

# Seven Bible Studies 2017

## Prophecy

### September 9: Joel 1-3 (Wade Stanley)

Good morning everyone! Our reading for today is Joel 1-3. Here are a few things to help the reading along.

Joel was a prophet sent to Judah (the southern kingdom) probably during the 7th century. Unlike Hosea, the prophet's personal life does not enter the book in any way.

The first 1.5 chapters of Joel predict a pestilence of locust that will fall upon Judah. You will find God's customary urgings to mourning and repentance interspersed. On a side note, I have often wondered if the plague of locusts did not prefigure the conquering of Babylon. This section is rife with military imagery and the connections are many. I have come to lean toward a more literal interpretation, but I do not rule out the possibility of this pestilence serving as a "living allegory."

Throughout the book you will find "the day of the Lord" several times. In my estimation, these references do not predict the ultimate "day of the Lord" when "every knee shall bow and every tongue confess." Instead, I believe these warn of a day of judgment against Judah as well as her Gentile enemies (see chapter 3). Perhaps chapter 3 does prefigure the final day when God's retributive acts will be carried out against all who do not know Him and who have not obeyed the gospel of Jesus. I think it more likely that chapter 3 is concerned with the more immediate threats of Philistia and Phoenicia.

The end of chapter 2 is Messianic and I know it will be familiar. This passage forms the foundation for Peter's declaration of the risen Christ in Acts 2.

Have a blessed day. Keep your garments clean and your lamps trimmed!

#### **Comment:**

Butch O'Neal:  
Thank you, Wade!

#### **Comment:**

Steven Wright:  
Thank you brother Wade!

#### **Comment:**

Ginger Hermon:  
Excellent summary, Wade! Thanks for starting and ending the day by edifying the brethren!  
(Maddy just got back from Iowa Bible Study. Good turnout. 😊)