

## Purpose

To warn Judah of God's impending judgment for its sins and to urge the people to turn back to Him

## Meaning of Name

"Jehovah is God"

## Date Written

Probably during the time Joel may have prophesied, approximately 835-796 BC

## Setting

The people of Judah had become prosperous and complacent. Taking God for granted, they had turned to self-centeredness, idolatry, and sin.

## Key Verses

"Turn to me now, while there is time! Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Don't tear your clothing in your grief; instead, tear your hearts. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful. He is filled with kindness and is eager not to punish you." *Hosea 2:12, 13*

## Key People

The people of Judah

## Key Place

Jerusalem

## An Overview (3 Chapters)

- The Day of the Locusts (1:1-2:27)
- The Day of the Lord (2:28-3:21)

## Major Themes

- *Punishment*: The day for settling accounts with God for how we have lived is fast approaching. God is the one with whom we all must reckon — not nature, the economy, or a foreign invader. We can't ignore or offend God forever. We must pay attention to His message now.
- *Forgiveness*: God stood ready to forgive and restore all those who would come to Him and turn away from sin. God wanted to restore His people with His love and restore them to a proper relationship with Him. Forgiveness comes by turning from sin and turning toward God.
- *Promise of the Holy Spirit*: Joel predicts the time when God will pour out His Holy Spirit on all people. It will be the beginning of new and fresh worship of God by those who believe in Him, as well as the beginning of judgment on all who reject Him.