

Sunday, June 18
2023

THE BOOK OF JOEL

Prophet's Daily
Message
\$1

GOD'S WORDS AND THOUGHTS

Vol. XXII - No. 155

Special Edition

NATURAL DISASTER STRIKES!

THE BIG QUESTION

What do we do? Natural disaster naturally generates questions that often have foggy answers. The severity of the immediate physical and emotional impact can cloud the mind particularly if one has not experienced disaster before. Considering this, to know what to do one must plan ahead and be prepared with a response rather than trying to find one in the middle of turmoil.



RESPONDING RIGHTLY TO DISASTER

Joel, the son of Pethuel, provides profoundly simple advice to God's people in the middle of natural disaster. Joel gives God's words to God's people. Recognize disaster. Gather together. Pray. Remember God's promises. Rejoice. All are simple statements with radical implications.





The Natural Disaster - Locusts

The Natural Disaster - Locusts

“What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten, and what the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten.”

Joel 1:4

“Give ear, all inhabitants of the land! Has such a thing happened in your days, or in the days of your fathers? Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation.”

Joel 1:2-3

“Awake, you drunkards, and weep, and wail, all you drinkers of wine, because of the sweet wine, for it is cut off from your mouth.”

Joel 1:5

“Be ashamed, O tillers of the soil; wail, O
vinedressers, for the wheat and the barley,
because the harvest of the field has perished...
gladness dries up from the children of man.”

Joel 1:11-12

“Lament like a virgin wearing sackcloth for the bridegroom of her youth. The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off from the house of the LORD ... joy and gladness from the house of our God.”

Joel 1:8, 16

Natural disaster is a **supernatural moment** to spiritually reorient.

How do we reorient?

How do we reorient?

F

A

S

T

How do we reorient?

Fast

Assemble

Speak

Think

“Consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly.
Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the
land to the house of the LORD your God, and
cry out to the LORD.”

Joel 1:14

“Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly; gather the people.

“Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.”

Joel 2:15-16

- **Fast**

- **Fast**

“Fasting is praying with your body.”

- **Assemble**

“Gather the children and even nursing infants”
(16)

“Gather the children and even nursing infants”

“Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.” (16)

- **Speak**

- Speak
 - **Honest**

- Speak
 - Honest
 - **Nature**

- Speak
 - Honest
 - **Nature**

“To you, O LORD, I call. For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and flame has burned all the trees of the field.

“Even the beasts of the field pant for you
because the water brooks are dried up, and
fire has devoured the pastures of the
wilderness.”

Joel 1:19-20

- Speak
 - Honest
 - Nature
 - **Responsive**

“‘Yet even now,’ declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.’

“Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

“Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?”

Joel 2:12-14

- Fast
- Assemble
- Speak
- **Think**

God **rules** over nature.

God **rules** over nature.

“I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent among you.”

Joel 2:25

God returns.

God **returns**.

“Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!”

Joel 2:1-2a

“For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?”

Joel 2:11b

“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed...

“But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

2 Peter 3:10, 13

Three Aspects of God's Return

Three Aspects of God's Return

- God's **future judgment**

Three Aspects of God's Return

- God's **future judgment**

“I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there,

“on behalf of my people and my heritage
Israel, because they have scattered them
among the nations and have divided up my
land.”

Joel 3:2

“Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.”

Joel 3:14-15

Three Aspects of God's Return

- God's future judgment
- God's offer of **salvation**

Three Aspects of God's Return

- God's future judgment
- God's offer of **salvation**

“And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

“The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

Joel 2:30-32a

“The LORD roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But the LORD is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel.”

Joel 3:16

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

“For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved...For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

Romans 10:9-13

Three Aspects of God's Return

- God's future judgment
- God's offer of salvation
- God's promise of **restoration**

Three Aspects of God's Return

- God's future judgment
- God's offer of salvation
- God's promise of **restoration**

“Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God ...

“The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten ... ”

Joel 2:23-25

Why does this matter?

1. Not every natural disaster is my natural disaster.

1. Not every natural disaster is my natural disaster.

2. We don't know our future.

1. Not every natural disaster is my natural disaster.
2. We don't know our future.
3. We always need a reminder to look forward.

1. Not every natural disaster is my natural disaster.
2. We don't know our future.
3. We always need a reminder to look forward.
4. A FAST response can apply to all suffering.

Our leadership is fully onboard with the construction of a new auditorium.



W. BARRY AGNEW ARCHITECT, INC. 400 E. MARIE AVENUE, SUITE 100 GREENVILLE, SC 29601 864.242.3244

NORTH HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

DRAWN BY:
CHECKED:
DATE:
SCALE: AS NOTED
JOB NUMBER: 00-00
REVISIONS:

SHEET
MP-1
OF SHEETS



Building Options

Building Options

1. New steel/masonry structure

Building Options

1. New steel/masonry structure
2. New “soft-membrane” structure

Building Options

1. New steel/masonry structure
2. New “soft-membrane” structure
3. Renovate and expand our existing worship space.

Reasons

1. New worship space offers greater and more flexible square footage for current and future ministry.

Reasons

2. Renovation would require that we shut down for a significant amount of time.

Reasons

2. Renovation would require that we shut down for a significant amount of time.
3. Our assumption about the cost of new construction was misinformed.

Our plan is the construction of a new steel/
masonry auditorium.

COMING SOON

FUTURE
NORTH HILLS CHURCH
EXPANSION
AUDITORIUM

