

Book of Joel

By Charles Feinberg

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Our father in this day and in this hour when from every side our ears are bombarded and our eyes as well with all that would detract from thy glory. How much this means to thy loving heart and to the holy angels and all redeemed in the glory. How much it means that from our hearts we should be constantly repeating may Jesus Christ be praised. He is worthy not only of the tribe of Judah which means praised one. He is to be praised infinitely for all his work in creation, all his work in sustaining life on earth and his work especially of redemption, redeeming a lost and forewarned humanity gone astray, provided with everything and yet listening to the awful awful insinuations of Satan as though thou wouldst deny us something that we ought to have by right and so because of the fall of thy creatures, he came the just to die for us the unjust that he might bring us to thee. Blessed be his holy name. May we make it our ambition in life to praise him as so many use his marvelous name his incomparable name, his ineffable name how many use it in cursing and in violence and all that detracts. Bless BSF and all the outreach of it today. Thank thee for these surroundings that are totally given to thee, soaked in prayer and concern that those who've not heard the Gospel shall hear and those who do know thy truth may be instructed as good soldiers men and women boys and girls instructed in the eternal truths that we shall be enjoying through all eternity. Bless us, open the word to our hearts and may our hearts be opened. We pray with thanksgiving in Jesus' name, Amen.

I was just thinking last night I've been looking for that Threefold lettering as we come into the ground BSF and I thought how beautifully that gives us the three stages of the Christian life. B for Born Again that's the start of it. S for Sanctified. We're spotless but you know we have to get some of the wrinkles out so we need to be sanctified. And then F that's for the Glory that's Fulfillment. Bible Study Fellowship. So we're glad to greet you this morning in the name of our Lord Jesus and by the way we are gonna try to allow some time uh this morning for some questions. One of the ladies asked leave it to the ladies they know how to ask perceptive questions and this lady asked a good question concerning the book of Hosea. Unless I gave a wrong impression last night I think I may have given the impression that there are only 6 seals and 6 trumpets and 6 bowls. There are 7. The reason 7 in the Bible is a number of completion is from the very meaning of the word seven in Hebrew, Shiva' [SP] from a verb that means to be satisfied it's the compliment. Seven days in the week and so on. So uh the 6th seal goes on into the trumpets and why are they seal judgments and trumpet judgement and bowl judgments?

Because God is going on to a climax. Seal, if you have a property and you want to have the deed correctly recorded it has to be written properly it has to be witnessed it has to be sealed. And this book of the revelation is God's way of telling us how Christ was the worthy one, all worthy, how he is the one who gets the title deed to the earth. He bought it, it's blood bought. And then the trumpet, trumpets always indicate stop look and listen. Something tremendously important is about to transpire and so God is calling all to heed to make sure that they're prepared for eternity. And then the bowl judgement. These judgments are because man's sin has reached its full climax. The vessel. And the biggest vessel at then was this bowl it's not just a little bit of a finger bowl as we might think of today in eating and in our on our tables. A huge bowl full of the wrath of God. So we have that word before we begin. Today.

Father, as we open again these marvelous books May we have a deep sense of thy blessing upon us be it those who labor on the grounds and the offices the outreach and the printing. Establishment here how marvelous that it can go to all these parts of the world. Bless us pray as we open this beautiful book of Joel and Amos ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

Joel and that name I'm happy to say is becoming more and more familiar and more used and uh of course all folk look for bargains don't them. And you name a child Joel and you're getting double value because Joel, as short as it is, four letter and you know we're all great on diminutives. Nobody ever calls a person Charles Charles they call him Charlie or Chuck or something like that. I don't like the word Chuck I can stand the Charlie but I don't like the word Chuck, something you throw in the wastebasket. We always want the diminutive. There's no diminutive for Joel. And it is true names of God. Jo for Jehovah and El for God the word is God and here in the book of Joel we have in brief compass not any one of the long books of the bible just three chapters, there are others in the minor prophets that have three chapters but here in Joel we have a small book of the day of the Lord.

What do we mean by day of? They'll say this is the day of high finances and this is the day of international conflict this is the day of this or that and the other. The day of the Lord is when God takes over. Scripture tells us that when the heavens are silent as they are today since Christ went back rejected from earth. From his own people, he came unto his own and they were his own and they were his own came into his own things and those who were his own his own people received him not but as many as did receive him to them is given the right, the authority the want to become the children of God even to them who believe on his name. This is man's day and man is making an insufferable and unimaginable mess of everything. Man's day. Oh if I could only have my way. That's the worst thing you can ask for when we don't know our way. It

is not in man, says scripture, it is not in man who walketh to direct his steps, he thinks he can. Remember how when you taught your children to walk. Oh mommy or daddy leave me alone I can do it, 'bang!'. Right on the kobuscus. Yes, we don't know. That's man's day, and it in a sense is Satan's day. He's having a hilarious time. Oh how the minions of the lower regions are rejoicing in the way men have been and women weaned away from God and the things of God in their own way and so on.

Then God will take over. He'll say it's enough. It's sufficient. You've done all the devilish work you can do, lifting defiant hands against the living God. Now what we're going to do is take over that's the day of Christ, the day of God, the day after Christ reigns and uh things are going to be entirely different. Who has a greater claim to the world and the things that are therein than God who redeemed it in our Lord Jesus? So here, Joel, the day of the Lord. It's a small book but it's very important because it relates to what are called the latter days, now that word later days you can't say is just this long or it's just that long. Or it's this. It often encompasses a specific event that God's gonna be doing something or it can indicate a certain broader period of time. It is an adjective, Latter and it definitely means that it is in opposition to former.

And [inaudible] distinction from it. So it's in the last- in other words when God begins to wind up his affairs and his program on earth and Joel is definitely important because of the Latter Days. One of the most important of Joel's prophecies is in the second chapter, 21st of the 32nd it was no question about it because scripture quotes it it was prefilled and not fulfilled in the day of Pentecost. You couldn't always tell that in the Old Testament what was going to be partially fulfilled and what would be more fulfilled or what would ultimately be finally fulfilled because there's all that element of indecision not on the part of God but on the part of man. How do you know that Joel 2:20-32 is pre-filled and not fulfilled? Because it is quoted in Acts 2 for

the day of Pentecost, day of Pentecost. And Pentecost is God's prefiguring of a time when his spirit will fall upon believing hearts and all men will know the Lord whose hearts are right will come to know the Lord and be filled with the spirit of God. We don't know anything of the life of the prophet Joel, sad but uh God doesn't burden us and some people keep worrying about the things that are not revealed. I keep telling my students just get concerned about the things that are revealed. Things that are not revealed will never bar the rest will never haunt us in the future but the things that rare revealed they belong to us and to our children we told in scripture forever and ever.

So he ministered to Judah, this prophet Joel did. He was the son of Pethual [SP]. he said notice this, you talk to the old men first hear this ye old men and oh they might want to sit by the wayside or sit by the side of the road and pass judgment and all he says I have some words for you. We don't know exactly the date of his prophecy in fact in this reference Bible, the Scofield, it says 9th or 8th century BC I would say perhaps 860-850 BC possibly one of the oldest of the Minor Prophets. What had happened? Always look for a historical event. Now I wanna allow sometime today, Lord willing for some questions and I had one as we were in our refreshment time last night one of the ladies and don't think ladies can't be keen students of the Word. You learn much from your mothers you remember as well as your fathers. She came and asked a question and a valid question about Hosea. Some say that the whole thing is allegorical, the whole thing is symbolic.

You have to watch that. It is true that God did use the life of Hosea and Gomer to teach symbolically the truth concerning Israel, that beloved hear me, it's very important Biblical principle, interpretive principle, and hermeneutic principal. you cannot make the whole account from beginning to end symbolical because there is no such thing in logic as a symbol of a symbol

what do you get? See? You go round and round and round. The reason a symbol has meaning is because [inaudible] at the basis of it a literal truth. There was a man Hosea there was a woman Gomer. There was a marriage. There was a violation of the marriage trust and so on. Then God says that's true that happened. And here we have in in microcosm. And I want you to expand that and then then it's a symbolism to be gotten of it. But the whole concept is God is as the prophet says to Israel, God is your husband and so on. He is your maker, yes. He is your creator, he's your husband. Well not in the sense in which we have husbands and wives today, but here is a basic truth on the human level whereby God teaches.

You have to go beloved always from the known to the unknown. You can wind up in the known. But if you go from the unknown to the unknown you know where you wind up, in the unknown. Yes. There has to be some literal basic practice. We can't stand on air, not at this stage of it. Our Lord could overrule all the laws of nature, he's the lord of nature and so on but we have to go according to proper grammar, that's why men and women of God take oh almost endless time learning the languages of Scripture and learning the figures of Scripture. That's a great study beloved. I know a lot didn't care much about English when they went to school but their sorry about it now. Yes. You see our Bibles are not in the language of angels. Our Bibles are in English you gotta get down to earth. Well I don't care about [inaudible] well what languages do you like? You don't like French you don't like German and so on my friends the only way you can learn languages is start with one of them, see. If you think and adjective is something that's on sale in town today you're gonna be in trouble yes. And it's amazing how some of the smallest things in Scripture ah we learned them and of course you have taught them as well but we have to heed them and I have every kindly way, now you're leaders, you're teachers, inculcate in them a high respect for the English language. And uh strangely enough those show speak English at

such a universal language now are not always the best masters of it, that's a shame, that's a shame.

You want something that can be utilized with strength and power for God. Let's do that. And if you've ever had to learn another language s missionaries do, or maybe more than one language you'll thank God that you didn't get back and to the mooring sand say well this I know, this I talking to me in my own language, see? So what happened here in this about 9th century or 8th century BC? This prophet Joel who lived in the time of a locust plague, yes. A locust is a small critter but he does and amazing amount of trouble now not like the little fella who'd heard about a local preacher and so on and then they had a visiting one and uh tis one apparently hadn't been fed very well for a long time and he said my my my I think he was a locust preacher he ate everything in sight. Well, locusts will do that, they'll do that, and it is a plague. And this locust plague and drought was in the reign of King Joaz of Judah. There's more than one Locust plague in Israel and more than one in the history of the world but this was this one here in the time of Joel.

They were the causes then that were the basic point, here's the starting point, here's the beginning [inaudible]. What is it Joel wants to say in the first chapter through the 17 verse of the second chapter he talks about the demand for repentance, repentance is demanded. And 2:18 through the third chapter the 21st verse blessing is promised. What's the key thought in the book and always get a handle. I don't know whether in high school they had those plays and you could tell they were just budding they hadn't yet bloomed they were budding actors and impersonators and almost invariably in one of the high school plays they had somebody coming in very disturbed and all and then he'd take his coat and hat and then put it like that zing, always good for one laugh anyhow. Now of course it's gonna go down and why? It didn't have anything to

hang on. If you want to know the bible you have to have certain pegs. That's why the word of God has repetition of certain thoughts and certain words and certain expressions, certain phrases certain sounds. And you say I never did like grammar, well get over that malady as soon as you can, as soon as you can. Lot of things, we, we don't like but lot of things that are very very necessary.

What are the key verses in this book of Joel, verse 14 and 15 sanctify [inaudible] call us solemn assembly, Joel 1:14. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants in the land into the hour of the Lord your God and cry of the Lord, always for the day for the day of the Lord is at hand. This that you see is a foreshadowing. It is a definite indication, a strong wind if you will. The day of the Lord is at hand and destruction from the almighty shall it come. You, as the little boy would say, somebody asked him what was the meaning of that verse it doth not yet appear what we shall be he said I think it means you ain't seen nothing yet. Well his English wasn't very good but he had the concept correct. Then present the key though of this book is that that locust plague is a sign of God's coming Judgement on Judah, the approaching day of the Lord when God takes over, when God says enough. It's enough. On that day of the Lord will be blessing for all the righteous and the Godly in Israel and in the world in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was an unprecedented plague, according to that first chapter and judgment on the land of Israel of sin.

God hasn't taken his hands off of the world even today you say well our country can't be said to be, they say it's a Christian quote on quote country and there are some that are nominally Christian, but it doesn't mean that they are always, that they are always following the will of the Lord and God always has a way to check. He has reigns, he has a bridle on man and his desires otherwise we couldn't live in the world. If man had free sway my dear friends you and I couldn't

live, no. So here was an unprecedented plague judgment on the Land of Israel for sin. God had told them if you obey the will be blessing, Duet. 28. If you disobey I will bring chastisement upon you and you remember the locusts were one of the plagues of Egypt. And here armies come in and make Israel desolate as a call to the drunkards they're gonna have a hilarious time, then call to the people and to the priests in verses 13 and 14 the first chapter. The first mention of the day of the Lord is in Joel 1 and 15. I've read it. The day of the Lord is at hand and the destruction of the almighty shall it come. God says it's enough. I now intervene in human history. God intervenes personally after the expiration of man's day.

I mentioned man's day already you may not have I didn't give you a verse on it if you'd like to have it. 1 Corinthians 4:3 this is man's day, man having his say and his sway and between us friends and children of the Lord Man is making an infernal almost unbelievable mess of things and he always will. You say well why do you say that can't you give them a little bit of a chance? My dear friends God gave them all the chance. Read the first and second chapters in Genesis. You think that Adam, as he lay down to sleep at night was worried about his social scrutiny or what was gonna happen to his position or his job the next day. He didn't have to worry about a thing in life. And you say well that was such a sort of inconsequential test God put him under. Ok learned one. With all that he had what kind of a sin could he have committed? Something with reference to his businesses something socially? He only had he had the only wife in the world sufficient. Beautiful. And all. What could he do? Could he rob someone, he had all. He had fellowship with God, uninterrupted.

My dear friends, man sins, man sins, and so God says I'm gonna let you have your way. And then God finally says that I believe and I know that you will never improve. You will never get better you will never remedy it you never could remedy I had to send my well beloved son to

rectify it all and to make it possible, eternal fellowship with me. Without the presence of sin in an eternity that I prepared mankind for. So God intervenes personally after the expiration of man's day. We have the day of Christ; I mentioned it, Philippians 1:6. We have the day of God, in 2nd Peter 3:12 and this dear prophet prays in the 19th verse oh Lord to thee, first chapter, oh Lord to thee I will cry. The fire has devoured the pastures, the wilderness, the flame has burned all the trees in the field, the best of the field cry also unto thee, there's drought, locusts but the locusts left over drought took of the rivers of the water has dried up the fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness we know a little bit about what that means, water.

Water. There's a reason why Christ is called the breath of life, there's a reason why he's called the water of life. Yes. And I had no idea, hadn't lived this long I shoulda known that but did you know that most of your body is water. I found that out since the 8th of December. I have been carrying around with me stones kidney stones, not stones to throw at you. You say what's the matter with them well after 8 days in the hospital they just decided these are stubborn ones you see [inaudible] to stubborn people and being personally stubborn also we still had them, yes. But water you have to have water. A problem like that you must always watch dehydration. That's bad. We need water and he is the water of life. Oh nothing more wonderful, those of you that have travelled countries where water isn't as uh abundant as in your kitchen or in your home oh how you long for water. He is the water of life, definitely so and so here, look at this, how things are dried up. The flame has burned all the trees of the field. Beasts of the [inaudible] cry unto thee. Rivers of water is dry we've had it in our south east this summer too haven't we. My, if it weren't for water what would the animals do what would man do?

Beasts share the fate of man. Romans 8:19-22 then destruction of the Lord in the second chapter, the Assyrian army's gonna be coming in the second chapter verse 3-11 have a

description of the Assyrian army, that when yet come in and invade Palestine. God not only speaks through nation to nations through events in nature but also through other men. You say well the Assyrians were no better, well if the Lord were gonna wait for someone that was totally totally without fault and shortcoming and sin he would have to rain judgment out of heaven all the time himself but he also uses human beings yes. Yes. Verses 28-32 in the second chapter are one entire chapter in the original Hebrew Verse 28-32 entire chapter by itself, why? It evidently must be important and there it is promise of the spirit it shall come to pass afterward. Well you have to read the whole passage to find out what the afterward is. I'm gonna pour out my spirit upon all flesh your sons and your daughters shall prophecy your old men shall dream dreams you young men shall see visions.

Was there a partial fulfillment of this at Pentecost very definitely? Look at your very very important marginal references and you'll see. Act's 2:17-21. So it was prefilled in other words there was a sample fulfillment until you get the complete fulfillment. Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions also upon the servants and upon the handmaidens in those days will I pour out my spirit. All was not fulfilled at Pentecost, nor is it being fulfilled in individual lives now in the church age. But the terminology in Acts will indicate that there is coming a day when it will be sons, daughters, old men, young men, servants, handmaidens. In those days that prepositional phrase in those days yes. You have to see the whole context. He's reaching far into the future. In not our days or days past but in those days that I'm speaking of ahead. I'll show wonders in the heavens and in the earth. Blood, fire and pillars of smoke.

That has not yet taken place. Sun's gonna be turned into darkness, the moon into blood. There have been occasional exhibitions, manifestations of God's wrath in nature but look at this. Before the great and terrible day of the Lord come and you must go through scripture and it

[inaudible] are wonderful it is a wonderful help. Some of us have worked for a long long time on this concordance of the New American Standard Bible and there are concordance coming out, and I believe it has come out in the NIV hasn't it? Some of you are using that. Our book on Jeremiah that's out and this next month Lord willing it will be in a volume with Isaiah and Lamentations. [Inaudible] went to be with the Lord in England; H.L. Ellison uh before he went to be with the Lord had finished Lamentations and Ezekiel. Isaiah, Jeremiah will come out with him. Mine has been out a few years because when they put pressure on me to get it done and I finished it and I sat around twiddling my thumbs I said why were you putting so much pressure on me. That is not very encouraging to a writer to push him to complete something and then you sit around and twiddle your thumbs or do your knitting.

We put all that energy I there so the people of God may be instructed and if it comes out there's no heh miracles can be wrought by the almighty, even we can learn something by re-reading it. Yes. I'm afraid some folks read some things they'd written well I didn't know I was that clever [inaudible] all those can learn, all those can learn. Coming next month Lord willing Zondervan will put out they started off with the uh one son Romans and so n Dr. evertrtt Harrison had his out an so on so that they've gone down and came up to book one You know which one I'm speaking of form Zondervan expositors it's a worthwhile one, it really is. And you can't get too much help on the word of God. We all need to know how long, no matter how long you study this. And when think of how some people thin it's as easy as drinking a glass of water, taking a cup of water when you can see these we've only had the Old Testament, only have it yet how the pour how they give themselves to the word.

Some time ago my wife and I offered book that are you cannot buy they were the book that set that demon of a man Hitler off on his Anti-Semitic campaign in Europe. It was some man

well before Hitler came on the scene who went through all Levitical writings, all writings of the Hebrews since scripture and gathered together all that they thought were anti-Christian statements and he [inaudible] in these two volumes oh you ought to see the bindings on those things tremendous leather and all its called Das or not Das, but Endectisjudentung [SP], that means Judaism exposed and the Hitler regime used those volumes in their Holocaust. So I had those volumes, I don't know who gave them to me and so on and I said well I don't have any need so I gave it to the Simon Wiesenthal center in Los Angeles and uh we were able to show them that there are people who are called Christians who are not the same as Hitler.

According to some folk anyone who was not a Jew is a Christian. And if he's not a Jew but a Christian then he is a hater of the Jews, that's not true. So, my dear friend there is a time coming when God says enough. Enough is enough. We are going to have judgment because the day of grace is over. There some folk that think the day of grace will last forever, no, no no. And then there's gonna be blessing in Israel after repentance. All has not been fulfilled I wanna emphasis that again today, some think it has been that's not true, there is an afterward, afterward in this second chapter. That whosoever has called on the name of the Lord and then afterward yes now in verse 28 says it shall come to pass afterward. You have to read the whole context. That's when Israel is in a place of subtle blessing. Chapter three, the nations that oppress Israel are gonna be judged.

The Lord is called Jehoshaphat, the one who judges, the Lord Judges. And there's a valley called the valley of Jehoshaphat and it means the valley of God's judgement. He's going to bring the nations that have oppressed Israel to the book. You won't need to worry about so called exposed Judaism, or Judaism revealed. It is in the valley of the Kedron on the east of Jerusalem. And then you just join with Joel in understanding this passage you need to turn to the judgment

of Mathew 25. It's on the same basis as this judgment. What have you done with these the rest of my brethren? What predicates? You say what bring sit on, what is the virus that brings on the malady, for the occasion that precepts are in Joel 3:9-16. What precipitates God's judgments? Several confederacies of nations, several confederacies of nations that come. Proclaim this among the nations, prepare war. Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords. Now that's not Isaiah two, no no no. You beat the sword in plowshares. But here it's beat your plowshares into swords. Let's get our ammunitions factors working at full tilt. Your pruning hooks into spears, why? Because man has to be at [inaudible] with other men.

When he is not in right relationship with God, happens every single time, yes. Here it is. Confederacies and then verse 17-21 you know I'm the Lord your God dwelling in Zion. God always loves, remember this, God always likes to wind up on a note of blessing God does not delight in judgment. Some folk are wrong when they thing that God is just waiting to give us the paddle, or to bring us to some extremity, no no. God is a God of grace. He reveals that in his grace now and in the glory of the coming day. Now coming on we want to say one word perhaps you'll want to use this in a teaching lesson, session. Because no other Old Testament prophet has more important revelation of the end time than the one in the third chapter of Joel. It's the prime of the Lord's return and the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem. Jeremiah 23 verse 1-8. Same as what we find in Mathew 25:31-46. And the son of man sits on the throne of his glory, the nations are brought to the throne before him and he judges them one after another. Now some folk think the enations are gonna be brought and they're gonna be judged in blocks. There's no such concept in all the world. In all the world individual sin individual punishment, individual judgment so go

deals with these individuals personally. Then they call on the judgment of the nation yes but individuals in the nations.

So the preparation for what we call Armageddon is in Joel 3⁹⁻¹², there it is proclaiming this among the nations, that's Armageddon. Armageddon means the Mountain of Megiddo, [inaudible]. You see it there. And you think that those areas in Rome where they had these chariot races and all that if you think that's quite spacious you ought to see that valley of Megiddo. No wonder Napoleon as he stood looking over that area in the early part of the last century came back from the battle in Egypt he said what a magnificent place in which to maneuver all the armies of the world. Well, doesn't mean every single individual and by the way may I just suggest. I'm not gonna be contrary about it but I uh in language don't talk about the battle of Armageddon. If you talk about battle of Armageddon then you get prophetic scriptures confused cuz the battle is one encounter. It may have parts to it but it's one encounter.

The battle of Armageddon. Armageddon [inaudible] in revelation is, should be translated the war of Armageddon because there are certain, there's gonna be Satanic outburst from the north. Read Ezekiel 38 and 39. There's gonna be one from the south. As in Daniel's another [inaudible]. Besides the ones we have here, this morning. So you have a breaking out in the north, the south, and the kings of the sunrise being [inaudible] so they can come talk about it. Poets mentions millions yes they can put heat many folk on the battlefield, they can muster that many. So you have then coming from all directions so if you have more than one battle you have a war, it's a war of Armageddon, the war of Armageddon. Here it is preparation for it in 9 and 12 rightly called the Lord Judges then how God punishes them verses 13-16 the punishment of the nations and then God God never never likes to end up on a judgmental note. God does not delight in judgement. He delights in salvation that's why he named his son Jesus. Thou shall call

his name Jesus for he shall punish, no. For he shall chastise, no. For he shall bring o the judgement, no. for he shall save his people from their sins. God is the saving one. The saving one. Punishment in 13-16 ten the portion in Joel 3:16 latter part of 15 and going on thorough the 17th verse we rad the Lord will be the hope of these people the strength of the children of Israel so shall you know that I am the Lord your Go dwelling in Zion my holy mountain.

That's gonna be Zion itself. It doesn't look li that now but it will then. Then shall Jerusalem be holy, yes. IT's called in scripture [inaudible] the holy city. You know that beautiful solo, the Holy city it is then shall Jerusalem be holy and shall no stranger pass though her anymore. What change, what a change. I remember one of my professors in seminary was an archaeologist Dr. [inaudible] whom I studied later with at Hopkins. This dear man of God, Melvin D. Kyle. If you have the I know you have an increasingly [inaudible] beautiful library here then you have these [inaudible] one of the later editor was Melvin D. Kyle He was an archaeologist and so on, and a tremendous man of God. A knowledgeable one how often indicated how this bit of the land this bit of a land has had such a checkered careers. People think I'm asking [inaudible for rest of recording].