

Major Lessons From Minor Prophets: Lesson 3

A Holy & Just God (Joel)

Much is the advice offered in the corporate world on how to become a “somebody” if you’re a “nobody”. If you find yourself on the ground floor and want to work your way to the top there a certain things you want to do in order to make it become a reality. After all, no one wants to be a “nobody”. You want to be a “somebody”; at least so they say. Some of the suggestions include, having money, having street credibility, making a big move, being an expert, taking risks, having a spiel, having a lady with significance, talking with people, and having power. Most people I know though would probably shy away from wanting the limelight, not coveting prestige or power.

Apparently, Joel was a “nobody”, and by that I mean we don’t know much about his family or history, but all of a sudden he appears on the scene as a mouthpiece for the Most High God. Joel becomes “somebody”; not in the corporate world sense, but in the kingdom of God sense. Understanding the qualifications of other individuals God has called to do an important work, we can be pretty sure Joel possessed those same qualities – humility, meekness, energy, and trust in Divine power.

In Short: Disaster strikes Judah when locusts attack leaving every green thing bare. Joel seizes this opportunity to proclaim God’s message. Although the locust judgment has been devastating, it’s nothing compared to the day of the Lord when God will destroy His enemies and vindicate His people.

Memory Text: Joel 2:11 - “The LORD gives voice before His army, for His camp is very great; for strong *is the One* who executes His word. For the day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible; who can endure it?”

A National Disaster Dangers of Disobedience

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.”

Prov. 30:27: “The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks;”

Joel 1:10: “The field is wasted, the land mourns; for the grain is ruined, the new wine is dried up, the oil fails.”

Psalms 104:14, 15: “He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth, And wine *that* makes glad the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread *which* strengthens man’s heart.”

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.”

Hab. 3:17, 18: “Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls, Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”

Deut. 28:38-47 “You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it. ³⁹You shall plant vineyards and tend *them*, but you shall neither drink *of* the wine nor gather the *grapes*; for the worms shall eat them. ⁴⁰You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint *yourself* with the oil; for your olives shall drop off. ⁴²Locusts shall consume all your trees and the produce of your land. ⁴⁵Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you. ⁴⁶And they shall be upon you for a sign and a wonder, and on your descendants forever ⁴⁷because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything.”

Blow The Trumpet A Call to Repentance

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

Zeph. 1:14: “The great day of the LORD *is* near; *it is* near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out.”

Joel 2:12-14: ““Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” ¹³So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.¹⁴Who knows *if* He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him - a grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God?”

Ps. 130:4: “But *there is* forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.”

Rom. 2:4: “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”

Matt. 11:28, 29 “Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

The Gift Of The Spirit Preparation for the Latter Rain

Joel 2:18: “Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, and pity His people.”

Joel 2:23: “Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you - the former rain, and the latter rain in the first *month*.”

Joel 2:28, 29: “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.”

Acts 2:38, 39: “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

The prophecy is to “*meet its final accomplishment in the manifestation of divine grace which will attend the closing work of the gospel.*” - *The Great Controversy, ix*

Proclaiming God’s Name Joining Jesus in Service

Joel 2:32: “And it shall come to pass *that* whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls.”

Ex. 34:6, 7: “And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”

Rom. 10:13-15: “For “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.” ¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are

the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!”

Refuge In Times Of Trouble Confidence in God’s Promises

Joel 3:16: “The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.”

Dan. 12:1: “At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, *even* to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.”

Ps. 9:9: “The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.”

Ps. 32:7: “You *are* my hiding place; you shall preserve me from trouble; you shall surround me with songs of deliverance.”

“*Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God and striving to conform their lives to its precepts. The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an imaginary religion, a religion of words and forms, where truth is kept in the outer court. God calls for a revival and a reformation. The words of the Bible and the Bible alone, should be heard from the pulpit. But the Bible has been robbed of its power, and the result is seen in a lowering of the tone of spiritual life. In many sermons of today there is not that divine manifestation which awakens the conscience and brings life to the soul...There are many who are crying out for the living God, longing for the divine presence. Let the word of God speak to the heart. Let those who have heard only tradition and human theories and maxims, hear the voice of Him who can renew the soul unto eternal life.*”
– *Prophets & Kings, p. 626*

Summary: God allows **trouble** to lead us to **repentance**, so that we might be filled with His **Spirit**, propelling us into **service**, and to experience **safety and security** in Him.