



# THE PROPHETS

**The Prophets Part 1 — JOEL — *The God of Restoration***  
**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
**9-21-19**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

**[2 Peter 1:18-21]**

*We have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. **You must pay close attention to what they wrote**, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—**until the Day dawns**, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding. (for private or personal interpretation) nor from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.*

**[Habakkuk 2:3]**

*For the revelation awaits an appointed time;  
**it speaks of the end.** (the end of days)*

*and will not prove false.  
Though it linger, wait for it;  
it will certainly come  
and will not delay.*

**[Joel 2:25]**

*“So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten,  
The crawling locust,  
The consuming locust,  
And the chewing locust,*

***God never points out the mess you’re in just to leave you there.***

## **SCENE I**

### **THE WARNING OF COMING DESTRUCTION**

**[Joel 2:1-2]**

*Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm on my holy hill.  
Let all who live in the land tremble,  
for the day of the LORD is coming.  
It is close at hand—  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and blackness.*

**[Proverbs 27:12]**

*A wise, person discerns the danger ahead  
and prepares himself,  
but the fool (the naïve simpleton) never looks ahead  
and suffers the consequences.*

## **SCENE II**

### **THE CALL TO REPENTENCE**

**[Joel 2:12-14]**

*That is why the LORD says,*

***“Turn to me now, while there is time.***

*Give me your hearts.*

*Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning.*

*Don't tear your clothing in your grief,*

*but tear your hearts instead.”*

*Return to the LORD your God,*

*for he is merciful and compassionate,*

*slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.*

*He is eager to relent and not punish. Who knows? Perhaps he will give you a reprieve,*

*sending you a blessing instead of this curse.*

***Repentance is the on-ramp to restoration.***

**[Acts 3:19]**

*Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. **Then times of refreshment will come** from the presence of the Lord*

**Refreshment / Greek anapsyxis**

**= a renewing, a recovery of breath, a revival and restoration**

Scene III

**The Restoration**

**[Joel 2:18-20, 23-25]**

*Then the LORD will pity his people and jealously guard the honor of his land. The LORD will reply, “Look! I am sending you grain and new wine and olive oil, enough to satisfy your needs.*

*You will no longer be an object of mockery  
among the surrounding nations.  
I will drive away these armies from the north.  
I will send them into the parched wastelands.  
Rejoice, you people of Jerusalem!  
Rejoice in the LORD your God!  
For the rain he sends demonstrates his faithfulness.  
Once more the autumn rains will come,  
as well as the rains of spring.  
The threshing floors will again be piled high with grain,  
and the presses will overflow with new wine and olive oil.  
The LORD says, **"I will give you back what you lost"***

***God can give you back your full potential.***

**[Acts 2:14-18]**

*Then Peter stepped forward with the eleven other apostles and shouted to the crowd, "Listen carefully, all of you, fellow Jews and residents of Jerusalem! Make no mistake about this. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. Nine o'clock in the morning is much too early for that. No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel:*

*'In the last days,' God says,  
'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.  
Your young men will see visions,  
and your old men will dream dreams.  
In those days I will pour out my Spirit  
even on my servants—men and women alike—  
and they will prophesy.*

- 1. We will dream again.**
- 2. We will have clear vision for our future.**

**3. We will declare what God is going to do in our world.**

**For Monday—**

- 1. Get a journal and start jotting down some of your dreams.**
- 2. Spend time in the secret place declaring your future in God.**

**TALK IT THROUGH**

- 1. What is your favorite movie with a happy ending? How do you feel when the ending is tragic or unresolved, instead?**
- 2. When have you heeded a warning and it turned out for your good? When have you possibly done the opposite and learned the hard way in hindsight?**
- 3. Read 2 Peter 1:18-21. "You must *pay attention* to what they (the prophets) wrote..." Why is it so important to pay attention? How can we apply today what was written so long ago.**
- 4. What do you think of the statement that "repentance is the on-ramp to restoration?" What does that look like? How have you experienced that?**
- 5. How do the three acts Pastor Dave highlighted inspire you to keep moving forward despite challenges?**
- 6. What's one practical step for you personally to get closer to your full potential?**
- 7. In your time with God, are you getting any fresh vision? How do we look with fresh eyes?**