

"THE PREACHER WHO CRIED, 'REPENT!'"

(JOEL - Jehovah is God)

Very rarely do people, as a nation, care to hear about God. However, the prophet Joel found himself in a "preacher's heaven", people were actually wanting to hear from God.

I. THE TIMES:

1. Judah was experiencing severe times: plagues of locusts and a drought.
2. The people were desperate and ready to listen to God's preacher.
3. Joel preached and wrote before the exile and return.
4. Elisha and his school of prophets were making a strong influence.

II. THE MAN:

1. Joel was a native of Jerusalem.
2. It is possible he was a priest.
3. He was a pious, godly, courageous preacher who came in the hour of need.
4. Joel tackled the problem courageously and suggested God's remedy in unusual terms.

III. THE BOOK:

1. The book either quotes from or is quoted by Isaiah, Amos, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Obadiah, Ezekiel, and Malachi.
2. The outline: 1: 1 - 2:11 - Devastation: The sign of Judgment.  
2:12 - 17 - Supplication: The call to repentance.  
2:18 - 3:21 - Restoration: The vision of blessing.

IV. TEACHING VERSES:

1. 1:2 - Joel wanted Judah to understand it was God's hand holding the rod of chastisement.
2. 1:4 - A need of repentance by all the nation was the remedy.
3. 2:12, 13 - Men may depend upon God for mercy when they have shown genuine repentance.
4. 2:18 - God is ready always to prove his eternal love.
5. 2:25 - God is able to lift and restore His people to their rightful place.
6. 2:28-32 - God's purpose is for all people of all nations to know Him and to be blessed.

V. LESSONS OF VALUE:

1. Disaster should serve to turn people to God.
2. When one is awakened to his need of God, he is ready to experience God's redeeming love.
3. Judgement is inevitable and no one need hope to escape.
4. Judgement can be either a day of terror or a day of reward.
5. The broken heart is the only sound heart.
6. Genuine repentance gives God a chance to bless.
7. God delights in blessing all people everywhere.