

Glory be to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Welcome back to our journey through Scripture. Today, we study two short but deeply prophetic books: **Joel** and **Obadiah**. Though brief in length, their spiritual depth and relevance are profound.

□ *Note: This is a summary meant to guide your study. Always read the full Bible texts and ask the Holy Spirit to open your understanding (John 16:13).*

□ THE BOOK OF JOEL

Author: Joel (Hebrew: *Yo'el* – “Yahweh is God”)

Date: Likely during the reign of King Uzziah (ca. 800s BC)

Main Theme: The Day of the Lord - Judgment and Restoration

Chapters: 3

□ Chapter 1: A Warning Through Disaster

Joel opens by describing a devastating **locust plague**, symbolizing God’s judgment on Judah (Joel 1:4). The plague left nothing untouched—signifying that sin has total consequences if unrepented.

Joel 1:4 - "What the locust swarm has left the great locusts have eaten..."

This is a **type** of divine chastisement. God often used natural disasters in the Old Testament as physical signs of **spiritual decay** (see Amos 4:9-10). Joel calls everyone—from priests to common people—to repentance.

Joel 1:14- "Consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly... and cry out to the Lord."

□ Chapter 2: God's Call to Repentance and Promise of Restoration

Joel warns of an approaching **"Day of the Lord"**, portrayed as an invading army (Joel 2:1-11), but this symbolizes more than just Babylon or Assyria—it's a prophetic picture of **final judgment**.

Yet God extends **grace**:

Joel 2:12-13- “‘Yet even now,’ declares the Lord, ‘return to me with all your heart... Rend your hearts and not your garments.’”

True repentance involves **inner transformation**, not just outward rituals (see Psalm 51:17). God desires **brokenness over sin**, not empty ceremony.

God then promises **restoration**:

Joel 2:25- “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten...”

And also gives a **messianic and Pentecostal prophecy**:

*Joel 2:28- “I will pour out my Spirit on all people...”
Fulfilled in Acts 2:16-17 – Peter confirms, “This is what was uttered through the prophet Joel...”*

This is a **key passage** linking Old Testament prophecy to New Testament reality. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit marks the beginning of the **Church Age**.

□ Chapter 3: Judgment for the Nations, Restoration for Israel

God proclaims judgment on the nations who harmed His people (Joel 3:2-8), particularly for crimes like **enslavement, division of land, and desecration of God's temple**.

Joel 3:2- “I will gather the armies of the world into the Valley of Jehoshaphat... for harming my people.”

God is **just**—He will judge both individuals and nations. This foreshadows the final judgment (cf. Revelation 20:11-15).

But God also declares the ultimate **restoration and deliverance of His people**, pointing to both the post-exilic return and the millennial kingdom under Christ.

Joel 3:16-17- “The Lord also will roar from Zion... So you shall know that I am the Lord your God...”

▣ THE BOOK OF OBADIAH

Author: Obadiah (means “Servant of Yahweh”)

Chapters: 1

Main Theme: Judgment on Edom and the Sovereignty of God

▣ Background on Edom

Edom descended from **Esau**, Jacob’s twin brother (Genesis 25:30). Despite this family bond, Edom held a long-standing hostility toward Israel.

Obadiah rebukes Edom for:

- Rejoicing over Israel’s fall,
- Aiding foreign invaders (likely Babylon),
- Betraying survivors.

Obadiah 1:10 – “Because of the violence against your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame; you will be destroyed forever.”

Obadiah 1:12– “You should not have gloated when they suffered such misfortune...”

Edom’s sin was rooted in **pride and betrayal**. God abhors **treachery**, especially among those with close relational ties (see Proverbs 6:16–19).

□ **God’s Judgment on Edom**

Edom trusted in its high mountainous cities and alliances, thinking they were untouchable.

Obadiah 1:3-4 – “You who live in the clefts of the rock... Though you soar aloft like the eagle... I will bring you down.”

Pride is the root of many sins (Proverbs 16:18). Edom became a **symbol of human arrogance**, and its downfall is a warning to all who oppose God’s purposes.

□ The Day of the Lord and Final Restoration

Obadiah echoes Joel in declaring **the Day of the Lord** as a time when **all nations will be judged**.

Obadiah 1:15 – “For the day of the Lord is near, against all the nations.”

Obadiah ends on a note of hope: **Israel will be restored**, and **God will reign**.

Obadiah 1:21- “And the kingdom shall be the Lord’s.”

God’s sovereignty will be fully established. The messianic kingdom, ruled by Christ, will fulfill this prophecy (Revelation 11:15).

If you’d like this in a printable guide, PowerPoint slide, or group Bible study format, feel free to ask—I’ll gladly prepare it for you.

Let us keep growing in God’s Word and be ready for the **Day of the Lord**—not in fear, but in faith.

□ *“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”*

— Revelation 22:20

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