

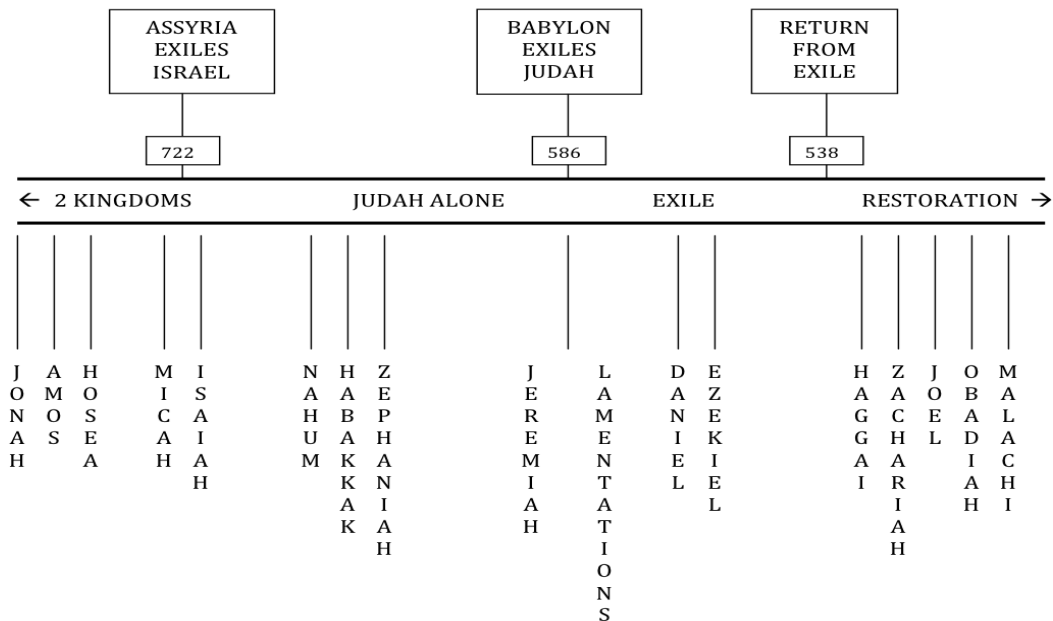
LESSON THREE

Joel 835-796 B.C

Introduction

- Joel means “**Yahweh** is God.”
- The book of Joel dates from 835 B.C.

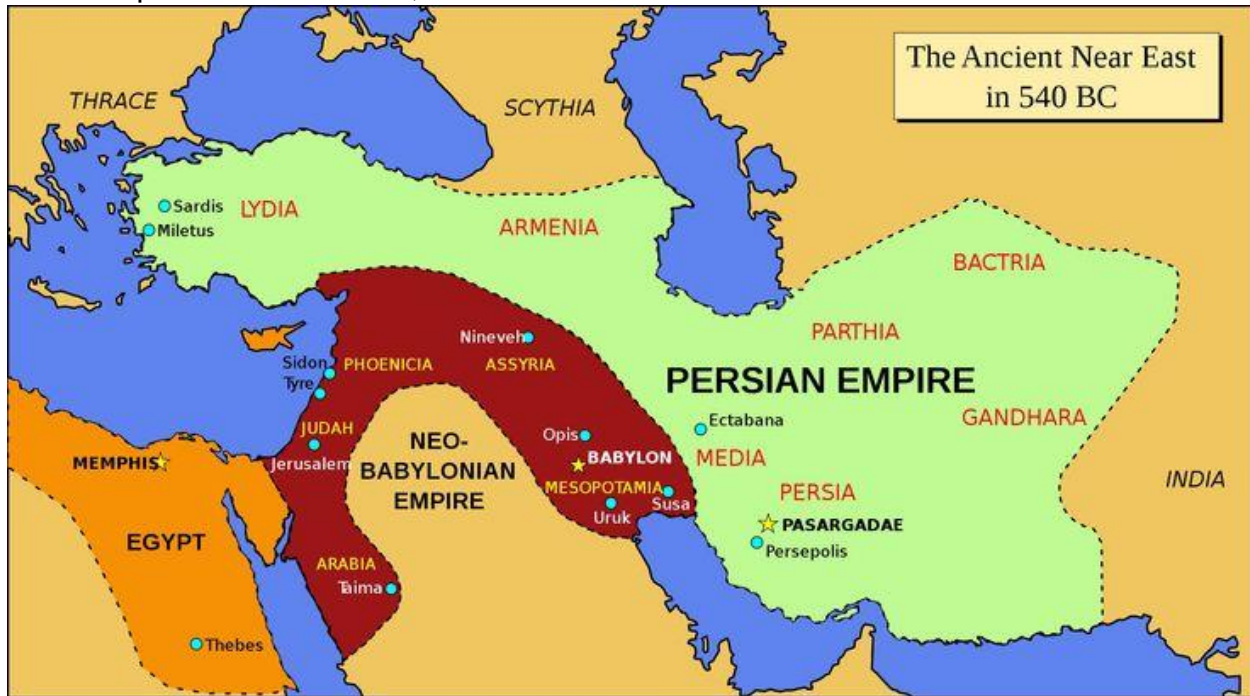
PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



	TO ISRAEL	TO JUDAH	TO FOREIGN NATION
ASSYRIAN AGE	Amos (760) Hosea (760-730)	Isaiah (740-700) Micah (737-690)	Jonah (770)
BABYLONIAN AGE		Habakkuk (630) Zephaniah (627) Jeremiah (627-580) Lamentations (585) Daniel (605-530) Ezekiel (593-570)	Nahum (650)
PERSIAN AGE		Haggai (520) Zachariah (520-518) Joel (500) Malachi (433)	Obadiah (500)

<http://transformed12.wordpress.com/2012/07/18/gospel-doctrine-prophets-of-the-old-testament-timeline-chart/>

- “Joel” wrote many years before Israel’s captivity in 722 B.C. and before Judah’s captivities in 605 B.C.; 597 B.C. and 586 B.C.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/414612709424851375/>

- Judah had experienced a severe **drought** and an infestation of **locusts**.
- Joel saw this invasion as a punishment for the sins of Judah.
- This locust invasion depicted judgments yet to come.
- The **Day of the Lord** constitutes a major theme of Joel’s book.
- Three time periods characterize the Day of the Lord:
 - Judgments that occurred during author’s writing
 - Events that had near or far future implications
 - Events with primarily **eschatological** implications (end times)

Chapter 1

- Joel 1:1-4 describes the locust infestation.
- Joel called for Israel to wail like one girded with sackcloth.
 - This act demonstrated the extreme need for **repentance** (vs. 8).
- Joel called the nation to repent (vs. 13-14).
- 1:15 declares the soon coming for the Day of the Lord.
 - This reference concerning the Day of the Lord exemplifies an account taking place during the prophet’s lifetime.
- 1:18-20 states how even the **animals** experienced hardship.
- Note the difference between these verses and Isaiah 65:25.

Chapter 2

- The locusts in chapter 2:1-2 represented the Day of the Lord as a contemporary event as well as an eschatological event.
 - Compare these verses with Revelation 9:1-12.



<https://weather.com/news/news/2020-02-19-locust-swarms-africa-sudan-weather-climate-change>



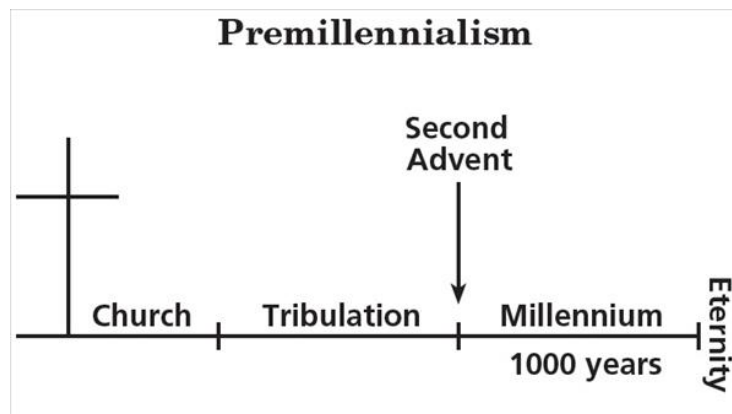
<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2020/04/second-wave-of-locusts-in-east-africa-said-to-be-20-times-worse/>

- Compare 2:4-5 with Revelation 9:7-9.
- The armies against the Lord will quake and run in **fear** during the eschatological Day of the Lord (2:10; Revelation 6:12-13).
- When the Lord comes for the second time, all will fear and tremble (2:11; Revelation 19:11-16).
- During the Tribulation, Jesus will save those who **repent** and turn to Him.
- Israel rejected Joel's warning (2:13).
- God will bring peace to Israel during the Millennium (2:18-20; Isaiah 65:19).
- Joel 2:25-27 speaks of the Millennial period.
- Joel 2:28 refers to the time after Christ's second coming.
 - Peter used this verse in Acts 2:16-17 on the **Day of Pentecost**.
- Joel 2:30-32 references Revelation 6:12 and 9:12.

- Some will survive during the tribulation (2:32).
- Christ references this event in Mark 13:13.

Chapter 3

- Christ will bring judgment upon those who **mistreat** Israel (3:1-3).
 - Christ referenced this in Matthew 25:31-46.
- Joel gives a description of **Armageddon** in 3:9-11(a).
 - Compare verse 10 to Micah 4:3.
 - Joel 3:11(b)-12 tells of God's army accompanying Christ at His second coming (Revelation 19:14).
 - Joel 3:12 speaks concerning the judgment of the Gentiles (Matthew 25:31-33).
 - Joel 3:18-21 reiterates the millennial kingdom.



<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-is-premillennialism.html>

Conclusion

- Christ's word always remains true.
- Even though the people of Israel did not understand or believe the meaning of Joel's words, it did not invalidate God's promise of destruction and restoration.
- When confusion surrounds our circumstances, we must trust that God has everything in His hands.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson Three

1. Joel wrote many years before Israel's captivity in 722 B.C. and before Judah's captivity in 586 B.C.
 - A. Explain Joel's primary message to Judah? Did the attitude of the Israelites or the Judeans change by the time of their captivity? Explain.
 - B. Why is it difficult for people to change bad habits? Explain or give examples.
 - C. Read Psalm 119:33-34 How can these verses apply to wrongful behavior?

2. Judah experienced a severe drought and an infestation of locusts.
 - A. Did the Judeans learn their lesson from these punishments? Explain why or why not.
 - B. Why did God allow the animals to experience these hardships?
 - C. Explain how sin can harm innocent people?
 - D. Why do people often blame God when evil happens?

3. God uses the phrase the "Day of the Lord" when characterizing an immediate punishment, a far-off punishment, or an eschatological (end of time) punishment.
 - A. What time frame did God use the "Day of the Lord" in Joel's writing?
 - B. Might we experience the "Day of the Lord" in modern times?
 - C. How should Christians behave when evil appears so prevalent?