

THE BOOK OF

JOEL



- Joel 2:14 ***“Who knows? He may turn...”***
- If, Then = Conditional
- Humans have 2 categories of choices: moral and preferences
- Moral choices are based on God’s moral code
- Preferences have no moral stigma



- God's moral code + His reaction to us = God's justice system
- At times God gives mercy so we don't suffer what we deserve
- In the 8th century B.C. and earlier, the doctrine was that Israel had God's unconditional mercy
- Christianity has mirrored this idea believing those who profess Jesus receive only mercy no matter their behavior

IF/~~F~~ATHER THEN

- God uses Hosea, Amos, Jonah and Joel to correct the error of unconditional mercy for God's chosen
- Jonah 3:9 Romans 9:18
- If-Then has always been at the heart of how God deals with mankind
- Book of Joel contains less than 1000 words
- Greek Septuagint and most English Bibles, 3 chapters
- Masoretic Hebrew and CJB, 4 chapters



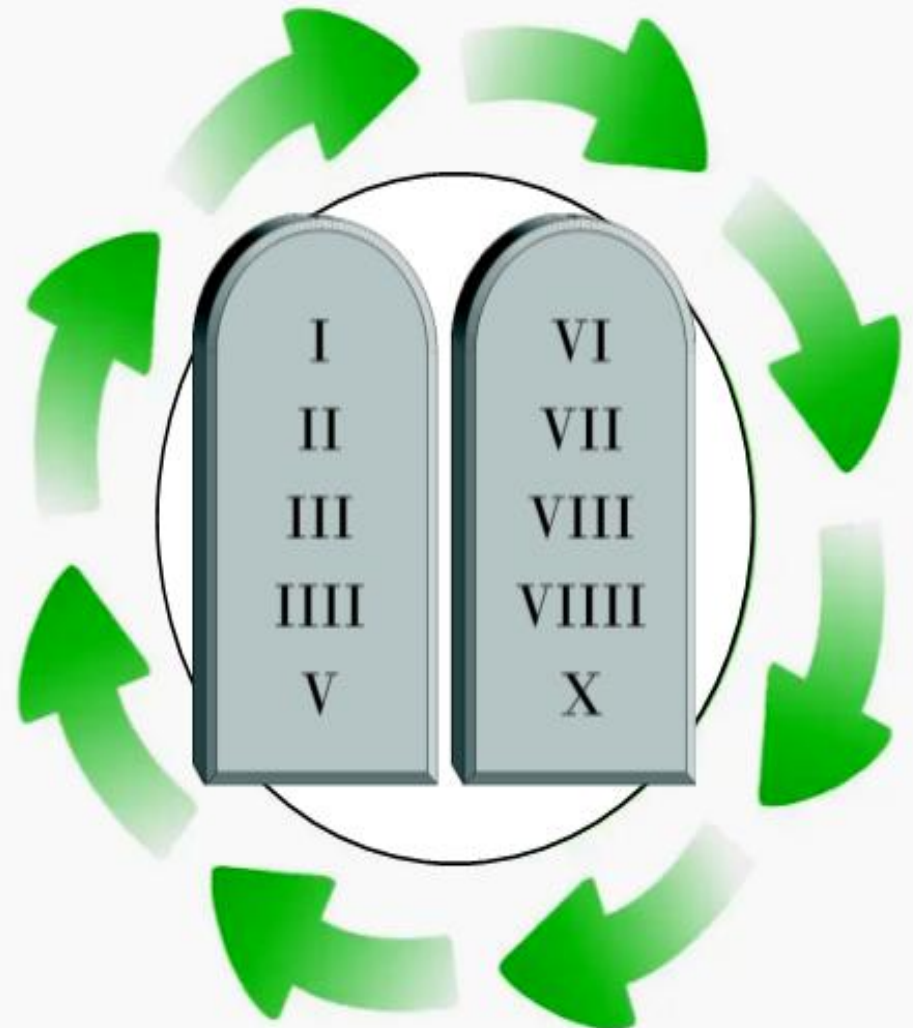
QUESTIONS ABOUT JOEL

- We only know that Joel is a son of Pethuel
- A Jewish legend that he is of the tribe of Reuben has no foundation
- Did Joel live Pre- or Post- Babylonian Exile?
- He most likely lived between the late 9th and late 8th centuries B.C.

JOEL:

A BOOK OF TWO HALVES

- 1ST half of Joel is about God's wrath on Judah
- 2nd half is about Judah's deliverance from their woes
- Martin Luther and later Christian scholars tried to break the connection between Joel and the Covenant of Moses
- Hans Walter Wolff *"Joel can hardly take its stand upon...the Torah"*
- Christian doctrine of subjective justice



THE DAY OF YEHOVEH



- Joel gives more info on the Day of YHVH than any other prophet
- It is connected to Holy War
- A Middle Eastern cultural thought that a great king wins a war in but a single day (hyperbole)
- A number of Day of YHVH events in the Bible
- Some involve Israel, some involve the nations, some are past, some are future

JOEL CHAPTER 1

the

WORD

the same was in the beginning

with God

- The first people Joel to address is the leaders
- **Shema** = hear and obey
- **Azan** = listen Here it is used poetically as meaning the same as **shema**
- Even in the lifetimes of Judah's ancestors an event as enormous as this has never happened before

AN UNPARALLELED EVENT

A large swarm of locusts is shown flying over a landscape. In the foreground, there is a tree with brown, dry-looking branches. The background is a clear blue sky filled with a dense cloud of small, dark insects.

- A succession of attacks from swarms of locusts
- Deuteronomy 32:7 Exodus 12:26 Psalm 78:3 – 7
- Vs. 4 ***“What the gazam left, the arbeh ate; what the arbeh left, the yeleq ate; what the yeleq left, the chasil ate”***
- 4 locust swarms invaded Judah one after the next



IS JOEL 1:4 REFERRING TO

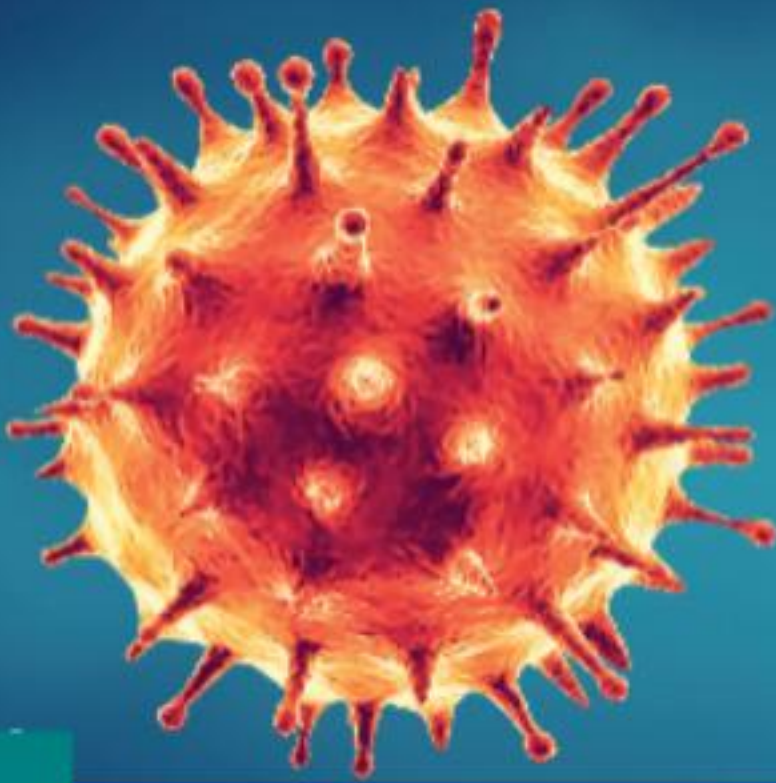
literal locusts?

- Locusts are grasshoppers that can sometimes swarm miles across
- They affect people and animals
- The Academic community is equally divided on if this was real locust attack or it was a metaphor
- A lamentation is an expression of grief or sorrow
- Typically a king instigates a call for a lamentation



A call to lamentation

- **Drunks first because they are representative of Judah!**
- **Judah intoxicated with the comforts of life, willingness to water down their faith**
- **Prosperity Doctrine seeks to make our intoxication with wealth and material pleasures good in God's eyes**
- **Drunkards are to weep because the wine supply is about to dry up and go away**



IS THE CORONAVIRUS GOD'S JUDGMENT?

- Locust plague of Joel = Covid in modern times?
- Covid's source is still not agreed on
- Things we thought we could count on became unobtainable
- A wake-up call to God's chosen?
- God wants we, the intoxicated, to arise from our sleep!