



A STUDY RESOURCE
from Gary Ray

JOEL AND THE EVENTS OF THE LAST DAYS

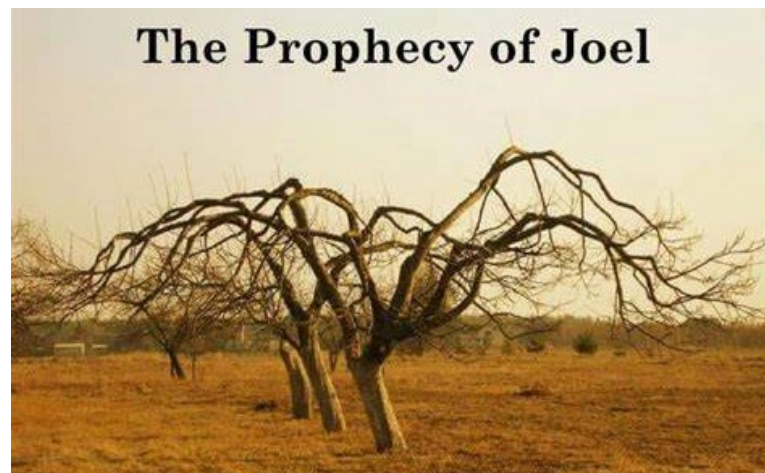
Many New Testament passages provide insight into the events of the *last days*. In addition to the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24-25) and the book of Revelation, eschatological passages can be found in Luke 17:20-37, 21:8-24; Mark 13:5-37; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; 2 Thess. 2:1-12; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; 1 Cor. 15:50-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18 and 2 Peter 3:1-18.

Many do not realize that many eschatological passages can be found in the Old Testament. For example, there is more information on the Millennial Reign of Christ in the Old Testament than in the New Testament.

This article notes how the small, three-chapter, Old Testament book of Joel presents important prophetic information that is echoed centuries later by Jesus in the Olivet Discourse, and decades later by John in the book of Revelation.

Joel's writing is deep and layered with meaning. Joel writes of invasions from Assyrian and Babylonian armies and uses the imagery of destructive locusts to warn people of coming horrors. Those invasions occurred exactly as foretold, but as horrible as the Assyrian and Babylonian attacks were, they are but shadows of the terrible last-days events Joel's prophetic message also points to—the events profiled in the Book of Revelation.

The chart on the next page profiles how Jesus' teaching on the events of the *last days* parallel what the prophet Joel wrote approximately 800 years before Jesus presented the Olivet Discourse.



How Joel, John, and Jesus profile events of the Last Days

JOEL	JESUS
<p>Notes trials that foreshadow future judgments</p> <p>Hunger (Joel 1:5, 9-12) War (Joel 1:8) Apostacy (Joel 1:13)</p>	<p>Speaks of the trials of the last days as “Birth Pains,” which foreshadow the greater trials of the Tribulation (Matt. 24:8)</p> <p>“Famine” (Matt. 24:7) “Wars and rumors of war” (Matt. 24:6) “False prophets will deceive many” (Matt. 24:11)</p>
<p>Affirms God’s directives:</p> <p>Honor God / Live for God (Joel 1:14-15) “Blow the trumpet / Sound the alarm” (Joel 2:1)</p>	<p>Jesus’ directives:</p> <p>“Take heed that no one deceives you...endure to the end.” (Matt. 24:4, 13) “[Take the gospel message to] all the world.” (Matt. 24:14)</p>
<p>How Joel references future judgments:</p> <p>As darkness (Joel 2:2a) As a great army (Joel 2:2b) As a victorious army (Joel 2:3-8) As fire (Joel 2:3a) As horses (Joel 2:4)</p>	<p>How John references future judgments:</p> <p>As darkness (Rev. 16:10-11) As a great army “of 200,000,000 men” (Rev. 9:16) “It was granted [to the beast] to make war with the saints and overcome them...” (Rev. 13:7) As fire (Rev. 8:7, 10:1, 14:18, 15:2) As horses (Rev 6:1-12, 9:17)</p>
<p>Joel notes that...</p> <p>Judgments will come “as a thief” (Joel 2:9b) The “earth will quake” (Joel 2:10a) “The sun and moon will grow dark” (Joel 2:10b) “Stars [will] diminish their brightness” (Joel 2:10c) “The day of the Lord is great...who can endure it?” (Joel 2:11b) In the midst of Judgment, there is a call to repent and worship God (Joel 2:12-16a) “God will gather [enemies] and bring them to the valley of Jehoshaphat” (Joel 3:2a) There will be a decisive battle (Joel 3:9-14) The Lord will be victorious (Joel 3:16) A new age of righteousness will come with Jerusalem as its center (Joel 3:17a)</p>	<p>John, notes that...</p> <p>Judgments will come “as a thief” (Rev. 16:15) “Every mountain [will be] moved out of its place...there [will be] a great earthquake” (Rev. 6:4, 11:13) “A third of the sun and a third of the moon [will be] darkened” (Rev. 8:12a) “A third of the stars were darkened” (Rev. 8:12b) “There will be great Tribulation...unless those days were shortened no flesh would be saved...” (Matt. 24:21-22) “The angel...having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on earth...said, ‘fear God, give Him glory...and worship Him’” (Rev. 14:6-7) “And [His enemies] were gathered...to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon” (Rev. 16:16) “The Beast and False Prophet [will be] captured and thrown into the lake of fire...” (Rev. 19:20-21) “And Christ will reign...for 1000 years” (Rev. 20:6)</p>

How Joel Profiles Events of The Last Days

The three chapters of Joel correlate with the **1)** The season of the “birth pains” **2)** Tribulation-period events, and **3)** events associated with the Millennial Reign of Christ.

Much of Joel (and much of Scripture) serves as a call to turn to God. Forgiveness is promised and grace is given to those who repent and turn to the Father.

The call is to turn to God and avert (or escape from, via the Rapture) the judgments Scripture notes are coming. Those entrusted with insight into the lateness of the hour are to study, watch, share, and warn as God leads, for the day of the return of the Lord draws near.

The admonition in Joel reads: “*Blow the trumpet...sound the alarm...for the day of the Lord is coming, [indeed] it is at hand.*” (Joel 2:1)