



## **Joel & Malachi**

**The Old Testament Prophets of The  
Coming Day of The Lord**

**FAITH COVENANT CHURCH**

*Spring 2023*

## Joel & Malachi- The Old Testament Prophets of The Coming Day of The Lord

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. ~Malachi 3:1

# Lesson Plan

|                | Lesson | Subject                          | Verses            |
|----------------|--------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| April 2, 2023  | 1      | Locust Plague                    | Joel 1:1-2:11     |
| April 16, 2023 | 2      | Answered Prayer                  | Joel 2:12-32      |
| April 23, 2023 | 3      | The Coming Day of The Lord       | Joel 3:1-21       |
| April 30, 2023 | 4      | God Disrespected                 | Malachi 1:1-2:9   |
| May 14, 2023   | 5      | God's Charges of broken Covenant | Malachi 2:10-3:12 |
| May 21, 2023   | 6      | The Coming Day of The Lord       | Malachi 3:13-4:6  |

## **Joel & Malachi- The Old Testament Prophets of The Coming Day of The Lord**

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### **Introduction**

The prophet Joel is identified in this book only through his father in verse 1 which states “The word of the Lord came to Joel, the son of Pethuel.” Otherwise, there is little known about the prophet Joel. Most likely he was from Judah because there is no mention of Israel. His words are referred to only once, in the New Testament, in Acts 2:16.

It has been surmised is that this book was written somewhere in the 9th century BC. It is possible it was written during the early days of Joash. This reasoning comes from the lack of references to the Babylonians, Assyrians, and Syrians.

Joel does mention the Philistines, Edomites, Phoenicians, and Egyptians which sways to accepting the time frame 835-800 B.C.

The people of Judah regarded locusts as God’s judgment on their sins. Joel used this disaster to show the people of Judah their need to repent.

Some think since Malachi's name translates to “*my messenger*”, that perhaps it wasn't in actuality his name, but a title given to the one who wrote the prophetic book. There is little personal information known about Malachi the prophet, but from cultural clues of the time, it's been determined that he preached this message around 440 to 400 B.C., in Jerusalem. The people had returned from exile in Babylon, but their land was still being restored, and their faith was in shambles.

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### **Lesson 1**

#### **The Locust Plague Described**

##### **The Invasion**

##### **Read Joel 1:1-12**

**Note:** some information on locusts, mature locusts have a 4 inch wingspan, and are 3 inches long, they look like grasshoppers, they can turn the sky black as they jump up to search for vegetation to devour, they can soar up to 5,000 feet, a swarm can contain 1 billion creatures weighing 3 million pounds, they can travel up to 60 miles in one day, and they can take down crops at 250 feet per hour, and they must taste pretty good too (See Matthew 3:4)

1. Where else in scripture are swarms of locusts mentioned? What does this tell you about the mention of locusts?
2. What 4 types of locusts are mentioned? What do you think is meant by the different types of locusts?
3. What do you know about the use of the symbols and/ or metaphors of “vines” (Vineyard), and “Fig trees”? Use scripture to help understand their uses in verses 7, 11, & 12
4. What are you “mourning” and “grieving” for in your world? What are or will you do about it?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

##### **The Call to Repent**

##### **Read Joel 1:13-20**

5. What is fasting? What occasions did Israel fast for?
6. When and how should you fast? See Matthew 6:16-18

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### **Lesson 1**

#### **The Locust Plague Described**

7. What is “the day of the LORD”?

8. “The day of the LORD is near,” how are you preparing for that day?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **The Army Described**

##### **Read Joel 2:1-11**

9. What is darkness a symbol, or metaphor for here? See also Amos 5:18, Zephaniah 1:15, Isaiah 50:3, and Jeremiah 2:6

10. What advancing army might Joel be describing?

11. What do you learn from the question, “who can endure it?” See also Ezekiel 22:14, Nahum 1:6, Zephaniah 2:11, and Revelation 6:17

12. How does the imagery of this fierce army encourage or motivate you?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** How will you lament for your sins before God this week?

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### **Lesson 2**

#### **Answered Prayer**

Last time we were introduced to God’s prophets Joel, and Malachi, and discussed the locust plague upon the people of Judah, and Joel’s call for repentance. Today we are going to look into answered prayer, by God’s compassion, great deeds, and restoration.

#### **God’s Compassion**

**Read Joel 2:12-17**

1. What is the difference in rending your heart versus rending your garments?

2. What do the following verses tell you about repentance?

**Isaiah 59:20:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ezekiel 18:30:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 26:20:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 2:4:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Corinthians 7:10:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you learn about God’s abounding love from the following verses?

**Psalms 52:8:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalms 86:5:** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 3:16-17:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 5:5:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1 John 4:8-11:** \_\_\_\_\_

4. How do you respond to others when they ask, “where is your God” when bad things happen?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **God’s Great Deeds**

**Read Joel 2:18-27**

5. What does “the LORD was jealous for His land” mean?

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### **Lesson 2**

#### **Answered Prayer**

6. What does God promise to restore in these verses?

7. How should believers wait patiently, in the present, for God’s promises to be fulfilled? See also Psalm 37:7, Romans 8:24-25, and Ephesians 4:2

8. How has God made His presence known in your life?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **God’s Restoration**

##### **Read Joel 2:28-32**

9. When, and where in scripture, did the Apostle Peter use these verses? Why did Peter use these verses?

10. What other events in scripture did darkness accompany? What do you learn about darkness from these verses?

11. What important event might God’s wonders in the heavens, and on the Earth be pointing to?

12. Who do you know, who has not called on the name of the Lord? How, and with what urgency will you guide them to make this life, and death decision?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** How will you return to God, with all your heart, this week?

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### **Lesson 3**

#### **The Coming Day of The Lord**

Last week we studied God’s answer to prayer, by His compassion, great deeds, and restoration. This morning we will delve into the coming day of the Lord, including God’s judgement, the proclamation of war, and God’s blessings.

#### **God’s Judgement**

##### **Read Joel 3:1-8**

1. What time is “In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem”? Explain your answer.
2. What do you learn about God from this passage?
3. What do you know about the nations God mentions in verse 4 (Tyre and Sidon and all you regions of Philistia)?
4. Who do you know, and how can you present the truth to them, that one day, God’s patience will end, and He will judge the nations, and individuals who are against Him?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Proclamation of War**

##### **Read Joel 3:9-16**

5. When will peace in the Middle East occur? How will it come about?
6. Does Joel 3:10 contradict Isaiah 2:4? Explain your answer.
7. What does verse 13 mean? When will this happen? See Revelation 14:15-19, 18:5, 19:15-20



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### **Lesson 3**

#### **The Coming Day of The Lord**

8. How does knowing God is your refuge, encourage you to live for Him today?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **God's Blessings**

**Read Joel 3:17-21**

9. What specific ways does God promise to restore & bless Judah?

10. Which of the promises above have been fulfilled? When have they, or when will they be fulfilled?

11. What do you learn about God from these verses?

12. How are you comforted, or challenged by God and His judgement?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** How will you prepare for the coming day of the Lord this week?

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### **Lesson 4**

#### **God Disrespected**

Last week we finished the book of the prophet Joel, by looking into the coming day of the Lord, to include God’s judgement, the proclamation of war, and God’s blessings. Today, we will begin the book of Malachi, and study how God is disrespected by the doubting of His love, unacceptable sacrifices, and priests who are failing in their duties.

#### **God’s Love Doubted**

##### **Read Malachi 1:1-5**

1. What were the people of Israel’s attitude towards God? What was God’s attitude toward Israel?
2. What does it mean when God says He hated Esau? See also Romans 9:9-16
3. Was Esau or Jacob worthy of God’s love? What do you learn from this?
4. What ways has God shown His love in your life?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Unacceptable Sacrifices**

##### **Read Malachi 1:6-14**

5. What point is Malachi making in verse 6, about a son/father and servant/master?
6. What were the Israelites commanded to offer to God? Why would God require this? Use scripture to answer.
7. What do you learn about God from these verses?

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### **Lesson 4**

#### **God Disrespected**

**8.** What are some modern-day ways we may not honor God? How can you honor God by giving Him your very best?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Priests Condemned**

#### **Read Malachi 2:1-9**

**9.** Who is this message directed to? What were their responsibilities, and what did God want them to do?

**10.** What were the consequences of disobeying God? See also Deuteronomy 27:15-26, 28:16-19

**11.** How does God reveal His mercy in these verses? Why would God do this?

**12.** What ways can you show greater faithfulness as God’s representative in the world today?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** How will you revere the name of God this week?

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### **Lesson 5**

#### **God’s Charges of Broken Covenants**

Last time we opened the book of Malachi and discussed how God is disrespected by the doubt of His love, unacceptable sacrifices, and God condemned the priests. This morning we will look into God’s charges of broken covenants, by unfaithfulness, the denial of God’s justice, and the robbing of God by withholding tithes.

#### **Unfaithfulness**

**Read Malachi 2:10-16**

1. Why is God concerned with how we treat each other?
2. Why is the marriage covenant important to God? See also Ephesians 5:21-35, Hebrews 13:4
3. Were the people truly repentant because God no longer looked on their offerings with favor? Why or why not? See also 1 John 4:20
4. What does faithfulness in your relationships look like?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Denial of God’s Justice**

**Read Malachi 2:17-3:5**

5. How do people today weary God with their words?
6. Who does “my messenger” refer to? Why?
7. What do you learn about God’s justice from these verses?
8. How has God refined, and purified your heart?

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### **Lesson 5**

#### **God’s Charges of Broken Covenants**

##### **Robbing God**

**Read Malachi 3:6-3:12**

9. Why did God not destroy Israel for its sin?

10. How did the Israelites turn away from God’s decrees in the following verse?

**Psalms 106:35-36-**\_\_\_\_\_

**Ezra 10:10-**\_\_\_\_\_

**Ezekiel 22:29-**\_\_\_\_\_

**Numbers 25:1-**\_\_\_\_\_

**Psalms 10:2-**\_\_\_\_\_

11. What New Testament verses do you know that give additional insight into tithing?

12. What is a steward? How are you being a steward with the blessings God has given you?

**Lesson:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** How will you seek to honor God’s covenants this week?

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### **Lesson 6**

#### **The Coming Day of The Lord**

Last week we saw a few broken covenants with God, such as faithfulness, denying God is just, and Robbing God by withholding of tithes. Now we will finish Malachi, just as we did Joel, by discussing the coming day of the Lord, beginning with man’s arrogance, then God’s restoration of the faithful remnant, and closing with the announcement of the coming day of the Lord.

#### **Arrogance**

##### **Read Malachi 3:13-15**

1. How did the Israelites speak arrogantly against God?
2. What motivation did the Israelites have for serving God? What is your motivation to serve God?
3. How do people act pridefully against God today?
4. How do you speak arrogantly against God?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Restoration of The Faithful Remnant**

##### **Read Malachi 3:16-18**

5. What could have those who feared the Lord been concerned about? How did God calm their fears?
6. What lesson do you learn from these verses?
7. What other scripture do you know where God distinguishes between the righteous, and the wicked?

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### **Lesson 6**

#### **The Coming Day of The Lord**

8. What encouragement do you have as a faithful remnant to God in a nation that is turning from Him?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **The Coming Day of The Lord Announced**

##### **Read Malachi 4:1-6**

9. What day is referred to in verse 1?

10. What will happen on that day to the wicked? What will happen to the righteous?

11. What final reminder does God give? What do you learn from this warning?

12. How are you preparing for the great and dreadful day of the Lord?

**Lesson:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge: What will you do this week to look forward to the coming day of the Lord?**