

# **THE GOD THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS.**

**JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY AND FOREVER.**

**CONSIDER “THE LIFE AND FAITH OF JOEL”  
APRIL 23, 2023**

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# ANCHOR BIBLE REFERENCES

## ➤ Hebrews 13: 5-8

➤ <sup>5</sup> God has said,

“Never will I leave you;  
never will I forsake you.”

➤ <sup>6</sup> So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mortal man do to me?”

➤ <sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.  
**Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.**

➤ <sup>8</sup> **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

**Our Mandate Remains: “The House of Prayer for all Nations,  
Extending God’s Love to all the Nations.”**

**We are sowers (not eaters) but the sower reaps in multiple folds.**



# The Leaders, consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

## Luke 5:37-38

"No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will spill, and the wineskins will be ruined."

"Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins."

**(This year, we must have a fresh vision of our Christian life. We must empty the old and fill with the new.)**

As we consider the life of the leaders and imitate their faith, let us apply the lessons and, thus, create new wineskins and expand our spiritual container to enable God to move the mountains He has planned to move for us from 2023.

# The Leader, JOEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

- ▶ Joel was an Israelite prophet, the second of the twelve minor prophets and the author of the Book of Joel.
- ▶ The most powerful thing about Joel is the use of such vibrant and physical imagery to communicate and make clear the seriousness of God's judgment on sin. Prophets mentioned it; Joel used imagery.
- ▶ Joel was the first to develop an often-mentioned biblical idea: 'the day of the Lord'. Joel's book gives some of the most striking and specific details in all of Scripture about 'the day of the Lord' and thus brings crystal clear communication to those people who may say they don't understand 'mere words'.
- ▶ Painting that vision of the future and the vivid pictures of destruction serve to awaken us from our spiritual stupor
- ▶ When you talk about the power of creativity and innovation, God displayed that in the prophet Joel and thus enabled him to bring form to formlessness and conviction to abstracts.

# The Leader, JOEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

➤ Using what was at that time the well-known locust plague in Judah, Joel capitalized on a recent tragedy to dispense the Lord's message of judgment and the hope of repentance. In referring to the terrible locust plague, Joel was able to speak into the lives of his listeners and imprint the message of judgment into their minds.

## ➤ **Joel 1:**

<sup>1</sup> Hear this, you elders; listen, all who live in the land. Has anything like this ever happened in your days or in the days of your ancestors?

<sup>3</sup> Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.

<sup>4</sup> What the locust swarm has left, the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left, the young locusts have eaten; what the young locusts have left, other locusts have eaten.

<sup>5</sup> Wake up, you drunkards, and weep! Wail, all you drinkers of wine; wail because of the new wine, for it has been snatched from your lips.



# The Leader, JOEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

➤ Joel 1:15

➤ **Alas for that day! For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.**

➤ <sup>16</sup> Has not the food been cut off before our very eyes—

joy and gladness from the house of our God?

<sup>17</sup> The seeds are shriveled beneath the clods.

The storehouses are in ruins,

the granaries have been broken down,

for the grain has dried up.

<sup>18</sup> How the cattle moan!

The herds mill about because they have no pasture; even the flocks of sheep are suffering.

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➤ In Joel 1:15-16, Joel teaches them how to turn their situation into prayer

➤ <sup>19</sup> To you, LORD, I call, for fire has devoured the pastures in the wilderness and flames have burned up all the trees of the field.

<sup>20</sup> Even the wild animals pant for you; the streams of water have dried up and fire has devoured the pastures in the wilderness.

➤ **Joel ceased the opportunity to tell them about the day of the Lord and sequenced the actions that will come using the picture of their locust experience:**

➤ **Joel 2:**

<sup>1</sup> the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand—

<sup>2</sup> a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness.

**Like dawn spreading across the mountains, a large and mighty army comes,** such as never was in ancient times nor ever will be in ages to come. <sup>3</sup> Before them fire devours, behind them a flame blazes. Before



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- ▶ them the land is like the garden of Eden, behind them, a desert waste—nothing escapes them.  
<sup>4</sup> They have the appearance of horses; they gallop along like cavalry.  
<sup>5</sup> With a noise like that of chariots they leap over the mountaintops, like a crackling fire consuming stubble, like a mighty army drawn up for battle.
- ▶ **What should they do to escape it?**
- ▶ **Rend Your Heart:** <sup>12</sup> “Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”
- ▶ <sup>13</sup> Rend your heart and not your garments.  
Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity.  
<sup>16</sup> Gather the people, consecrate the assembly;
- ▶ <sup>17</sup> Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, “**Spare your people, LORD.** Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn.”

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## ➤ The LORD's Answer

➤ <sup>18</sup> Then the LORD was jealous for his land and took pity on his people.

➤ <sup>19</sup> The LORD replied to them:

“I am sending you grain, new wine and olive oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.

## ➤ Then God gives Joel paints the next picture of the ‘The Day of the LORD’

➤ <sup>28</sup> “And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.

<sup>29</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. <sup>30</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

➤ And <sup>31</sup> the sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. <sup>32</sup> **And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved;** for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem

# The Leader, JOEL, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

- there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.
- **Joel 3 elaborated on how the deliverance will happen. However,** This was in part accomplished in the deliverance of Jerusalem from the attempt that Sennacherib made upon it in Hezekiah's time, and afterwards in the return of the Jews out of their captivity in Babylon, The bigger reference, however, is to the great redemption for us by Jesus Christ, and the destruction of our spiritual enemies and all their agents.
- **Lessons: Joel teaches us the lesson of:**
  - Visioning, imagery, pragmatism and layered approach to preaching the gospel
  - Using pragmatic things to communicate the power of the scriptures. He used the locust attack/experience to demo how the day of the Lord would look like. And they got it.
  - He pragmatically used the lack caused by the locust attack to teach them how to pray to God, how to **Rend their Heart** and “return to God with all their heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. And they did.