



**SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING**

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**Friday, 6/3/2022**

**Scripture: Joel**

**TITLE: Joel – The Day of the Lord**

Have you ever made a promise that you couldn't keep? Have you ever made a promise you never intended to keep? If so, you're not alone. Many people break promises unintentionally and intentionally. But not God. Every promise God has made is fulfilled, being fulfilled, or will be fulfilled. This is why you should read the Book of Joel.

The Book of Joel was written by the prophet Joel. Joel was writing to the Jews of Judah. He wrote this around 835 B.C. The book is all about the day of the Lord. This is communicated by looking at the recent past and the distant future.

Joel will use a recent tragedy in the nation to teach Jews a prophetic lesson. A locust plague has invaded the land, destroying every plant in its path. And I do mean everything. As bad as the locust plague was, it was but a sampling of the judgment God would bring upon the Southern Kingdom if they did not repent.

Some people think the God of the Old Testament is different than the God of the New Testament. People claim that the God of the Old Testament was angry and vengeful while the God of the New Testament is loving and merciful. But if we look at the Bible objectively, we see God as overly patient with His people. Because God is a loving Father, He will bring discipline but not until many opportunities for repentance are offered. But this discipline is the day of the Lord. God will do what He must.

God's desire is to bless rather than rebuke.

Is Jesus found in the Book of Joel? In Joel 3:2, we see Jesus as the coming judge who will judge the nations. We also find the promise that would be fulfilled in Acts 2. What is that prophecy? Joel 2:28-29 (CSB) says, "After this I will pour out my Spirit on all humanity; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your old men will have dreams, and your young men will see visions. I will even pour out my Spirit on the male and female slaves in those days."

This pouring out His Spirit was realized on the day of Pentecost with the giving of the Holy Spirit.

What's the main thing about Joel? You probably know it. It's the Day of the Lord. The day is coming that final justice will be served. The day we dread and long for is coming. God's judgment will be perfect. But before then, God continually offers the world the opportunity to turn from their sin.

Joel 2:32 “Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved, for there will be an escape for those on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, as the LORD promised, among the survivors the LORD calls.”

And should you do this, God may begin to extend His grace of restoring what your locusts have eaten. Joel 2:25 says, “I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust ate, the young locust, the destroying locust, and the devouring locust.”

So here’s my challenge for you today: share this good news with someone who is far from God. The world is releasing the locusts to devour their lives. Everyone’s sin has immediate and eternal consequences, but God is patient and ready to save those who call on His name. So share the Gospel with just one person and allow God to do the rest.

When we share the ultimate gift, we will win the day.