

## Joel Discussion Qs

1. How do we know that Joel 2 is an extended metaphor based on the actual locust plague of chapter 1? It is an extended metaphor based on the locust plague of chapter 1 that announces the Day of the Lord, the day of God's action as head of his army geared for judgment. This interpretation seems best especially in light of 2:11 (cf. 2:25, "locusts...my great army"). This is more than Judah (2:1) and the nations (2:6) facing a mass of insects.
2. What is the theme of Joel? Joel preached a message of a sovereign God who does not ignore sin but who always extends a call to repentance (2:13) and all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved (2:32). However, God will enter into judgment against all nations to swing his sickle in the time of harvest (3:2, 13).
3. How does Joel teach that election and gospel overture go together? From Joel 2:12-13 & 32, we know that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved *and* the ones how will call on the Lord are the ones that the Lord calls. The same combination of truths is part of the gospel message that the church, the elect new Israel, the set apart and holy priest (1 Pet. 2:7-10) now proclaims to the nations (Joel 2:12-13, 32; Rom. 9:33; 10:11-13). Through sin and judgment unfolding in history, God will save his image bearer by his efficacious call (cf. Rom. 8:30; 2 Thess. 2:13-14 with 1 Thess. 1:4-5) unto good works and words that glorify God on the earth (Matt. 5:16 in context; Eph. 2:10, created; Eph. 4:24, according to his image).
4. How is God's covenant keeping *with Israel* unexpected?  
Peter applies Joel 2:28-32 to the pouring out of God's Spirit on all people, men and women, old and young, bond and free (Acts 2:14-21). The now of this day means blessing to the nations of the earth *in the judgment of Israel*, the corrupt generation that rejected the corner stone, and from which Peter's listeners are called to save themselves (Acts 2:40; with Matt. 21:34-36; 13:24-30, wheat and weeds). Thus, what Joel applied to Israel alone, Paul applies to the true Israel (Rom. 10:12-13). Now judgment is on Israel not on the nations (Lk 4:23-30; Matt. 28:19-20). Now the nations have the blessing of the Spirit.
5. How is God's blessing on the new Israel both now and not yet? Now Israel is under judgment except for a remnant and in what is not yet the day of the Lord will bring judgment on the nations of the earth (Joel 3:2, 13).