

When Everything Falls Apart

Joel Series – Part 1

Scripture text – Joel 1

Introduction

- Americans are _____ & _____ from the past 2-3 years.
- A psychiatrist is wondering “where people are getting their _____ from.”
- This new series will tell us where it comes from and what it looks like.

About Genre

- The book of Joel is a combination of both _____ & _____.
- Poetry is the language of the _____. It’s always important to ask what _____ the writer is trying to elicit from his readers.
- As to prophecy, the prophets typically have a _____ view of the future. In addition, a biblical prophecy may have more than one _____.

The Circumstance

- _____ had befallen Israel. The crops were eaten by a swarm of _____ . A locust swarm can be as large as _____ square miles with _____ million locusts per square mile.
- Joel asked the old-timers if they’d ever seen anything like it.
- It’s been the same with us. Month after month, we’re experiencing things that are _____, at least in our lifetimes.
- Historian Arnold Toynbee:
 1. “Civilizations die from _____, not by _____.”
 2. “Of the 21 civilizations that have appeared in history, 19 of them collapsed when they reached the moral condition the _____ is in now.”

The Response

- _____ is our only hope. If our nation is to be rescued, God must both _____ & _____ it.
- There is always a tendency (temptation) to put our hope in _____.

Christian Nationalism

- Today, a lot of churches are being torn apart by _____ and a movement known as Christian nationalism.
- Patriotism (or love of country) is good; Christian nationalism, on the other hand, is a _____ ideology. It is the idea that America is a _____ and must remain so.
- Over time, nationalistic movements tend to become authoritarian and _____.
- A gentle word of caution: As the church, we must be careful about becoming overly _____ with & _____ to a particular party, political ideology or politician.
- We already have a _____.

The Day of the LORD

- In talking about this, Joel switches from _____ to _____ tense.
- It is in this Day that our _____ lies.