

# A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

## A Quick Discussion Guide on the Book of Joel

1. It is difficult to keep the 12 smaller books of the Minor Prophets straight. They can seem like 12 books that all say the same thing! A beneficial guide to keeping the Minor Prophets separate from one another is to identify some distinguishing features for each prophet. What might be FIVE characteristics of the prophet Joel:

- a)
- b)
- c)
- d)
- e)

2. A plague of locusts was the immediate occasion for Joel's prophecy of coming judgement and a call to repentance. In the past 30 years, what things have happened that might be occasions for us to contemplate society's standing before God and hear them as calls to repentance?

What are practical ways in which God's people can heed God's warning?

How do people react when Christians suggest that various occurrences in the world could be a call to repentance?

3. The Judah had experienced a few more "bright spots" than Israel (northern kingdom), with a few kings leading some measure of reform among the people. But the reforms didn't seem to last, and Judah would subsequently plunge even deeper into rebellion. Joel addressed such superficial "changes" in 2:13. Comment on what this verse says to us today.

What is the only escape from God's judgment and why is that important to keep in mind as we consider our own life and as we reach out to change the lives of others?

4. Write your memory passage below:

5. Peter used Joel's prophecy as his "sermon text" for Pentecost day. What fulfillment have you experienced of the passage on which Peter preached...

... "I will pour out my Spirit..."?

... "on all flesh..."?

... "will prophesy"?