

Fulfilled Prophecies

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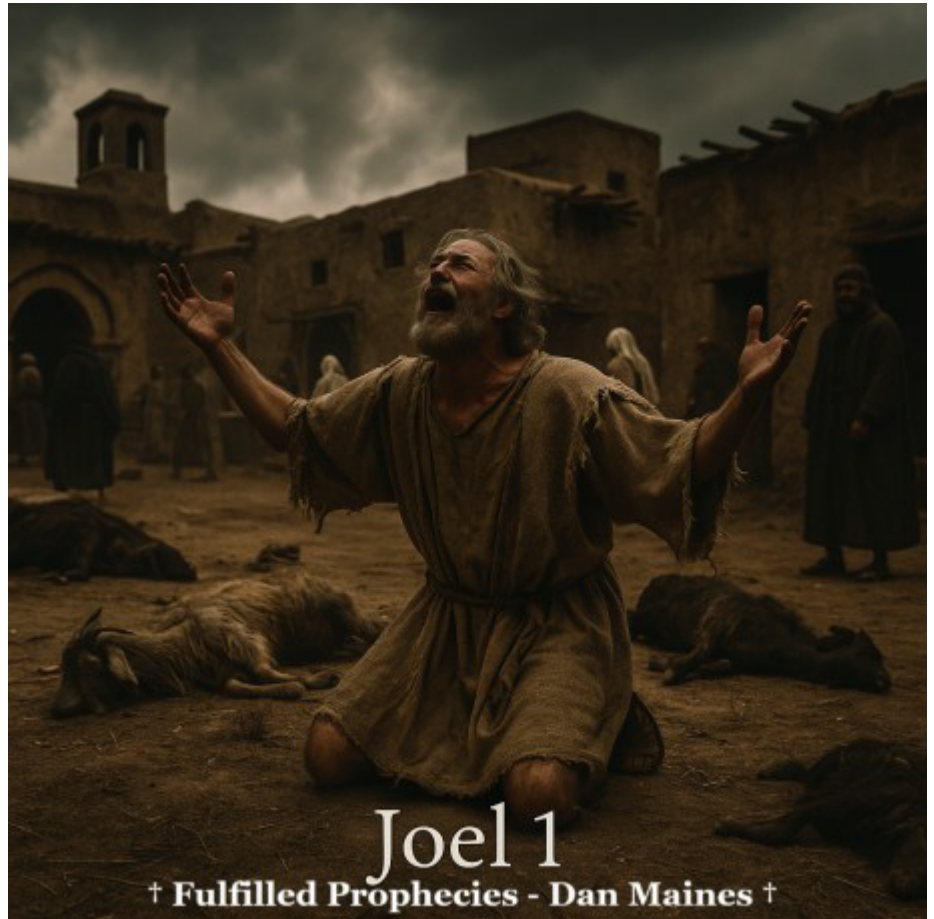
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Joel 1 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Joel 1

Joel 1:1

The word of the Lord that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel.

† The book begins with divine authority, showing that Joel's message is not human but from the Lord Himself.

† Historically, Joel prophesied to Judah during a devastating locust invasion that symbolized coming judgment.

† Prophetically, the word of the Lord always arrives at the appointed time to warn and restore His people.

† Jerome said Joel's message was both literal and symbolic, reflecting the devastation of sin and God's call to repentance.
† In the fulfilled kingdom, the Word continues to speak through Christ, who brings both warning and redemption.

Joel 1:2-3

Hear this, O elders, and listen, all inhabitants of the land. Has anything like this happened in your days or in your fathers' days? Tell your sons about it, and let your sons tell their sons, and their sons the next generation.

† Joel calls the elders and people to acknowledge an unprecedented calamity.

† Historically, the locust plague destroyed the nation's food supply and symbolized total desolation.

† Prophetically, this foreshadows the destruction of Jerusalem under Rome, a judgment unparalleled in history.

† Clement observed that the command to tell future generations reflects how divine lessons endure through ages.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, believers proclaim what Christ accomplished so future generations understand fulfillment.

Joel 1:4

What the gnawing locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten; and what the swarming locust has left, the creeping locust has eaten; and what the creeping locust has left, the stripping locust has eaten.

† The four waves of locusts symbolize successive judgments consuming everything not rooted in God.

† Historically, these represented stages of destruction that stripped Judah bare.

† Prophetically, the locusts mirror invading armies, ending with Rome's siege of Jerusalem.

† Jerome compared these stages to the unfolding of divine wrath leading to purification.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, no further devastation remains, for

Christ's reign restores all that was lost.

Joel 1:5-7

Awake, drunkards, and weep; and wail, all you wine drinkers, on account of the sweet wine that is cut off from your mouth. For a nation has invaded my land, mighty and without number; its teeth are the teeth of a lion, and it has the fangs of a lioness. It has made my vine a waste and my fig tree splinters. It has stripped them bare and cast them away; their branches have become white.

† The drunkards symbolize the careless and complacent who ignored God's warnings.

† Historically, the invading nation may describe locusts figuratively or Babylon literally.

† Prophetically, this points to Rome's destruction of the vine and fig tree — symbols of Israel.

† Josephus recorded that Jerusalem was left barren, fulfilling Joel's imagery in vivid reality.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the true vine, Christ, now flourishes forever with His people as branches.

Joel 1:8-9

Wail like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the bridegroom of her youth. The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off from the house of the Lord. The priests mourn, the ministers of the Lord.

† The virgin's mourning expresses Judah's deep sorrow for the loss of covenant fellowship.

† Historically, temple sacrifices ceased when devastation overtook the land.

† Prophetically, this foreshadows the end of temple worship in AD 70 when the daily offerings ceased forever.

† Jerome said that the cessation of offerings pointed to the replacement of old sacrifices with Christ's perfect one.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, mourning turns to joy because true

atonement has been made once for all.

Joel 1:10-12

The field is ruined, the land mourns; for the grain is ruined, the new wine dries up, fresh oil fails. Be ashamed, O farmers, wail, O vinedressers, for the wheat and the barley, because the harvest of the field is destroyed. The vine dries up, and the fig tree fails; the pomegranate, the palm also, and the apple tree, all the trees of the field dry up. Indeed, rejoicing dries up from the sons of men.

† The ruined field signifies Israel's covenant collapse, as spiritual fruitfulness ceased.

† Historically, famine and drought followed the plague, devastating all produce.

† Prophetically, the withered vine and fig tree represent Israel's judgment and loss of spiritual vitality.

† Eusebius compared the ruined harvest to the fading glory of the old covenant, replaced by the gospel's abundance.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, Christ restores the fruit of the Spirit, bringing joy and life everlasting.

Joel 1:13-14

Gird yourselves with sackcloth and lament, O priests; wail, O ministers of the altar! Come, spend the night in sackcloth, O ministers of my God, for the grain offering and the drink offering are withheld from the house of your God. Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly; gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.

† The priests are called to lead repentance for the nation's sin and rebellion.

† Historically, fasting was a sign of humility and appeal for mercy during divine judgment.

† Prophetically, the solemn assembly prefigures the call to repentance before Jerusalem's final desolation.

† Jerome noted that the outward fast foreshadowed the inward repentance fulfilled through Christ.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, repentance leads not to fear but to restoration through the Spirit.

Joel 1:15

Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is near, and it will come as destruction from the Almighty.

† Joel introduces the central theme of his prophecy, the coming Day of the Lord.

† Historically, this referred to God's imminent judgment through invading armies or natural disaster.

† Prophetically, this Day reached its climax in the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

† Eusebius identified the Roman devastation as the complete fulfillment of Joel's warning.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the Day of the Lord is past, and His reign of peace now endures eternally.

Joel 1:16-18

Has not food been cut off before our eyes, gladness and joy from the house of our God? The seeds shrivel under their clods; the storehouses are desolate, the barns are torn down, for the grain is dried up. How the beasts groan! The herds of cattle wander aimlessly because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep suffer.

† The complete loss of sustenance reflects both physical and spiritual desolation.

† Historically, the famine that followed the locust invasion left man and beast in anguish.

† Prophetically, this depicts Israel's spiritual barrenness when separated from God.

† Jerome said the groaning cattle signified creation's cry for redemption fulfilled in Christ.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, God's people no longer hunger or

thirst, for Christ is their provision.

Joel 1:19-20

To You, O Lord, I cry; for fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame has burned up all the trees of the field. Even the beasts of the field pant for You; for the water brooks are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

† Joel ends the chapter in intercession, crying out to God amid judgment.

† Historically, the imagery of fire and drought portrays utter devastation across the land.

† Prophetically, this points to the consuming fire of divine wrath that ended the old covenant.

† Jerome linked this cry to the plea of the remnant who awaited redemption in Christ.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the fire of judgment is past, replaced by the living waters of grace.

How it applies to us today

† Joel 1 reminds us that God's judgments are purposeful, leading to repentance and renewal.

† The locust plague symbolizes destruction that precedes restoration through Christ.

† The end of temple sacrifices prepared the way for the everlasting covenant.

† The Day of the Lord, once a day of wrath, became our day of redemption.

† Today, we rejoice in the restoration of life in the fulfilled kingdom where Christ reigns forever.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

- † The Holy Bible, NASB
- † Josephus, The Wars of the Jews, Book 6
- † Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 3
- † Jerome, Commentary on Joel
- † Clement of Rome, 1 Clement
- † Tertullian, Against Marcion, Book 4
- † Hippolytus, Commentary on Joel

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