

The Bible - Week 16 (April 25th)

Eric Swanson / General

Joel + Obadiah

Author: Joel is named for its author. Obadiah was also self titled.

Date: Joel was written during the reign of Joash around 835-796 BCE, Obadiah is either 850 BCE with King Jehoram or 586 BCE at the fall of Jerusalem.

Audience: The people living in Jerusalem & those nearest the temple. Obadiah wrote to those recently attacked by the Edomites.

Reason: Joel talks of the future judgement of the Judahites and hopes to change their hearts. Obadiah wanted to bring hope to Judah through the promise of Edom's judgement.

Theme: The day of the Lord will bring judgement if people don't repent (Joel) and in Obadiah they are judged by Edom.

Key Verse:

Joel 2:25 CEB

²⁵ I will repay you for the years that the cutting locust, the swarming locust, the hopping locust, and the devouring locust has eaten— my great army, which I sent against you.

Obadiah 15 CEB

¹⁵ The day of the LORD is near against all the nations. As you have done, so it will be done to you; your actions will make you suffer!

Sections: Judgement and Repentance (Ch 1:1-2:17) Future Blessings (Ch 2:18-3:21) / Judgement of Edom (Ch 1:1-6) Hope for Judah (Ch 1:17-21)

Key Words: Day of the Lord, Locusts, Return, Land, Edom, Jacob, Day of the Lord, The Nations.

Basic Intro: Joel is hard to read because the author uses a lot of metaphors. This is strange for a minor prophet but his idea of repentance is clear. Obadiah is the shortest Old Testament book but it speaks of a people that had not yet been conquered and yet who God would provide protection from.

Questions for Discussion:

- **How do you remain faithful when things around you are falling apart?**
- **What is the “Day of the Lord” that Joel speaks of and when will it occur?**
- **In what way can you share a serious message in a peaceful manner?**
- **How has God protected you from times of harm?**