

**THE PROPHET JOEL,
AN EXPOSITION**

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The Prophet Joel, an exposition by A. C. Gaebelein

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BY

A. C. GAEBELEIN

Editor "OUR HOPE"; Author of "HARMONY OF THE
PROPHETIC WORD," "COMMENTARY ON
MATTHEW," Etc.

FOREWORD BY C. I. SCOFIELD

PUBLICATION OFFICE "OUR HOPE"
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FOREWORD

Of all the prophetic writings the Book of Joel has, perhaps, suffered most at the hands of modern writers. The destructive critics assert that Joel wrote after the Babylonian captivity of Judah, and even after the reconstructive work of Ezra and Nehemiah. In Joel as in Daniel they confront the alternative, either of allowing the predictive and therefore supernatural character of the book as a Divine revelation of the future, or of finding a naturalistic interpretation which eliminates inspiration. If Joel wrote in the time of Joash, then, incontestably, he was inspired. But that, to quote Welhausen, "Would be to surrender our dearly bought scientific method." To preserve the "method" the unanimous voice of antiquity, of Jewish scholarship, and of the most cogent internal evidence, are ruthlessly set aside!

But Joel has not only suffered in the house of his enemies, but also in the house of his well-intentioned friends. The method of interpretation which finds in the Christian Church the fulfilment of all Old Testament prophecy concern-

ing Messiah's Kingdom; and in the destruction of Jerusalem, A. D. 70, the fulfilment of all prophecies concerning the day of Jehovah, has robbed the Book of Joel of its proper, natural, and unforced meaning.

It is, therefore, matter for sincere gratitude that in our day a writer whose knowledge of the whole body of predictive truth, and its inter-relations, has taken up this great portion of the Word of God for sane, reverent and adequate treatment. Having had the privilege of reading the advance sheets of this book, I count it a privilege to commend it to believers everywhere, and an honor to be thus associated with its publication.

C. I. SCOFIELD.



TO THE

"BELOVED OF GOD, CALLED SAINTS."



RESPECTIVE of their creeds or names,
especially to those who patiently "wait
for His Son from heaven," and "who
love His appearing," the Heirs of glory and
fellow heirs of the Lord Jesus Christ, the coming
King of kings and Lord of lords, this Exposition
of the Prophet Joel is affectionately dedicated.

THE PROPHET JOEL.

INTRODUCTION.

We know but little of the personality of the Prophet Joel. This is the case with many of the prophets and is in itself no argument against the authenticity of the Book. The personality of these holy men of God, the mouthpieces of the Lord, were hidden on purpose. In profane literature the person of the writer always plays an important part; but in the Word of God they are but instruments by whom God transmitted His thoughts and messages. What does it matter if we do not know the details of their lives, who they were and how long they lived, as long as we know they were the chosen vessels through whom God spake (Heb. i:1).

Joel means "Jehovah is God." He was the son of Pethuel. This is all we can find about him in the Bible. Numerous guesses have been made about his personality, but they cannot be verified. For instance, in 1 Chronicles xxiv:16 we find a Pethaliah mentioned; some have connected him

with Pethuel, so it is claimed that Joel was of a priestly family; but this cannot be confirmed. Jewish expositors state that Pethuel was none other than Samuel, because Samuel had a son whose name was Joel. But as the sons of Samuel were evil doers, it is quite impossible to accept this view. The book itself does not give us even a single hint as to who he was.

However, from his prophecies one can fix more readily the time and the place, when and where he exercised his prophetic office. He is, no doubt, the *earliest* of all the Prophets, preceding Hosea and Amos. He prophesied in Judah. This is seen from the fact that he mentions Jerusalem, Mount Zion and the Temple. He must have prophesied and written between 860 and 850 B. C. during the first part of the reign of King Joas. The arguments for this time are numerous. Without attempting to enumerate these we take a brief glance at the book itself, which bears the name of Joel.*

There is absolutely no ground for the claim, which has been made that Joel did not write this Book. The evidence is altogether on the other side that he wrote down what the Lord revealed to him. The style of the Book is sublime; it can

* See Appendix A.