



Southwell Minster

*The Cathedral and Parish Church
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



**GROWING
DISCIPLES**

Wider Younger Deeper

JOEL

James Halstead

Welcome & Introduction

Part One: An Overview of Joel

Chapter 1

Locusts

-  Fields... grain... wine... oil
-  Sacrifices...
-  Animals...
-  'The ground mourns...'
-  'joy withers away...'

Chapter 2 (1-11)

Invading Army

AWAKE!

2:12-17

“yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning... Return to the LORD your God.” (2:12)

RETURN!

2:18-27

-  19 – locusts overcome: grain, wine and oil (food & offerings)
-  20 – army repelled
-  21 – land is healed
-  22 – animals relieved

Cosmic judgement – Cosmic salvation

2:28-all of Chapter 3

🌿 'Then afterward...'

Q: How does that overview line up with / chime with what you heard as you read through the book?

Q: What is your sense of the 'scale' of the Gospel?

Part Two: How shall we make sense of Joel?

Context

🌿 Deuteronomy 28

Purpose

🌿 Exodus 34

How do we read these prophecies...?

Q: How does thinking about the 'context' help you understand Joel?

Q: How does thinking about the character of God help you consider the judgement of God?

Part Three: How shall we read Joel (as Christians)?

2:28-29

Then, afterward, I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; you sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

🌿 Signs and portents: "That which is normal has been up-ended" (Dr Paul House).

🌿 Peter – Jesus is the greatest sign of that?

Joel's pattern:

-  Judgement
-  Repentance
-  Restoration

is Peter's pattern in Christ...

...and so the required response is the same: Awake! Return!

Q: What do you make of the idea that Peter's Pentecost sermon is a preaching of Joel's basic message?

Part Four: some outstanding questions

'Day of the Lord': Moment when God judges

-  Causation?
-  Desired response
-  New Testament Parallels?
-  "Vindication of the goodness of God" ...
...a cosmic vindication