

# JOEL - A STUDY GUIDE

## THE CENTRAL QUESTION:

### What does this book/story say to us about God?

This question may be broken down further as follows:

- a. Why did God do it/allow it?
- b. Why did He record it for our study?

1. If Joel were missing from the Bible would it affect your picture of God in any way? What is the main message of Joel? (See Joel 1:4,15; 2:1,2,10,11,13,17,27,28,31; 3:1-2,12,14,17) When do you think Joel prophesied? To whom?
2. What is the meaning of "the day of the Lord?" (Joel 1:15; 2:1,2) What events are connected with the "great and terrible day of the Lord?" (Joel 2:11,31) Is the day of the Lord the day of His triumphant return? The day of His judgment? A time when everyone will recognize God as the Lord? How long a time is included in "the **day** of the Lord?" (Compare 2 Peter 3:8) Could an individual or a particular nation have their own "day of the Lord" or is there just one final "day of the Lord?" Will the final day of the Lord be a day of terror for everybody or just for the wicked? (Isaiah 25:9)
3. How will you feel when you come face-to-face with Someone who has enormous power, and also knows every tiny detail of your life? Is it possible that He could ever lose control of some of that power so that it would strike you and destroy you? Could you ever be at peace with such a God? Is there any reason to be afraid that God might abuse His infinite power? Or abuse His infinite knowledge of us? Is there any way to settle this problem from the Bible? Is it more convincing to look at a statement (a claim) or to look at lots of examples of how God treats his erring children (sinners)? Why do you think angels veil their faces in His presence (See Isaiah 6:1-3)?
4. In the scriptures what usually happens when someone suddenly gets a revelation of God? What does God immediately do and say? Ezekiel 1:28-2:6; Daniel 8:17,18; **10:4-12**; Compare Exodus 20:20; Deuteronomy 9:7-21; Hebrews 12:21; John 15:15. What does this suggest about the kind of relationship He wants to have with us? Could God ever actually be our Friend?
5. When you get to heaven, Whom do you want to meet first? The Father or the Son? Why? If Jesus asked you to go in and appear before the Father, would you say, "If You'll go with me?" If you then found out that the Father is just as friendly as the Son, would you dare to turn to the Son and say, "You mean, really, You were telling us the truth about the Father?" (John 14:9)
6. "The day of the Lord" is always described as very near. (1 John 2:18; Compare Joel 1:15; 2:1,2; 3:14; contrast 2 Thessalonians 2:1-6; Revelation 7:1-3) Do you feel that God has been misleading us by these statements? What does "near" mean to you? To God? What did it mean to the people in Joel's day?
7. Is the day of the Lord going to be a day of brightness for everybody? (Amos 5:18-20; Matthew 7:22,23; Revelation 6:16) What was the quality of worship of those who were mistakenly looking forward to the "day of the Lord?" (Amos 5:20-24)
8. What do you think is the connection between the pouring out of God's Spirit, and the signs in the sun, moon, and stars? (Joel 2:28-32; 3:14-17; Matthew 24:29-31; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-28)
9. What is the "valley of decision?" What is taking place there? (Joel 3:2,14)
10. What does it mean when it says that "the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night?" (1 Thessalonians 5:2) Who is being referred to as "you, brothers" in 1 Thessalonians 5:4? Is the day of the Lord supposed to be a surprise?

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