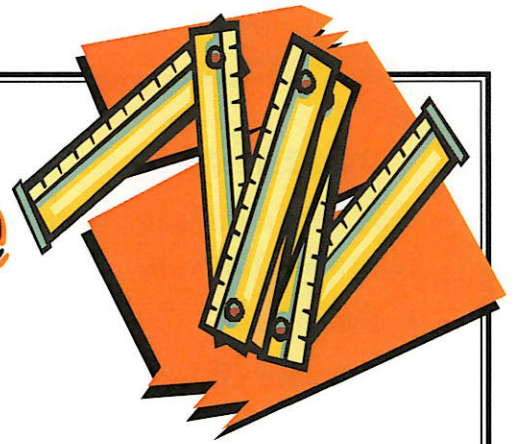


# Measuring By God's Rule



Lesson 13

## Joel — A Prophet to Judah

**Theme:** Inspired Scriptures — Respecting God's Word

### Memory Verse

“And Josiah removed all the disgusting idols from all the lands belonging to the sons of Israel, and made all who were present in Israel to serve the Lord their God. Throughout his lifetime they did not turn from following the Lord God of their fathers.”

2 Chronicles 34:33

### Daily Bible Readings

Thursday Joel 1:1-4, 10-12, 14-15  
Friday Joel 2:11-14  
Saturday Joel 2:18-27  
Monday Joel 3:9-11, 18-20  
Tuesday Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16-24

**G**od sent Joel to the nation of Judah with an important message. God's judgment was coming on the nation because of their sin. Joel preached God's message to turn people to God.

### A Plague on Judah

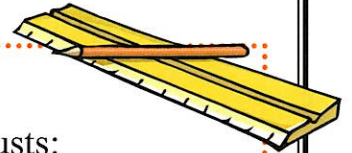
Remember when God sent plagues on Egypt to make Pharaoh let the people go? One of those plagues was locusts — insects like grasshoppers


### Joel 1:1-4, 10-12, 14-15

Name the four kinds of locusts:

*Cross out any incorrect answers.* What parts of the land did the locusts ruin?

- Wheat
- Grapes
- Barley
- Grass
- Figs
- Pomegranate
- Palm
- Apple





### Joel 2:11-14

God sent a message for His people to return to Him with:

- Sacrifices
- All your children
- All your heart

Though God punished His people, Joel says that God is what kind of God?

that eat plants. When the plague came on Egypt, locusts swarmed over the land, eating the crops and other plants that provided food for people and animals. After the locusts came through and ate all the plants, people and animals starved to death. They couldn't just go to the grocery store and buy more food like we do!

Joel wrote about a plague of locusts that came upon the nation of Judah. The locusts were sent by God because the people disobeyed Him.

### *Destruction and Deliverance*

Joel compared the locusts to an army attacking the people. Like a powerful enemy, the locusts were everywhere eating all the grass, plants, and trees. God used the locusts to teach and warn His people. They needed to turn to God.

Like many other prophets, Joel spoke both a warning and a promise to the nation. God always does what is right. He would punish people who disobeyed Him, but He would forgive those who turn to and obey Him.

### *Turning to God*

God did not want to punish His people. He wanted to bless them with good things. He wanted them to know He is God. Joel and other prophets told the people they could escape God's anger by turning back to Him.

God wanted people to change their hearts, repent of their sins, and turn to Him. God loved His people and would forgive them. If only people would listen to the prophets who brought God's message, they wouldn't have been punished so much. God would be with and bless His people if they turned to Him.

### *Pointing to Jesus*

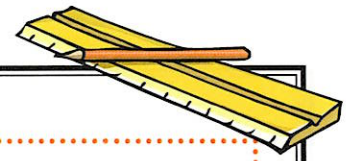
Joel spoke His message several hundred years before the time of Jesus. Because Joel spoke by the Holy Spirit, he could tell people about the future. Hundreds of years after Joel first spoke his message, the apostle Peter explained that Joel's words were about Jesus. Joel told about a time when God's Spirit



### Joel 2:18-27

#### *True or False?*

If the people returned to God, he would send them grain, new wine and oil, and destroy their enemies.

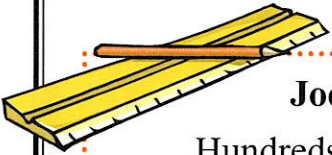


would come in a special way. The Spirit would bring a message so people could be saved. On the day of Pentecost after Jesus was raised from the dead, the Spirit came to the apostles in a special way bringing a message about salvation in Jesus Christ. This happened just as Joel said it would!

### Measuring By God's Rule

The prophets of God kept calling people to turn back to God. In the days of the Divided Kingdom, many people went far away from God. They left God to serve other gods. They did not measure themselves by God's rule and walk in His ways. Finally, God brought judgment on His people and they were carried into captivity.

We must measure ourselves by God's rule — the Bible. When we turn from God's way, we must come back to God. God said some great words about



### Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16-24

Hundreds of years after Joel first spoke his message, the apostle Peter quoted Joel on the day of Pentecost. Peter spoke about Jesus by saying, "This is what was \_\_\_\_\_ by the prophet \_\_\_\_\_."

### Joel 3:9-11, 18-20

What would God bring to other nations who did not follow His Word?

- Destruction
- Salvation

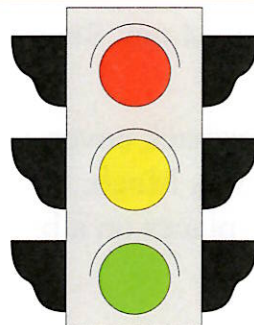
What would God bring to His people if they followed His Word?

- Destruction
- Salvation

Judah's king Hezekiah. We should make these words the rule for our lives:

"He did right in the sight of the Lord ... He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel ... For he clung to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses" (2 Kings 18:3-6).

I obey only because I have to.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

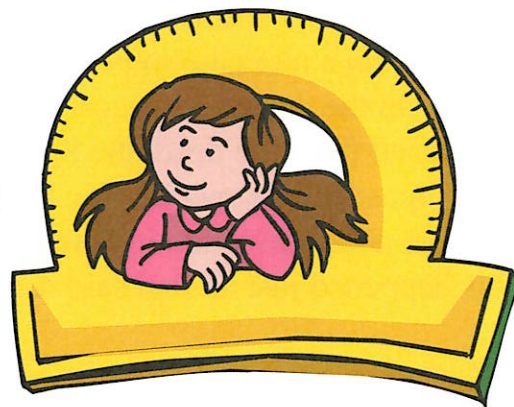
**Red — most of the time**

**Yellow — sometimes**

**Green — almost never**

## Think About It...

Measure your life by the Word of God. What are two things you are doing that God wants you to do? What is one thing you need to change or work on?



## Measure What You Know!

Which books in the Old Testament are about kings ruling Israel and focuses on the temple?

Using letters of the alphabet, put the major stages of Bible history in the proper order:

- \_\_\_ Punished by Captivity
- \_\_\_ Wilderness Wanderings
- \_\_\_ Living in the Promised Land
- \_\_\_ Promise to Abraham
- \_\_\_ Salvation in Jesus Christ
- \_\_\_ Slavery in Egypt
- \_\_\_ Law at Mount Sinai

On a map inside the back cover, find the places Israel's enemies lived: Edom, Ammon, Moab, Philistia, Assyria/Babylon/Persia. Be ready to find these places on a blank map in class.

