

THE PROPHET JOEL / *Joel 1*

Served as a prophet to Judah, possibly from 835–796 B.C.

Climate of the times Wicked Queen Athaliah seized power in a bloody coup but was overthrown after a few years. Joash was crowned king, but he was only seven years old and in great need of spiritual guidance. Joash followed God in his early years but then turned away from him.

Main message A plague of locusts had come to discipline the nation. Joel called the people to turn back to God before an even greater judgment occurred.

Importance of message God judges all people for their sins, but he is merciful to those who turn to him and offers them eternal salvation.

Contemporary prophets Elisha (848–797 B.C.), Jonah (793–753 B.C.)