will certainly prophesy. As for your old men, dreams they will dream. As for your young men, visions they will see. (**Joel 2:28**)

- **And even on the menservants and on the maidservants in those days I shall pour out my spirit. (Joel 2:29)**
- **And I will give portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. (Joel 2:30)**
- **The sun itself will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and fear-inspiring day of Yehowah. (Joel 2:31)**
- **And it must occur that everyone who calls on the name of Yehowah will get away safe, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will prove to be the escaped ones, just as Yehowah has said; and in among the survivors, whom Yehowah is calling. (Joel 2:32)**
- **And in the last days, God says, I shall pour out some of my spirit upon every sort of flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy and your young men will see visions and your old men will dream dreams. (Acts of Apostles 2:17)**
- **And even upon my men slaves and upon my women slaves I will pour out some of my spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. (Acts of Apostles 2:18)**
- **And I will give portents in heaven above and signs on earth below, blood and fire and smoke mist. (Acts of Apostles 2:19)**
- **The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and illustrious day of Yehowah arrives. (Acts of Apostles 2:20)**
- **And everyone who calls on the name of Yehowah will be saved. (Acts of Apostles 2:21)**
- **Later, the apostle Paul applied the prophetic words found at;**
- **And it must occur that everyone who calls on the name of Yehowah will get away safe, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will prove to be the escaped ones, just as Yehowah has said; And in among the survivors, whom Yehowah is calling. (Joel 2:32)**

- **To both Jews and non-Jews who call upon Yehowah in faith.**
- **For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for there is the same Lord over all, who is rich to all those calling upon him. (Romans 10:12)**
- **For, everyone who calls on the name of Yehowah will be saved. (Romans 10:13)**

See Also EDOM, EDOMITES

See Also PHILISTIA, PHILISTINES

See Also TYRE

.. Highlights Of Joel

- **A vivid prophecy emphasizing Yehowah's vengeance and his mercy**
- **Written possibly about 820 B.C.E, nine years after Uzziah became king and about a century after Yehowah's great victory over Moab, Ammon, and the inhabitants of Seir in the days of Jehoshaphat**
- **Locust invasion to strip the land, the day of Yehowah is near.**
- **The word of Yehowah that occurred to Joel the son of Pethuel. (Joel 1:1)**
- **The coming plague will be talked about for generations.**
- **The vegetation of the land will be stripped so that grain and drink offerings will cease at Yehowah's house.**
- **Priests are told to mourn and cry to Yehowah for help.**
- **Yehowah's day is marked by a destructive invasion of his military force.**
- **Israel invited to return to Yehowah, His spirit to be poured out.**
- **And now also, the utterance of Yehowah is, come back to me with all your hearts, and with fasting and with weeping and with wailing. (Joel 2:12)**

- **And rip apart your hearts, and not your garments, and come back to Yehowah your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness, and he will certainly feel regret on account of the calamity. (Joel 2:13)**
- **Who is there knowing whether he will turn back and actually feel regret and let remain after it a blessing, a grain offering and a drink offering for Yehowah your God? (Joel 2:14)**
- **Blow a horn in Zion, O men. Sanctify a time of fasting. Call together a solemn assembly. (Joel 2:15)**
- **Gather the people together. Sanctify a congregation. Collect the old men together. Gather children and those sucking the breasts together. Let the bridegroom go forth from his interior room, and the bride from her nuptial chamber. (Joel 2:16)**
- **Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of Yehowah, weep and say; Do feel sorry, O Yehowah, for your people, and do not make your inheritance a reproach, for nations to rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples; Where is their God? (Joel 2:17)**
- **And Yehowah will be zealous for his land and will show compassion upon his people. (Joel 2:18)**
- **And Yehowah will answer and say to his people, Here I am sending to you the grain and the new wine and the oil, and you people will certainly be satisfied with it, and I shall not make you anymore a reproach among the nations. (Joel 2:19)**
- **And the northerner I shall put far away from upon you, and I shall actually disperse him to a waterless land and desolated waste, with his face to the eastern sea and his rear section to the western sea. And the stink from him will certainly ascend, and the stench from him will keep ascending, for He will actually do a great thing in what He does. (Joel 2:20)**
- **Do not be fearful, O ground. Be joyful and rejoice, for Yehowah will actually do a great thing in what He does. (Joel 2:21)**
- **Do not be fearful, you beasts of the open field, for the pasture grounds of the wilderness will certainly grow green. For the tree will actually give its fruitage. The fig tree and the vine must give**

their vital energy. (Joel 2:22)

- And, you sons of Zion, be joyful and rejoice in Yehowah your God, for he will be bound to give you the autumn rain in right measure, and he will bring down upon you people a downpour, autumn rain and spring rain, as at the first. (Joel 2:23)
- And the threshing floors must be full of cleansed grain, and the press vats must overflow with new wine and oil. (Joel 2:24)
- And I will make compensation to you for the years that the locust, the creeping, unwinged locust, and the cockroach and the caterpillar have eaten, my great military force that I have sent among you. (Joel 2:25)
- And you will certainly eat, eating and becoming satisfied, and you will be bound to praise the name of Yehowah your God, who has done with you so wonderfully, and my people will not be ashamed to time indefinite. (Joel 2:26)
- And you people will have to know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am Yehowah your God and there is no other. And my people will not be ashamed to time indefinite. (Joel 2:27)
- And after that it must occur that I shall pour out my spirit on every sort of flesh, and your sons and your daughters will certainly prophesy. As for your old men, dreams they will dream. As for your young men, visions they will see. (Joel 2:28)
- And even on the menservants and on the maidservants in those days I shall pour out my spirit. (Joel 2:29)
- And I will give portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. (Joel 2:30)
- The sun itself will be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and fear-inspiring day of Yehowah. (Joel 2:31)
- And it must occur that everyone who calls on the name of Yehowah will get away safe, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will prove to be the escaped ones, just as Yehowah has said, and in among the survivors, whom Yehowah is calling. (Joel 2:32)

- **The inhabitants of Zion are invited to come back to Yehowah, he will restore their prosperity and protect them from the northerner.**
- **Yehowah will pour out his spirit on his people, and he will give portents in the heavens and on earth before his great and fear-inspiring day.**
- **Those calling on Yehowah's name will escape during his great day**
- **The nations will be judged in the low plain of Jehoshaphat.**
- **For, look! In those days and in that time, when I shall bring back the captive ones of Judah and Jerusalem. (Joel 3:1)**
- **I will also collect together all the nations and bring them down to the low plain of Jehoshaphat, and I will put myself on judgment with them there on account of my people and my inheritance Israel, whom they scattered among the nations, and they apportioned out my own land. (Joel 3:2)**
- **And for my people they kept casting lots, and they would give the male child for a prostitute, and the female child they sold for wine, that they might drink. (Joel 3:3)**
- **And, also, what do you have to do with me, O Tyre and Sidon and all you regions of Philistia? Is it the treatment that you are giving me as a reward? And if you are giving such treatment to me, swiftly, speedily I shall pay back your treatment upon your heads. (Joel 3:4)**
- **Because you men have taken my own silver and my own gold, and you have brought my own desirable good things into your temples. (Joel 3:5)**
- **And the sons of Judah and the sons of Jerusalem you have sold to the sons of the Greeks, for the purpose of removing them far from their own territory. (Joel 3:6)**
- **Here I am arousing them to come from the place where you have sold them, and I will pay back your treatment upon your own heads. (Joel 3:7)**

- **And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the sons of Judah, and they must sell them to the men of Sheba, to a nation far away, for Yehowah himself has spoken it. (Joel 3:8)**
- **Proclaim this, you people, among the nations, Sanctify war! Arouse the powerful men! Let them draw near! Let them come up, all the men of war! (Joel 3:9)**
- **Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning shears into lances. As for the weak one, let him say; I am a powerful man. (Joel 3:10)**
- **Lend your aid and come, all you nations round about, and collect yourselves together. To that place, O Yehowah, bring your powerful ones down. (Joel 3:11)**
- **Let the nations be aroused and come up to the low plain of Jehoshaphat, for there I shall sit in order to judge all the nations round about. (Joel 3:12)**
- **Thrust in a sickle, for harvest has grown ripe. Come, descend, for the winepress has become full. The press vats actually overflow, for their badness has become abundant. (Joel 3:13)**
- **Crowds, crowds are in the low plain of the decision, for the day of Yehowah is near in the low plain of the decision. (Joel 3:14)**
- **Sun and moon themselves will certainly become dark, and the very stars will actually withdraw their brightness. (Joel 3:15)**
- **And out of Zion Yehowah himself will roar, and out of Jerusalem he will give forth his voice. And heaven and earth certainly will rock, but Yehowah will be a refuge for his people, and a fortress for the sons of Israel. (Joel 3:16)**
- **And you people will have to know that I am Yehowah your God, residing in Zion my holy mountain. And Jerusalem must become a holy place, and as regards strangers, they will no more pass through her. (Joel 3:17)**
- **And it must occur in that day that the mountains will drip with sweet wine, and the very hills will flow with milk, and the very streambeds of Judah will all flow with water. And out of the house of Yehowah there will go forth a spring, and it must**

irrigate the torrent valley of the Acacia Trees. (Joel 3:18)

- **As regards Egypt, a desolate waste it will become, and as regards Edom, a wilderness of desolate waste it will become, because of the violence to the sons of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood. (Joel 3:19)**
- **But as for Judah, to time indefinite it will be inhabited, and Jerusalem to generation after generation. (Joel 3:20)**
- **And I will consider innocent their blood that I had not considered innocent, and Yehowah will be residing in Zion. (Joel 3:21)**
- **The nations will be judged for mistreating God's people.**
- **They are challenged to prepare themselves for war against Yehowah and to come down to the low plain of Jehoshaphat, there they will be crushed like grapes in a winepress.**
- **At that time Yehowah will be a refuge for his people.**
- **Egypt and Edom will become a wilderness, whereas Judah will be inhabited and produce abundantly, Yehowah will reside in Zion.**