

Bible Reading Notes
Joel & Amos

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Joel 1

We are uncertain as to the exact date of Joel. The book does not give us that information. It is probably either during the reign of Josiah or after the return from the Babylonian captivity.

1:4 – The context is a great locust infestation that has destroyed the crops and the trees of the land of Judah, followed by a drought.

1:15 – day of the LORD – Joel interprets the locust as judgment from the Lord for his people's unfaithfulness and calls for repentance.

Joel 2

2:2 – people – This is a reference to the locusts, not a human army.

2:12-17 – The Lord offers them an opportunity to repent and return to covenant faithfulness.

2:13 – The Lord's gracious nature serves as a motivation to repentance.

2:16 – Repentance must be a priority – even more important than a honeymoon!

2:23 – early rain = in the autumn; **latter rain** = in the spring.

2:28-29 – This promise is fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:17ff).

2:31 – The locusts were a precursor to a greater and final day of the Lord which will occur at the end of history when the Lord comes to judge the nations.

2:32 – **will be saved** – This is quoted by Paul in Romans 10:13 in terms of the availability of salvation for all who believe, whether Jew or Greek.

Joel 3

3:2 – **Valley of Jehoshaphat** = Valley of the Lord's Judgment or Valley of Decision (v. 14).

3:16 – **Lord is a refuge** – The Day of the Lord is inevitable, but the people of God will be protected from the Lord's wrath.

Amos 1

Amos lived and ministered at the same time as Jonah.

Though he lived in Judah, his message is for Israel, warning them of the coming Assyrian invasion.

1:1 – Tekoa – Located about 5 miles south of Bethlehem.

Most of Amos 1-2 is the Lord's announcement of judgment on the nations surrounding Israel.

1:3 - I will not revoke the punishment – This line is repeated eight times to show the certainty of the Lord's judgment on the nations.

1:5 – Valley of Aven = Valley of Wickedness

Amos 2

2:12 – made Nazarites drink wine – In doing so the Nazarites would be breaking the vow they had made to the Lord (Numbers 6:3).

Amos 3

3:2 – therefore I will punish you – Being in covenant with the Lord brings many blessings. It also brings greater judgment when the covenant is broken.

3:3-6 – All of these questions expect a negative answer.

3:11 – adversary – This will be the Assyrians.

Amos 4

4:1-3 – This is a picture of the fall of Samaria.

4:4 – **Bethel & Gilgal** – These were centers of idol worship.

4:6-13 – Lord presents his case against Israel listing all the things he had done to convince them to repent. Note the repeated refrain: “yet you did not return to me.”

4:6 – **cleanness of teeth** – Their teeth were clean because the Lord had withheld food from them.

Amos 5

5:1ff – This section is a funeral dirge where Amos mourns the coming judgment against Israel.

5:18-20 – The Day will be darkness and unavoidable because of their unrepentant sin.

5:27 – **exile beyond Damascus** – This is what happened to Israel in 722 BC

Amos 6

6:4-7 – Amos outlines the excesses of the people of Israel. They thought of themselves as the “first of the nations” (v. 1) but will be the first to go into exile (v. 7).

6:10 – **must not mention the name of the Lord** – It is too late to call on the Lord for help.

Amos 7

7:7-9 – plumb line – The plumb line is used as a picture of the Law of God which is used to determine if Israel has been obedient. She has not been and will face the judgment of God.

7:10 – Amos has conspired – The prophets often found themselves accused of treason when they brought the word of the Lord against a sinful nation.

Amos 8

Amos 8 is a further description of the Day of the Lord that will come upon covenant breaking Israel.

8:1-2 – God’s patience has come to an end. It is time for judgment.

8:4-6 – These verses provide a description of some of the sins of Israel that the Lord is responding to.

8:11 – famine...of the words of the LORD – This is far worse than a famine of bread. It is the consequence of rejecting the revelation one has received.

Amos 9

9:2-4 – On the Day of the Lord there will be no escape for the unbeliever.

9:11 – is quoted by James at the Council at Jerusalem in Acts 15:16-17.

9:13-15 – In spite of all his people’s sins, God ends the prophecy of Amos with the promise of grace. This grace will come through Christ, the line of David (v. 11), and will be extended to repentant people.

