



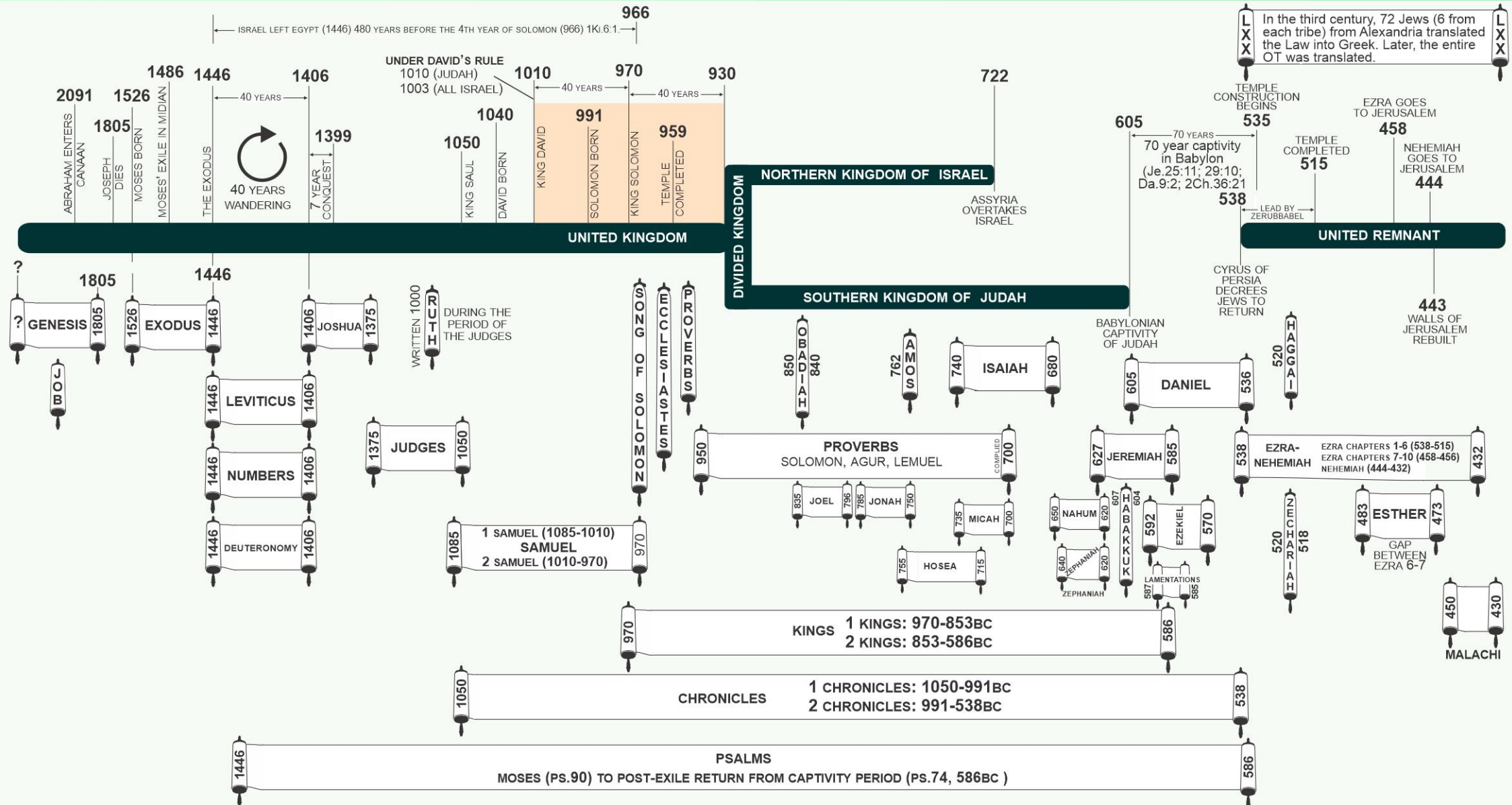
THE BOOK OF JOEL &

CHAPTER 1

THE DAY OF THE LORD



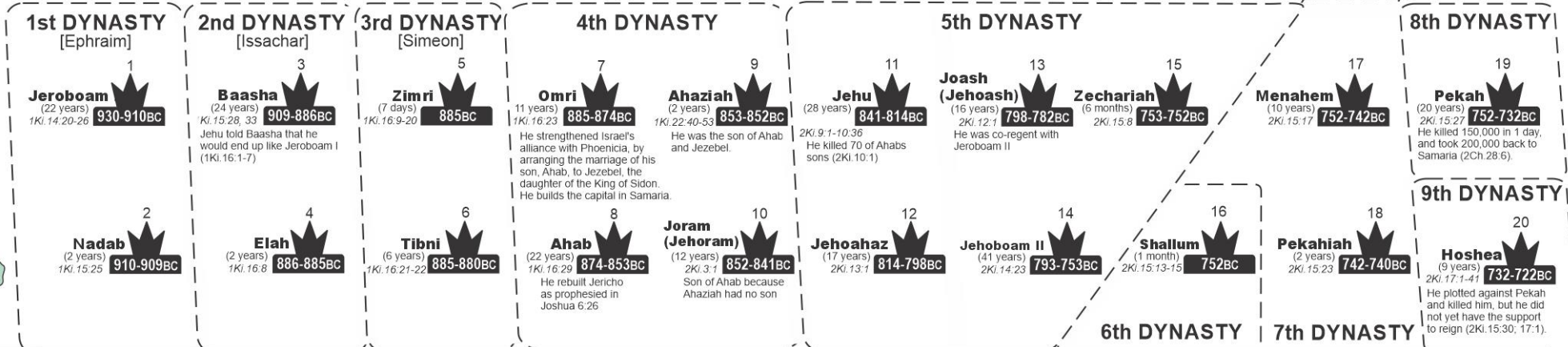
HEBREW OLD TESTAMENT CHRONOLOGY



Most of the books were written contemporary to the authors life. That is, they wrote about events in their lifetime. Some were written much after the events they describe (e.g., Genesis, Job, Ruth). This chart attempts to show what time frame the authors covered. The books that were written after the fact show the date the book was written.

KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

KINGS OF ISRAEL (Northern) 930-722 BC



ISRAEL (Northern Kingdom) 930-722BC

JUDAH (Southern Kingdom) 930-605BC

ALL ARE FROM THE SAME DYNASTY SINCE THEY ARE DESCENDANTS OF DAVID FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

UNITED KINGDOM 1050-930BC

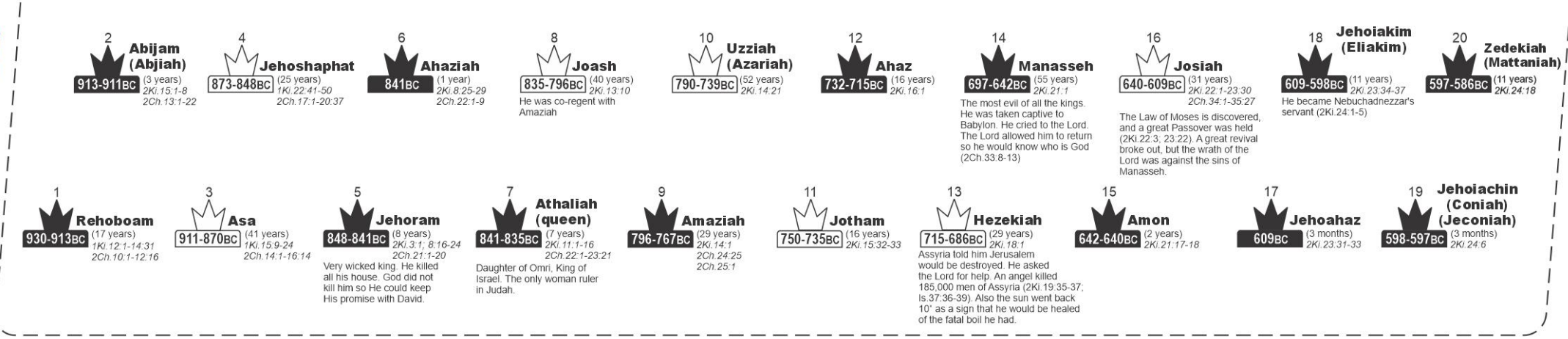
- Saul** (Benjamin) (40 years) 1050-1010BC
- David** (Judah) (40 years) 1010-970BC
- Solomon** (Judah) 970-930BC

DIVIDED KINGDOM

Fall of Samaria into Assyrian Captivity (722BC)

Fall of Jerusalem into Babylonian Captivity (586BC)

KINGS OF JUDAH (Southern) 930-605 BC



LEGEND

- KING** = Basically Bad
- KING** = Basically Good

DYNASTY — Succession of rulers who are members of the same family (tribe).
[TRIBE NAME] — Designates the tribe the king is from.
YEAR OF ASCENSION — Some king's dates may include portions of years making them appear to be off a year or two.

JOEL'S VIEW OF PROPHECY

Locust Invasion and Drought Joel Chapter 1

- The recent devastation is worse than anything anyone has seen (vs.1-2). This should cause Judah to seek God.
- The locusts come in waves of destruction (v.4). It is a divine judgment for their sin of idolatry (Du.28:38).
- These locusts come up like a nation invading the land (v.6).
- This pictures a young maiden exchanging her wedding dress for a course goat's hair garb from news of the death of her husband to be (v.8).
- The priests as the leaders are to take action and proclaim a fast for the nation (v.13).
- This calamity was no natural occurrence. It was from the hand of the Almighty (v.15).
- Animals are effected by the sin of man (vs.18-20).



- Plague & Drought (Jl.1:1-14)
- Starvation & Fire (Jl.1:15-20)

Past

Past Judgments by Locusts and Drought

Human Invasion by Babylon / Armageddon Joel 2:1-11

- This "day" will be like nothing Israel has experienced in the past (v.2).
- Joel used the past locust invasion (Joel chapter 1) as a backdrop of an impending human invasion who is not clearly named.
- The Babylonian invasion came in waves (605; 597; 586BC) just as the locust came in waves.
- The Armageddon picture will take place in the second half of Daniel's 70th Week when Antichrist will persecute the Jews.

Joel 2:12-17

- The Lord promises a reversal of His wrath as promised through Moses (Du.30:1-9).

- **Babylon [Near]:** (605; 597; 586BC)
- **Armageddon [Distant]:** (Daniel's 70th Week)

Babylon and Armageddon Judgments Intermixed

Distant Future "Day of the Lord"

Forgiveness and Restoration Joel 2:18-27

- It appears here that the people respond to the Lord's invitation (Jl.2:18).
- This takes place at the end of Daniel's 70th Week when Israel acknowledges their sin and believes on Jesus as their Messiah. This event must take place for the Lord to return (Ho.5:15; 6:1-3; Zc.12:10; Is.59:20; Ps.79:1-3; 80:1-19; Rm.11:25-27).
- The Lord promises to restore all that the locusts have eaten, and the nations will no longer scorn His people (Jl.2:19-27).

During and After Daniel's 70th Week

The Event that Triggers the Lord's Return

Distant Future "Day of the Lord" (Jl.2:31; 3:18)

Israel's Spiritual Renewal 2:28-32; 3:18-21

- Joel says that after the deliverance from the invader from the North, God will pour out His spirit on all Israel (Jl.2:28). Other promises clearly say that Israel will be the recipient of the Spirit (Ek.36:27; 39:29; Zc.12:10). God does not give His Holy Spirit to unbelievers. So here it is believing Israelites that are in view.
- Cosmic signs will precede the start of the day of the Lord (Mt.24:29-31; Mk.13:24-27; Lk.21:25-28).

Joel 3:1-16

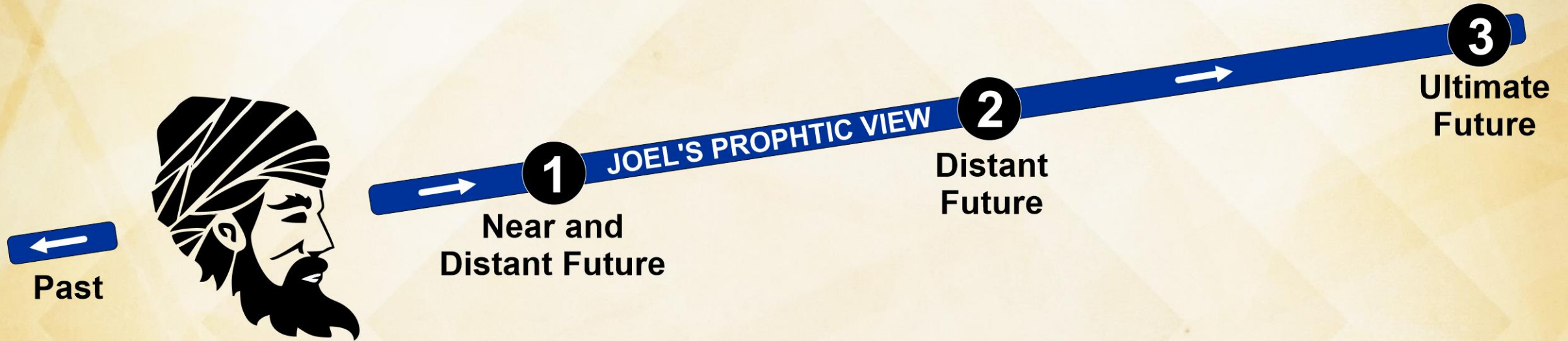
- This campaign begins at the 6th trumpet judgment (Rv.9:13-21).
- Many nations will gather into Israel at the battle of Armageddon. This is called the "valley of decision" (v.14).

- **Battle of Armageddon**
- **Judgment of Nations**
- **Millennial (Jl.3:17-21)**

Armageddon and the Millennial Kingdom



JOEL'S VIEW OF PROPHECY



JOEL AND "THE DAY OF THE LORD"

1:1-20	2:1-11	2:12-17	2:18-27	2:28-3:21
<i>Past: Day of the Lord</i>	<i>Near Future: Day of the Lord</i>	<i>Renewed Call to Repentance</i>	<i>Ultimate Future: Day of the Lord</i>	<i>Ultimate Future: Day of the Lord</i>
Recent locust event	The Human Invasion of Babylon (605; 597; and 586BC)	God's offer is real if they would repent	Human Invasion associated with Daniel's 70th Week	Millennial Kingdom blessings for Israel and the World

JOEL INTRODUCTION



Joel spoke to the southern kingdom of Judah with no reference to the northern kingdom.

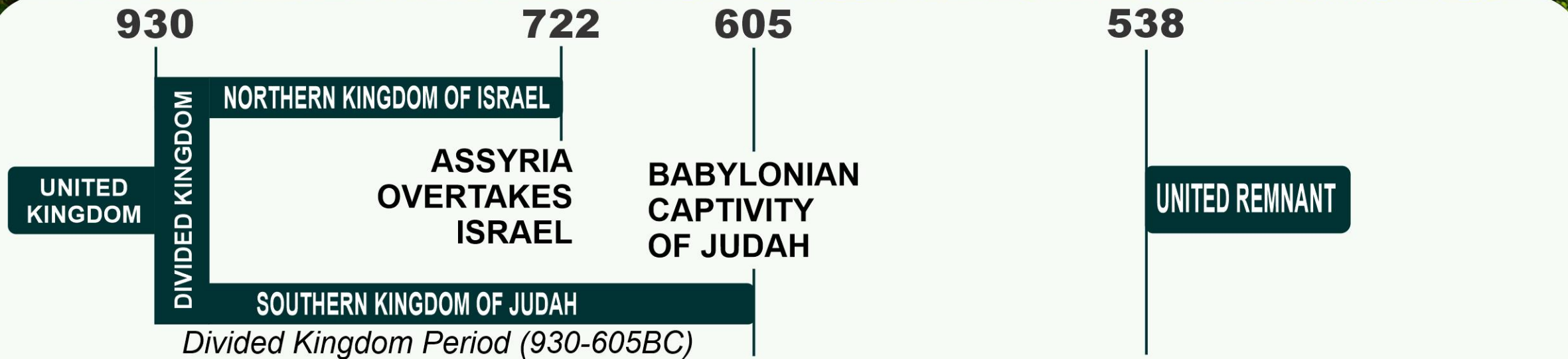


Joel is a pre-exilic prophet. That is, he ministered before the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel (721 B.C.) or the southern kingdom of Judah (586 B.C.)



Joel ministered at the end of Queen Athaliah (ruler 7) and beginning of Joash (ruler 8)

PRE-EXILIC PROPHETS



Before Babylonian Exile — 850-605BC

Obadiah (850-840BC)

Joel (835-796BC)

Jonah (785-750BC)

Amos (782-739BC)

Hosea (755-715BC)

Micah (735-700BC)

Isaiah (740-680BC)

Nahum (650-620BC)

Zephaniah (640-620BC)

Jeremiah (627-585BC)

Habakkuk (607-604BC)

Babylonian Exile — 605-516BC

Daniel (605-536BC)

Ezekiel (592-570BC)

**Lamentations
(587-585BC)**



After Babylonian Exile — 516-424BC

Haggai (520BC)

Zech. (520-518BC)

Mal. (450-430BC)

**The word of the LORD that
came to Joel the son of
Pethuel.**


 **JOEL 1:1**



“The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.” (Jl.1:1)

- Joel was a common name, and it means “Yahweh is God.” “Elijah” also means “Yahweh is God.”**
- The word came “to” Joel, but was not to stop there. It was a word for Joel's generation and beyond (Jl.1.3).**
- We know nothing of Joel beyond this book.**
- Pethuel's name means “openheartedness toward God.”**





Invasion of Locusts

(Joel 1:2-12)

**Hear this, you elders, And give ear,
all you inhabitants of the land! Has
anything like this happened in your
days, Or even in the days of your
fathers?**

JOEL 1:2





“Hear this, you elders, And give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, Or even in the days of your fathers?” (Jl.1:2)

- The elders were civil leaders who played a prominent part in the governmental and judicial systems.**
- God’s loving kindness ought to have kept His people faithful but they failed so judgment is continuing.**
- Joel isn’t announcing a coming judgment of the Lord. He describes their present state - devastated by successive swarms of locusts.**
- The rhetorical question anticipates an emphatic negative response.**



**You shall carry much seed
out to the field but gather
little in, for the locust shall
consume it**

DEUTERONOMY 28:38



ISRAEL: BLESSING & CURSES

Deuteronomy 28:1-68

Blessings Section
(Du.28:1-14)

Based on
Obedience

“Blessed shall thou be”

Curses Section
(Du.28:15-68)

Based on
Disobedience

“Cursed shall thou be”

ISRAEL: STAGES OF DISCIPLINE

Leviticus 26:14-39



“If you will not”

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| STAGE
1 | — Physical & Mental Diseases (Lv.26:14-17) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distress from illness, famine, and defeat |
| STAGE
2 | — Drought & Bad Harvest (Lv.26:18-20) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “seven times” principle of intensification |
| STAGE
3 | — Dread of Wild Animals (Lv.26:21-22) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Desolation of the land, animals running rampant |
| STAGE
4 | — Desolation by Enemies Bringing Disease <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God will send sword of vengeance (Lv.26:23-26) |
| STAGE
5 | — Deportation From the Land (Lv.26:27-39) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Destruction of cities; horrors of cannibalism• Land will enjoy its Sabbath years |

**Tell your children about it, Let
your children tell their
children, And their children
another generation.**

JOEL 1:3





**“Tell your children about it, Let your children tell their children, And their children another generation.”
(Jl.1:3)**

- This plague was so unusual that Joel says, “tell your children about it.”**
- The times were so remarkably difficult that parents would tell their children, “I lived through the plagues of locusts.”**



**What the chewing locust left, the
swarming locust has eaten; What
the swarming locust left, the
crawling locust has eaten; And
what the crawling locust left,
the consuming locust has eaten.**

JOEL 1:4



“What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten.” (Jl.1:4)



- First the locust are chewing, then swarming, then crawling, and finally consuming.**
- The emphasis is on the 'waves' of the locust invasion.**
- The threefold reference to the leftovers of one wave of locusts being devoured by the next emphasizes the thorough nature of the destruction.**



Awake, you drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you drinkers of wine, Because of the new wine, For it has been cut off from your mouth.

 **JOEL 1:5**





“Awake, you drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you drinkers of wine, Because of the new wine, For it has been cut off from your mouth.” (Jl.1:5)

- Judah will experience a time of famine and financial ruin because of these locusts.**
- Drunkards were told to weep and wail because no wine would be available due to the destruction of the vineyards.**
- New wine (sweet) was made by drying the grapes in the sun for a short time and then allowing the juice to ferment for five to seven days instead of the more usual nine.**



**For a nation has come up
against My land, Strong, and
without number; His teeth are
the teeth of a lion, And he has
the fangs of a fierce lion.**

JOEL 1:6





**“For a nation has come up against My land, Strong,
and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion,
And he has the fangs of a fierce lion.” (Jl.1:6)**



- The locusts came like a mighty nation, a fierce army against Judah.**
- Like a mighty nation an innumerable (without number) swarm of locusts had invaded the prophet’s land.**
- Their ability to devour was like that of a lion, which can rip and tear almost anything with its powerful teeth.**



**He has laid waste My vine,
And ruined My fig tree; He
has stripped it bare and
thrown it away; Its branches
are made white.**

 **JOEL 1:7**





**“He has laid waste My vine, And ruined My fig tree;
He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its
branches are made white.” (Jl.1:7)**

- **God looks at the vines and fig trees of Judah and says they belong to Him, even in judgment.**



**Lament like a virgin girded
with sackcloth For the
husband of her youth.**

JOEL 1:8





“Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the husband of her youth.” (Jl.1:8)



- Joel tells Judah that they should look at their condition and mourn, with all the emotion and passion of a young widow who had lost her bridegroom in death.**
- Sackcloth is a coarse, dark cloth, was worn in mourning rites as an outward expression of sorrow.**
- Jerusalem is often compared to a virgin daughter in the Old Testament (2Ki.19:21; Lm.1:15).**



The grain offering and the drink offering Have been cut off from the house of the LORD; The priests mourn, who minister to the LORD.

JOEL 1:9





“The grain offering and the drink offering Have been cut off from the house of the LORD; The priests mourn, who minister to the LORD.” (Jl.1:9)



- It’s remarkable to see that these sacrifices to the LORD at the temple only stopped when there was no more grain or wine to give to God.**
- Queen Athaliah’s reign was wicked, but she allowed the temple ceremonies to continue.**
- The devil does not mind ceremonies. He is interested more in corrupting faith than eliminating it.**



**The field is wasted, The
land mourns; For the grain
is ruined, The new wine is
dried up, The oil fails.**

JOEL 1:10





“The field is wasted, The land mourns; For the grain is ruined, The new wine is dried up, The oil fails.” (Jl.1:10)

- In vivid and poetic images, Joel shows how the whole nation mourns.**



**Be ashamed, you farmers,
Wail, you vinedressers, For
the wheat and the barley;
Because the harvest of the
field has perished.**

JOEL 1:11





“Be ashamed, you farmers, Wail, you vinedressers, For the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field has perished.” (Jl.1:11)

- The farmers and vine growers also had reason to mourn since the fruit of their labor had been destroyed.**



The vine has dried up, And the fig tree has withered; The pomegranate tree, The palm tree also, And the apple tree— All the trees of the field are withered; Surely joy has withered away from the sons of men.

JOEL 1:12



“The vine has dried up, And the fig tree has withered; The pomegranate tree, The palm tree also, And the apple tree— All the trees of the field are withered; Surely joy has withered away from the sons of men.” (Jl.1:12)

- **Because of the destruction of their crops they did not experience the joy of the harvest.**







Call to Repentance

(Joel 1:13-20)

**Gird yourselves and lament, you
priests; Wail, you who minister
before the altar; Come, lie all night
in sackcloth, You who minister to
my God; For the grain offering and
the drink offering Are withheld from
the house of your God.**

JOEL 1:13





“Gird yourselves and lament, you priests; Wail, you who minister before the altar; Come, lie all night in sackcloth, You who minister to my God; For the grain offering and the drink offering Are withheld from the house of your God.” (Jl.1:13)



- Joel calls the religious leaders to lead the nation in repentance.**
- Joel is telling the priests to “gird” (prepare) to do the work of repentance.**
- Joel tells them how to do the work of repentance.**
- The nation could not approach God at the very time she needed Him most. Looks hopeless!**



**Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred
assembly; Gather the elders And
all the inhabitants of the land Into
the house of the LORD your God,
And cry out to the LORD.**

JOEL 1:14





“Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land Into the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD.” (Jl.1:14)

- Make getting right with God so important that even eating isn't important.**
- Call for God's people to come together and repent.**
- Fasting was often associated with repentance.**
- Cry out to God and trust that He will respond in mercy.**



**Alas for the day! For the day
of the LORD is at hand; It
shall come as destruction
from the Almighty.**

 **JOEL 1:15**



**“Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand;
It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.”
(Jl.1:15)**

- The idea behind the phrase the day of the LORD is that this is God's time.**
- Man has his “day,” and the LORD has His day.**
- The judgment of Judah is an example of the ultimate day of the Lord in the future.**
- The locust plague had destroyed the fields and fruits of Judah, but Joel announced that things would get worse. Another day of destruction would come from the Lord.**



**Is not the food cut off
before our eyes, Joy
and gladness from the
house of our God?**

JOEL 1:16



“Is not the food cut off before our eyes, Joy and gladness from the house of our God?” (Jl.1:16)

- **Verses 16-20 contain a detailed description of the aftermath of the locust plague.**





**The seed shrivels under the
clods, Storehouses are in
shambles; Barns are broken
down, For the grain has
withered.**



JOEL 1:17





“The seed shrivels under the clods, Storehouses are in shambles; Barns are broken down, For the grain has withered.” (Jl.1:17)



- When the farmers dug into the ground to investigate the absence of green life, the shovels uncovered seeds that had not germinated.**
- With no harvest available, the storehouses and granaries had been left to deteriorate.**



**How the animals groan! The
herds of cattle are restless,
Because they have no pasture;
Even the flocks of sheep suffer
punishment.**

 **JOEL 1:18**





“How the animals groan! The herds of cattle are restless, Because they have no pasture; Even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment.” (Jl.1:18)

- The domesticated animals (cattle.... herds... Flocks of sheep) were suffering from starvation.**
- Grazing cattle wandered aimlessly looking for vegetation.**





**O LORD, to You I cry out; For fire
has devoured the open pastures,
And a flame has burned all the
trees of the field.**



JOEL 1:19





“O LORD, to You I cry out; For fire has devoured the open pastures, And a flame has burned all the trees of the field.” (Jl.1:19)

- The devastating drought affects everything in Judah, and wildfires ravage the dry land.**
- They were powerless to “fix” the drought problem.**
- God sent them to a place where only heaven could help them, so they would look no other place.**



**The beasts of the field also cry
out to You, For the water brooks
are dried up, And fire has
devoured the open pastures.**

 **JOEL 1:20**

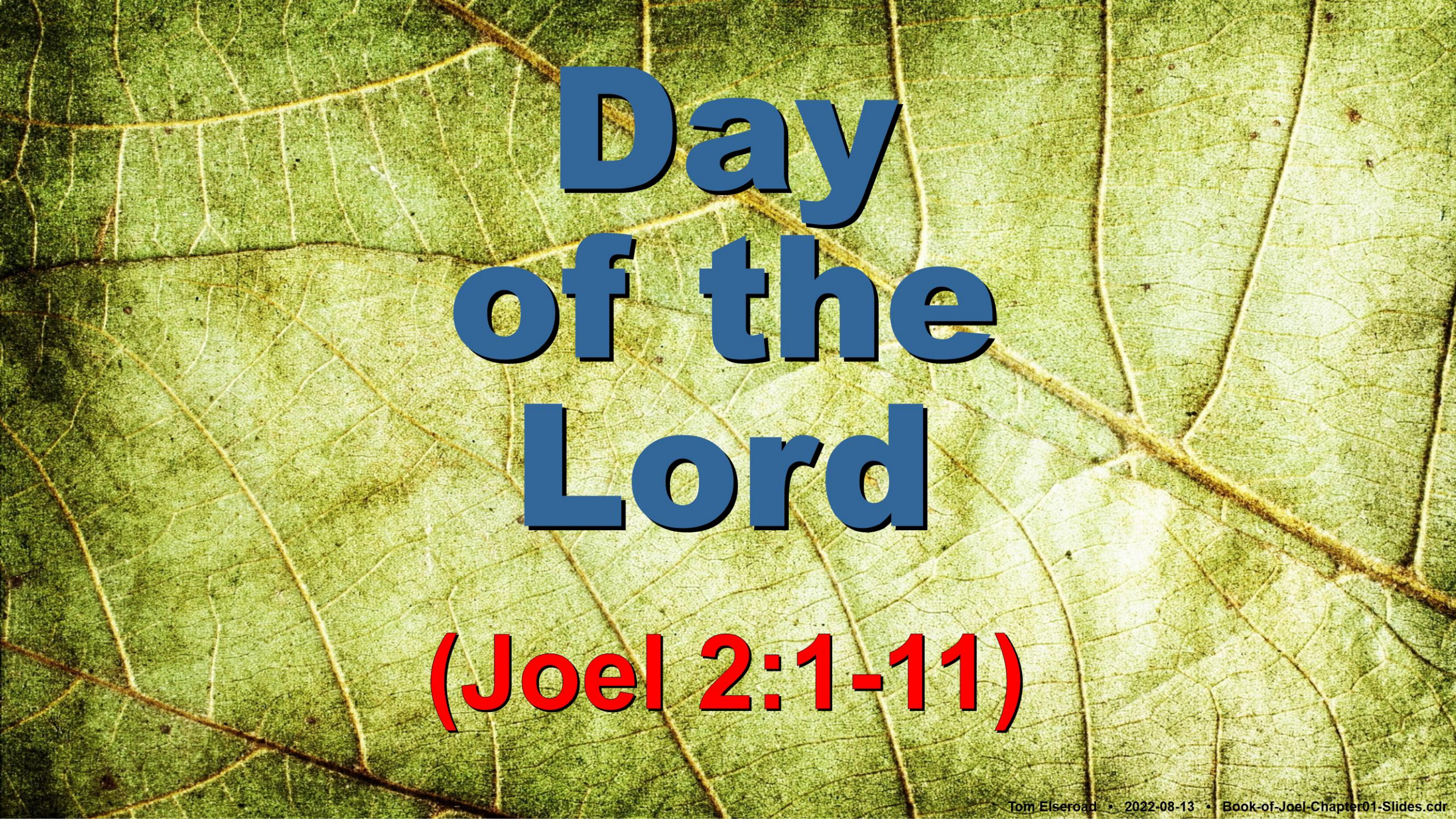




“The beasts of the field also cry out to You, For the water brooks are dried up, And fire has devoured the open pastures.” (Jl.1:20)

- Joel compared the locusts to a fire which destroys everything in its path (v.19-20).**
- Even the streams had dried up, causing the dehydrated wild animals to pant for water.**
- The wild animals cried out to Yahweh because the Lord is the provider of the water they needed.**





Day of the Lord

(Joel 2:1-11)