1. **Intro:**

   1.1. **Blow the shofar** – Means? – To alarm, or to Gather.

2. **ALARM! (1-14)**

   2.1. Right up front let me say that some scholars think Joel is describing only a **locust swarm**, some think an **invasion** by Assyria or Babylon, still others of the **coming day of the Lord**…so which is it?

   2.1.1. I believe all 3!

   2.1.2. Joel described in ch.1 the locust swarm. Now he sounds the warning of the coming “day of the Lord”. Still using Locust analogies.

   2.1.2.1. Let’s read vs.1-11

   2.1.3. See “day of the Lord” bookends(1 & 11).

   2.1.4. Joel depicted what the locust **look like**(4); **sound like**(5); & **approach like**(7-9).

   2.1.4.1. They say a locust swarms noise can be heard 6 miles off! And has been likened unto a loud **waterfall**, a **torrent**, a **rushing wind**, or a **raging flame**.

   2.2. (10) A desert locust swarm that crossed the Red Sea in 1889 was estimated to cover 2,000 square miles. [Zondervan Pict. Encyc. Pg.949]

   2.3. (11) It is a day in which Jehovah will **break silence & intervene** in history to **judge** both Israel & the gentile nations.

   2.3.1. **A couple reminders:** [1] the day of the Lord’s is a day of **God’s judgment.** [2] The day is **still future.** [3] It is accompanied by a time of **great trouble** on earth. [4] It is to be followed by the **reign** of God through his Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

   2.4. Joel is again sounding an alarm so those facing the 2**nd** or greater invasion might **get ready for it!**
2.5. **Joel’s Goal…Repentance!** (12-14)

2.5.1. At the 11th hour, when destruction seems imminent!

2.5.2. So this is no surprise why this next section deals with repentance!

2.5.2.1. A little different from Jonah’s message of, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” (i.e. he wasn’t going to give them any hints about possible repentance & forgiveness)

2.5.3. Joel 1st gives an **analysis** of true repentance (12,13a), & then **incentives** for it(13b,14)!

2.5.4. **Analysis!**

2.5.4.1. Outward expressions of an inward state are both **right & valuable**.

2.5.4.2. But what Joel is **against** is outward expression that does not correspond with reality.

2.5.4.3. It is a whole lot easier for us to do the opposite…to rend our **garments** instead of our **hearts**! – But God wants us heartbroken!

2.5.4.4. Turn back a page to Hosea 14:1,2 for a perfect description of true repentance!

2.5.4.4.1. They include **acknowledging** sin; **confessing** it; & an appeal to God not based upon our good works(based solely on His grace!)

2.5.4.5. **This is what Joel wanted to see, this is still what God wants to see in us today!… “ALL your heart!”**

2.5.4.5.1. All of your emotions, personality, intellect, affections, thoughts, & your will…centered upon the Lord.

2.5.4.5.2. Turn to me with a **Total heart** (12 “all”); w/a **Torn heart** (13a “rend”); w/a **Turned heart** (13b “return”).

2.5.4.6. [1] Confess specific sins!

2.5.4.6.1. Is it really repenting when we generically say I’m sorry? {It begs the question: what are you repenting of?}

2.5.4.7. [2] **Genuine Sorrow!**

2.5.4.7.1. **Ps.51:17** “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a **contrite heart**; These, O God, You will not despise.”

2.5.4.7.2. **Contrition** is deeper than **regret**! – It is sensing our guilt & weeping within.

2.5.4.7.3. “**Blessed are the poor in spirit**,…**Blessed are those who mourn** (over sin),”

2.5.4.7.4. To “mourn over our sins” has been explained, like a **spiritual winter**. Then comes the **springtime** of God’s comfort!
2.5.4.8. [3] Conversion!

2.5.4.8.1. Joel uses turn & return!

2.5.4.8.2. **Convert** – (Latin) con=around & verto=to turn {to turn around}.

2.5.4.8.3. **Repentance** – refers to a change of mind. (a change so basic that the direction of one's life is altered)

2.5.4.8.4. Forsake your self-chosen paths of rebellion; come to your senses; recognize me as your God; & follow my instructions!

2.5.4.8.5. It's like this: You are facing yourself,…behind you is the Lord Jesus Christ…turn around!

2.5.5. **Incentives!**

2.5.5.1. Read vs.13b. {It doesn't get better than this!}

2.5.5.2. **Gracious** – Inclined to pardon the repentant sinner.

2.5.5.3. **Merciful** – Possessing mercy in abundance.

2.5.5.4. **Slow to anger** – (Wycliffe) “The Lord does not permit his anger to break forth immediately as an avalanche upon the discovery of sin, but he waits to see if the sinner will repent.”

2.6. **(13) “Relents” – How does God repent/relent?**

2.6.1. God doesn’t change his **mind** but he does change His **attitudes & actions**.

2.6.1.1. So it seems that God is here depicted in terms of the human experience of knowledge & emotion.

2.6.1.2. The immutable & sovereign God deals appropriately with changes of human behavior.

2.6.1.3. (i.e.) When man repents God “changes His mind” with regard to the blessing or punishment appropriate to the situation.

2.7. “God’s judgment is a **waiting, wise** judgment. It is never at the mercy of an irrational temper, impulsiveness, or misinformation. It always responds at exactly the **right time** & in exactly the **right measure**. And when His people repent, God’s judgment steps aside to let His **mercy & grace** flow!”

3. **ASSEMBLY! (15-17)**

3.1. (16) The **gladness** of the bridegroom & his bride are exchanged for **sincere sadness**.

3.2. “Where is their God”(17) is answered in the next section.

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1 Chuck Swindoll; pg.17,18. Vol.3
4. **ANSWER! (18-27)**

4.1. Here is the turning point of this book.

4.2. “We had an Alarm & the Assembly; now we have the Answer from the Lord!”^2

4.3. (19) Joel had faith…. “The Lord will answer!”

4.4. (21-27) God was not only to drive away the locust of judgment & restore the pastures, but also bless them with “Bumper Crops” & even make up for wasted years(25)!

4.5. (25) You can’t have your time back but there is a strange & wonderful way in which God can give back to you the wasted blessings.

4.5.1. We have a God who delights in impossibilities & who asks, “Is anything too hard for me?”(Jer.33:27)

4.5.2. Phillips Brooks said, “…the only way to get rid of your past is to make a future out of it. God will waste nothing.”

4.6. (25b) My great army which I sent among you –

4.6.1. Hos.6:1 “Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.”

4.7. (27) Why is he going to bless them so much? Because they deserve it…no way! - But so other nations would know He is the Lord!

4.7.1. Here is one of the strongest statements of mono-theism in the whole O.T.

4.7.1.1. Coming back from India I understand this clearly.

4.7.2. This refers back to the 1st of the 10 commandments.

4.7.2.1. Ex.20:2,3 “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. "You shall have no other gods before Me."

4.7.2.2. If one worships the one true God & Him only, then the moral standards of this God will inevitably guide the worshiper in other areas.

^2 WWW
4.7.3. **Q:** What if I don’t worship Baal, Zeus, or Molech?

4.7.3.1. We break it whenever we give some person or some thing 1st place in our affections that belong to God alone.

4.7.3.2. Maybe this substitute is “yourself” or your opinion of yourself!

4.7.3.3. Maybe it is success, material possessions, fame, or personal power over others.

4.7.4. Jesus said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment.

4.7.5. We need to see all things from this vantage point! – This should be our guide our aim. – To put Him 1st in thoughts; word & deed; in business & leisure; in friendships & career; in the use of our money; time & talents; at work & at home...WHY???

4.7.5.1. Because of who God is & because of what he has done!

4.7.6. **Who God is:**

4.7.6.1. He is w/o beginning & end “I am who I am”.

4.7.6.2. He is self-existent. No one created Him.

4.7.6.3. He is self-sufficient. He needs no one.

4.7.6.4. Any god less then this is no God!

4.7.6.5. It is because of WHO He is that demands our worship!

4.7.7. **What He has done:**

4.7.7.1. This applies primarily to Israel who was delivered from slavery from Egypt (Ex.20). But it also applies to any who have experienced deliverance, whether from death or slavery, or poverty or disease. In addition the deliverance must also apply to spiritual matters.