



Our Lord has a day when He will judge the evil in this world and eliminate it... And today this is a day of salvation and a day of joy for all those who cling to our Lord... And live a life of constant perversion... And our Lord will dwell in His Holy Spirit among His people who are among all the peoples of the world. (New Testament Church).

### + The meaning of the name Joel:

- “Eel” means God, “Jo” comes from Jehovah. The meaning of his name: Jehovah is God.
- And as usual, the name of every prophet expresses his message... The message of Joel is repentance... and repentance is a return to God... As Elijah said to the people: If Jehovah is God, then worship him.
- And an unrepentant person is far from worshiping our Lord (even if not clearly).
- Joel is one of the 12 minor prophets.

### + Writing conditions of the book:

- It is not known when it was written exactly (because it is not mentioned in which king era, it was written) ... It is not certain if it was before or after the captivity.
- It is clear that the prophet Joel has well studied the prophecies of the Old Testament... because he quoted from many prophecies before him... That is why some commentators believe that he wrote his prophecy after returning from captivity.
- He said that the day of the Lord is coming and that there will be punishment for evil, without mentioning what evils the children of Israel have done (assuming that we are supposed to know well, the evils that were said in the rest of the prophecies).

### + Joel book summary: We can summarize the trip in 3 points:

1. Sin leads to severe punishment and chastisement from our Lord.
2. But the mercy of our Lord always gives us hope, because our Lord Himself repents and does not perish.
3. And our Lord will have mercy on his people and forgive them with their repentance.



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Part One: Discipline aimed at repentance (chapter 1 and half of chapter 2)

**This part is divided into two texts in the same order: the announcement of the chastisement - the call to repentance - the personal repentance of Joel.**

- Chapter One: A call to repentance because of a previous disciplinary blow.
- For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion. (Exodus 10)... And locusts eat everything in front of them, even though they appear to be small in size. Like the sins that appear to be small, but you don't have mercy.
- Karma is a sign of life with our Lord and union with Christ (the Eucharist)... and sin deprives us of this life with Lord.
- This strike aims to make the people repent and return to our Lord.
- Be girded and mourn, O priests. Wail, O servants of the altar. Sanctify a fast. They called for staying alone to pray.
- Joel calls the priests and elders to lead the people to repentance. A message of repentance because people are far from our Lord and there is no personal or group relationship.
- And not only priests, this is also the deacons (servants of the altar) ... Our behavior as deacons is very influential on people. Do you think that the people see deacons who are sympathetic and respectful of the altar and the angels and the presence of our Lord and pray with reverence or see deacons speaking and laughing in prayer?!
  
- + Fasting is "holy"... it means not just changing food.
- + To you, O Lord, I cry.
- + Joel begins with himself and offers repentance.
  
- The first text of chapter two: A call to repentance, for the coming stroke of discipline.
- Because the day of the Lord is great and very dreadful, who can bear it?
- Warning of the coming day of the Lord (the punishment to come on those who refuse to repent) ... a day of judgment ... literally, he might mean captivity (if his prophecy was before captivity).
- Return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, weeping and mourning. And tore your hearts, not your clothes.
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- That is why he calls for repentance... and explains the acceptable qualities of repentance: real repentance, not acting... Real change that changes bad habits and characteristics.
- Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abundant in mercy, and repents of evil.
- Joel says, why is true repentance a sure solution... because our Lord is abundant in mercy and slow to anger (the same expression in Exodus 34:6... when He forgave the people after they had made the golden calf and worshiped it). and as He had mercy on the people of Nineveh.
- Have pity, O Lord, for your people, and do not surrender your inheritance to shame.
- He starts with himself and prays to God that he has mercy on his people.

## Part Two: Our Lord's Acceptance of Repentance and His Mercy on His People (half of Chapter 2 and Chapter 3)

**This part is also divided into two texts and focuses on 3 points: the end of evil -compensation for what has passed- the presence of our Lord with his people.**

+ The first idea: the end of evil.

- And the North has driven him away from you, and expelled him to a dry and desolate land. Fear not, O earth. Rejoice and be glad because the Lord magnifies his work (chapter 2)
- I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat, and I will judge them there over my people and my inheritance Israel, whom I scattered among the nations and divided my land (chapter 3).
- + Our Lord will punish the wicked and end evil, And here Joel took from the prophecies:
  - **Isaiah** (Chapter 13, in which Isaiah prophesied of visiting the evils of the wicked Babylon on the day of the Lord).
  - **Zephaniah** (chapter 3 in which he also prophesied about the victory of the people of our Lord over his enemies).
  - **Ezekiel** (chapter 38 and 39) who also prophesied about the end of evil and the punishment of the wicked.







+ The second idea: make up for what was missed.

- And I will compensate you for the years that the locusts have eaten. Then you will eat food and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has done wonders with you (chapter 2).
- But Judah will dwell forever, and Jerusalem to all generations (chapter 3).
- + This is the Church of the New Testament. Our Lord will compensate for the period in which there is chastisement. True repentance will compensate for all that has passed. And this meaning is also prophesied about it:
- **Isaiah** (Chapter 35: And the redeemed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing, and eternal joy upon their heads).
- **Ezekiel** (Chapter 47: And on the river's shores on its shores on this side and on there every tree grows for food, its leaf does not wither, and its fruit does not fail).
- **Zechariah** (Chapter 14: They will dwell in it, and there will be no more curses. So Jerusalem will live in peace).

+ The third idea: the presence of our Lord with his people.

- After that, I will pour out my Spirit on all people, so that your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your youth will see visions. And it will be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (chapter 2).
- This is the most beautiful prophecy in the Book of Joel... on the day of the coming of the Holy Spirit (and this prophecy was quoted by St. Peter in his sermon on the day of the coming of the Holy Spirit)... the greatest privilege of the Church of the New Testament that our Lord dwells in us with His Spirit.
- + And also, this meaning was foretold by him:
- **Isaiah** (chapter 32: "until a spirit is poured out on us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a garden, and the orchard is counted as a forest" and chapter 44: "I will pour out my spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your offspring").
- **Jeremiah** (chapter 31: I will put my law within them, and write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people).
- **Ezekiel** (Chapter 36: And I will give you a new heart, and put a new spirit within you, and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh, and give you a heart of flesh).

### + Summary of the Book of Joel:

- Sins bring chastisement... and if we do not repent, the Day of Judgment will be difficult... But true repentance is guaranteed: Our Lord will be merciful and forgive and renew everything and compensate us for the difficult time... and evil will prevail... and He transforms us and renews us with his spirit.
- May God help us to repent truly and sincerely to enjoy life with the Holy Spirit who is inside us.



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