JOEL.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK AS A WHOLE.

(Alternation.)

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| 1:2, 3. | CALL TO HEAR. |
| 1:4—13. | JUDGMENTS. INFlicted. |
| 1:14—2:17. | CALL TO REPENT. |
| 2:18—3:21. | JUDGMENTS. REMOVED. |

For the Canonical order and place of the Prophets, see Ap. 1, and p. 1206
For the Chronological order of the Prophets, see Ap. 77.
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Joel’s prophecy is updated. No references are made to time, because it looks onward to the time of the end, and the events that will usher in “the Day of the Lord”.

As Hosea was sent to guilty Israel, so Joel was sent to guilty Judah. Hosea’s "burden" relates to the end of the Northern Kingdom; Joel’s prophecy relates to the end of the Kingdom of Judah, and probably covers the last seven years of Jedekiah. In that case he would commence in the fifth year of Jehoaichin’s captivity, the very year that Ezekiel begins, and 100 years after Isaiah ends. If "Joel completed his prophecy before Amos collected his" (as alleged), then, in the period of Uzziah-Jeroboam II, which ended in 687 B.C., there is no historical background for Joel’s burning words concerning Judah and the great "Day of the Lord".

Similar passages in Joel 3:16 and Amos 1:2 no more prove that Amos quoted from Joel than they prove that Joel quoted from Amos. The same may be said of Joel 1:15 and Isa. 13:6.

In Joel’s summons to fasting and prayer, many as are the classes invited, no mention is made of the royal house; and, throughout his prophecy, no king of Judah is mentioned later than Jehoshaphat, and then only in connection with his "valley".

But if the period covered by Joel be taken as from 488 to 477 B.C., then we have, as contemporaries:—

| Jeremiah in Jerusalem; | Joel in Judah; |
| All prophesying together during the last seven years of the kingdom of Judah. |

| Daniel in Babylon; | Ezekiel in Babylonia and in the Land. |

This is Page 1224 From The Companion Bible.
1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

2 Hear this, ye old men whose memory goes back the farthest, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hast this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?

3 Tell ye your sons of it, and let your sons tell their sons, and their sons another generation.

4 That which the palmerworm has left hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.

5 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.

6 For great destroying powers is come up upon My land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.

7 The great destroying powers hath laid My vine waste, and reduced to splinters My fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.

8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth.

9 The gift offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD's ministers, mourn.

10 The field is wasted, the soil mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth.

11 Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.

12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.

13 Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the gift offering and the drink offering is withheld from the house of your God.
Sanctify ye a fast, call a day of restraint, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD.

Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.

How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.

O LORD, to Thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the common land, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.

The beasts of the field cry also unto Thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the common land.

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My mountain of My sanctuary: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the darkness spread upon the mountains: a great people [symbolized by the locusts] and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

A fire devoureth before them [the northern army]; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

The appearance of the army [symbolized by the locusts] is as the appearance of horses; and as war-horses, so shall they run.

Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they rattle along, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.

Before their face the peoples shall be much pained: all faces shall gather paleness.

They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks.

Neither shall one jostle another; they shall march every one in his path: and when they fall upon the weapons they shall not stop.
9 They shall “run to and fro” in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall “climb up upon the houses; they shall “enter in at the windows” like a thief.

10 The earth shall quake before them [the northern army]; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

11 And the LORD shall utter His voice before His army: for His camp is very great: for He is strong that executeth His word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

12 Therefore also now, is Jehovah’s oracle, return even quite up to Me with all your heart, … with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

13 And render your heart, and not your garments, and return unto the LORD your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great grace, and repenteth Him of the evil.

14 Who knoweth if He will turn away from His fierce anger and repent, and leave a blessing [a new harvest] behind Him; even a gift offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a day of restraint:

16 Gather in the People, hallow a convocation, assemble the elders, gather out the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her bridal canopy.

17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare Thy People, O LORD, and give not Thy heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the peoples, Where is their God?

18 Then will the LORD be jealous for His land, and pity His People.

19 Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto His People, Behold, I will send you [the] corn, and [the] wine, and [the] oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

20 But I will remove far off from you the northern army [symbolic locusts], and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the Dead Sea, and his hinder part toward the Great Sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he [Antichrist] magnified himself to do great things.
21 "Fear not, O soil; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things.
22 *Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the common land do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their abundance.
23 *Be glad then, ye sons of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He hath given you the former rain in due measure, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain as at the first.
24 And the threshing floors shall be full of corn, and the vats shall overflow with [the] wine and [the] oil.
25 And I will make good to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmworm, My great army which I sent among you.
26 And ye shall eat on in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, That hath dealt wondrously with you: and My People shall never be ashamed.
27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and My People shall never be ashamed.
28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:
29 And also upon the servants [any whom God might call] and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit.
30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire [symbols of Divine judgment], and pillars of smoke.
31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.
32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be a delivered remnant, according as the LORD hath said [by the prophets], and in the remnant [an escaped set] whom the LORD is going to call.
3. **For, *behold, in those days* [when the Son of Man shall come in His glory], and in that time, when I shall *restore the fortunes* of Judah and Jerusalem,
2 *I will also gather people from all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat [between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives], and will judge them there for My People and for My heritage Israel [the twelve-tribed nation], whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted My land.**
3 And they [in the past] have cast lots for My People; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for *wine*, that they might drink.

4 Yea, and what have ye to do with Me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the region of Palestine? *will ye pay back Me a recompence?* and though ye recompense me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompense upon your own head;
5 Because ye have taken My silver and My gold, and have carried into your temples My goodly things of desire:

6 The sons also of Judah and the sons of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the sons of the Greeks, that ye might remove them far from their border.

7 *Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your recompence upon your own head;* and I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the sons of the Greeks, that ye might remove them far from their border.

8 *Haste ye, and come, ye all nations, and gather yourselves to the valley of Jehoshaphat, for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.*

9 Proclaim ye this among the nations; Hallow war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:

10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

11 Haste ye, and come, *all ye nations, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause [to the valley of Jehoshaphat] Thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD.*

12 Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

13 *Put ye in the vintage-knife, for the vintage is ripe: come, go in the wine press, tread ye; for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great.*

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of judgment: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of judgment.
15 "The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.
16 But Jehovah also shall thunder out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the refuge of His People, and the stronghold of the sons of Israel.
17 "So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holiness, and there shall no foreigners pass through her any more.
18 And it shall come to pass in that day [when the Son of Man shall come in His glory], that the mountains shall distil sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of the acacias.
19 Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the sons of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.
20 But the country of Judah shall remain and be established for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.
21 For I will clear their blood that I had not cleared: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.