

The Overthrow of Athaliah (836t BC)

2 Kings 11:4–20

4 But in the seventh year Jehoiada sent and took the commanders of the hundreds of the Carites and the runners,

and he brought them to himself to the temple of Yahweh. Then he made a covenant with them and made them swear in the house of Yahweh and showed them the son of the king.

5 He commanded them, saying,

“This *is* the thing which you must do: one third of you who go off duty on the Sabbath, the keepers of the guard in the house of the king,

6 and another third at the gate of Sur, and a third at the gate behind the runners, shall guard the post of the palace alternately.

7 Two of the units among you, all who go on duty on the Sabbath, guard the post of the temple of Yahweh for the king.

8 You must surround the king all about, each with his weapon in his hand; whoever comes to the ranks must be killed. Be with the king wherever he goes.”

9 So the commanders of hundreds did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded, and each took his men who went off duty on the Sabbath and those who came on duty on the Sabbath,

and they came to Jehoiada the priest.

10 Then the priest gave to the commanders of the hundreds spears and small round shields which *were* King David’s, which *were* in the temple of Yahweh.

11 So the royal runners stood, each *with* his weapons in his hand, from the side of the temple to the south up to the side of the temple on the north, around the altar and around the temple, about the king all around.

12 Then he brought out the son of the king, put the crown on him with the testimony, and they made him king, anointed him, clapped *their* hands, and said, “*Long* live the king!”

13 When Athaliah heard the sound of the runners of the people,

she came to the people at the temple of Yahweh.

14 She looked, and there was the king standing by the pillar according to the custom. The commanders and the trumpeters *were* by the king, and all of the people of the

2 Chronicles 23

23:1 And in the seventh year Jehoiada strengthened himself and took with him into a covenant *relationship* the commanders of hundreds: Azariah the son of Jeroham, Ishmael the son of Jehohanan, Azariah the son of Obed, Maaseiah the son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat the son of Zicri.

2 And they went around in Judah and gathered the Levites from all the cities of Judah, and the heads of the families of Israel, and they came to Jerusalem.

3 And all the assembly made a covenant with the king in the house of God.

And he said to them, “Behold, the son of the king shall reign as Yahweh has spoken concerning the sons of David.

4 This is the thing that you must do: one third of you priests and Levites coming off duty on the Sabbath *shall be* gatekeepers at the entrances,

5b and one third at the Gate of the Foundation.

5a and one third at the house of the king,

5c And all the people *shall be* in the courtyards of the house of Yahweh.

6 Let no one enter into the house of Yahweh except the priests and the ministering Levites. They themselves may enter, for they *are* holy, but all the people shall keep the requirements of Yahweh.

7 And the Levites shall surround the king all around, each with his weapons in his hand. And whoever comes into the house shall be put to death. You shall be with the king when he comes in and when he goes out.”

8 And the Levites and all Judah did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded. And they each took his men *who were* coming off duty on the Sabbath with the ones going out to duty on the Sabbath, for Jehoiada the priest did not dismiss the working groups.

9 And Jehoiada the priest gave the spears and small shields that had belonged to King David that *were in* the house of God to the commanders of hundreds.

10 And he appointed all the people, each *with* his weapon in his hand from the south side of the house to the north side of the house around the altar and the house.

11 Then they brought out the son of the king and set upon him the crown and *gave him* the statute and made him king. And Jehoiada and his sons anointed him and said, “*Long* live the king!”

12 When Athaliah heard the sound of the people running and praising the king, she came to the people *at* the house of Yahweh.

13 And she looked and, behold, the king was standing by his column at the entrance, and the commanders and trumpeters beside the king, along with all the people of the

<p>land were rejoicing and blowing on the trumpets.</p> <p>Athaliah tore her clothes and she called, "Treason, treason!"</p> <p>15 Then Jehoiada the priest commanded the commanders of the hundreds, the appointed of the army, and he said to them, "Bring her out to the house of the ranks! The one coming after her <i>should</i> kill her with the sword," for the priest had said, "Let her not be killed in the temple of Yahweh."</p> <p>16 So they grabbed her as she went <i>by</i> the entranceway of the horses to the palace of the king, and she was killed there.</p> <p>17 Then Jehoiada made a covenant between Yahweh and the king and the people, that the people should be as a people for Yahweh, and <i>also a covenant</i> between the king and the people.</p> <p>18 Then all the people of the land went to the temple of Baal and tore it down, and its altars and its images they broke completely into pieces. Mattan the priest of Baal they killed in front of the altars.</p> <p>Then the priest put guards over the house of Yahweh.</p> <p>19 He took the commanders of the hundreds and the Carites and the runners and all the people of the land, and they brought the king down from the temple of Yahweh. And they marched by the way of the runner's gate <i>to</i> the palace of the king, and he sat on the throne of the kings.</p> <p>20 All the people of the land rejoiced, and the city rested; <i>for</i> Athaliah had been killed with the sword in the palace of the king.</p>	<p>land, rejoicing and blowing with trumpets, and the singers with the instruments of song leading the praise. And Athaliah tore her garments and cried, "Conspiracy! Conspiracy!"</p> <p>14 Then Jehoiada the priest brought out the commanders of the hundreds appointed over the troops, and he said to them, "Bring her out between the ranks, and whoever goes after her shall be put to death with the sword." For the priest had said, "You must not kill her in the house of Yahweh."</p> <p>15 And they laid hands on her, and she went into the entrance of the Horse Gate of the house of the king, and they killed her there.</p> <p>16 And Jehoiada made a covenant between himself and all the people and the king, that they should be Yahweh's people.</p> <p>17 Then all the people went to the house of Baal and broke it down. And they smashed his altars and his images, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars.</p> <p>18 And Jehoiada placed appointees <i>at</i> the house of Yahweh under the hand of the Levitical priests whom David had allotted to the house of Yahweh to offer burnt offerings to Yahweh as was written in the law of Moses, with joy and with song, according to the order of David.</p> <p>19 And he set the gatekeepers at the gates of the house of Yahweh so that no person unclean with respect to any matter could enter.</p> <p>20 And he took the commanders of hundreds, the noblemen, the governors over the people, and all the people of the land, and they brought the king down from the house of Yahweh. And they came through the upper gate <i>to</i> the house of the king, and they set the king upon the throne of the kingdom.</p> <p>21 So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet <i>after</i> Athaliah had been killed with the sword.</p>
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Joash, Ahaziah's Son, Assumes the Throne of Judah (836t BC)

2 Kings 11:21–12:3	2 Chronicles 24:1–3
<p>11:21 Jehoash <i>was</i> seven years old when he began to reign.</p> <p>12:1 In the seventh year of Jehu, Jehoash became king. He reigned in Jerusalem forty years, and the name of his mother <i>was</i> Zibiah from Beersheba.</p> <p>2 Jehoash did right in the eyes of Yahweh all of his days, because Jehoiada the priest instructed him.</p> <p>3 Only the high places were not removed; the people <i>were</i> still making sacrifices and offering incense on the high places.</p>	<p>1 Joash <i>was</i> seven years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years in Jerusalem. And the name of his mother <i>was</i> Zibiah from Beersheba.</p> <p>2 And Joash did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh all the days of Jehoiada the priest.</p> <p>3 And Jehoiada took two wives for him, and he fathered sons and daughters.</p>

Joel's Prophecy to Judah (c. 830 BC)

Joel 1–3

Judah Devastated by an Invasion of Locusts

1:1 The word of Yahweh that came to Joel son of Pethuel.

2 Hear this, O elders,

- and give ear, all the inhabitants of the land.
Has this happened in your days?
Or the days of your ancestors?
- 3 Tell it to your children,
and your children to their children,
and their children to the following generation.
- 4 What the cutting locust left,
the swarming locust has eaten.
What the swarming locust left,
the hopping locust has eaten.
And what the hopping locust left,
the destroying locust has eaten.
- 5 Wake up, drunkards, and weep!
Wail, all drinkers of wine, over the new wine,
for it is cut off from your mouth.
- 6 Because a nation has invaded my land,
strong and beyond counting.
Its teeth *are* the teeth of a lion,
and its fangs *are those* of a lioness.
- 7 It has made my vine a desolation,
and my fig tree a completely splintered stump.
It has stripped them bare and thrown *them* down;
their branches have turned white.
- 8 Lament like a virgin girded in sackcloth
for the husband of her youth.
- 9 The offering and libation are withheld
from the house of Yahweh.
The priests mourn,
the ministers of Yahweh.
- 10 The field is destroyed;
the earth mourns
because *the* grain is destroyed,
the new wine dries up,
the olive oil languishes.
- 11 Be ashamed, farmers;
Wail, vinedressers,
over *the* wheat and over *the* barley,
because *the* harvest of the field is ruined.
- 12 The vine withers
and the fig tree droops.
The pomegranate tree, and also the palm tree, the apple tree
—all the trees of the field—are dried up.
Indeed, joy is dried up
among the sons of men.
- 13 Gird yourselves and lament, O priests!
Wail, O ministers of *the* altar!
Come spend the night in sackcloth,
O ministers of my God,
because offering and libation
are withheld from the house of your God.
- 14 Solemnize a fast!
Call an assembly!
Gather *the* elders,
all *of* the inhabitants of the land
in the house of Yahweh your God,
and cry out to Yahweh.
- 15 Ah! For the day!
For the day of Yahweh is near.

- It will come like destruction from Shaddai.
- 16 *Is* not food cut *off*
before our eyes,
from the house of our God,
joy and gladness?
- 17 The seeds shrivel under their clods;
the storehouses are desolate.
The grain storage places are destroyed
because grain has dried out.
- 18 How *the* beasts groan;
the herds of cattle wander around
because there is no pasture for them;
the flocks of sheep are in distress.
- 19 To you, *O* Yahweh, I cry out,
because fire has devoured
the pastures of the desert,
and flames burned
all the trees of the field.
- 20 Also, the beasts of *the* field
long for you,
because the courses of water
are dried up,
and fire has devoured
the pastures of the desert.

The Coming “Day of the LORD”

- 2:1 Blow *the* trumpet in Zion,
and sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of Yahweh *is* coming
—*it is* indeed near.
- 2 A day of darkness and gloom,
a day of cloud and thick darkness,
like the dawn spreads on the mountains,
a great and strong army!
There has been nothing like it from old,
and after it nothing will be again for generations to come.
- 3 Before them a fire devours,
and behind them a flame burns.
Like the garden of Eden is the land before them,
and after them *it is like* a desolate desert,
and nothing can escape them.
- 4 Like *the* appearance of horses is their appearance,
and like horsemen they run;
5 like *the* sound of chariots on the tops of the mountains, they leap about;
like *the* sound of a flame of fire
devouring stubble;
like a strong army arranged
in rows *for* battle.
- 6 From before them nations writhe,
all faces turn pale.
- 7 They run like mighty warriors,
they scale the wall like men of war;
each goes on its own way,
and they do not swerve *from* their paths.
- 8 They do not jostle one another;
each goes on its own trail;
and through the falling weapons,
they are not halted.

- 9 In the city they rush forth;
on the walls they run.
Into the houses they climb up;
through the windows
they enter like *a* thief.
- 10 Before them *the* earth quakes;
the heavens tremble;
the sun and *the* moon grow dark,
and *the* stars have withheld their splendor
- 11 And Yahweh utters his voice before his army,
because his encampment *is* very large;
strong *is the* one who carries out his decree,
for great *is* the day of Yahweh
and exceedingly fearful.
Who can endure it?

A Call to Repentance

- 12 “And even now,” declares Yahweh,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, and weeping, and wailing.”
- 13 Rend your hearts and not your garments,
and return to Yahweh your God,
because he *is* gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and great in loyal love,
and relenting from harm.
- 14 Who knows *whether* he will turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
an offering and a libation,
for Yahweh your God?
- 15 Blow *the* trumpet in Zion,
sanctify a fast, call an assembly;
- 16 gather *the* people, consecrate *the* assembly;
assemble *the* elders, gather *the* children,
even those *who are* breast-feeding;
let *the* bridegroom come out from his private room,
and *the* bride from her canopy.
- 17 Between the colonnade and the altar,
let the priests, the ministers of Yahweh, weep.
And let them say, “Take pity, Yahweh, on your people.
Do not make your inheritance a reproach,
a byword among *the* nations.
Why should they say among the nations,
‘Where *is* their God?’”

The LORD Has Mercy on Israel

- 18 Then Yahweh became jealous for his land
and took pity on his people.
- 19 And Yahweh answered and said to his people,
“Look at me, *I am* sending to you
grain, new wine, and olive oil,
and you will be satisfied by it.
I will not give you *over* any more
as a disgrace among the nations.
- 20 The northerners
I will remove from you;
I will drive them to a desert
and desolate land,
its front to the eastern sea,
and its rear into the western sea;

its stench and odor will rise up
because he has done great things.

- 21 Do not fear, *O* land,
rejoice and be glad,
because Yahweh has done great things.
- 22 Do not fear, wild animals of *the* field,
because *the* pastures of *the* desert have put forth new green shoots,
because *the* tree has produced its fruit, *the* fig tree and *the* vine have yielded their produce.
- 23 Be glad, *O* children of Zion,
be glad and rejoice in Yahweh your God,
because he has given for you
the autumn rains for *your* righteousness,
and he has poured down for you rainwater,
the autumn and spring rains, as before.
- 24 The threshing floors will be full *with* grain,
and the vats will overflow
with new wine and olive oil.
- 25 I will repay you the years
that the locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my mighty troops that I sent against you.
- 26 And you will eat abundantly and be satisfied,
and praise the name of Yahweh your God,
who has dealt with you wondrously.
My people will never be ashamed.
- 27 And you will know that I *am* in the midst of Israel,
and I *am* Yahweh,
your God, and there is no *other*.
My people will never be ashamed again.

The LORD Will Pour Out His Spirit

- 28 And it will happen afterward thus:
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
and your elders will dream dreams;
your young men shall see visions.
- 29 And also on the male slaves and on the female slaves,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.
- 30 And I will set wonders in the heavens, and on earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.
- 31 The sun will be changed to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of Yahweh.
- 32 And it will happen—everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh will be rescued, [[Rom 10:13](#)] because on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, [[Obad 1:17](#)] as Yahweh said, and among the survivors whom Yahweh is calling. [[Acts 2:17–21](#)]

The LORD Judges the Nations

- 3:1 For look! In those days, and in that time, when I will return the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,
2 I will gather all the nations, and I will bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat, [[Zech 14:4](#)]
and I will argue a case against them there concerning my people and my inheritance Israel whom they have scattered among the nations, and my land *that* they have divided.
- 3 For my people they cast lots, and they traded the male child for the prostitute, and the female child they sold for wine and they drank *it*.
- 4 What *are* you to me, *O* Tyre and *O* Sidon, and all of the regions of Philistia? Are you repaying to me what is deserved? If you *are* recompensing me, I will return swiftly *and* quickly what you deserve on your head!
- 5 For you have taken my silver and my gold, and my beautiful treasures you have carried into your temples.
- 6 And the sons of Judah and Jerusalem you sold to the sons of the Greeks, in order to remove them from their border.
- 7 Look! I *am* rousing them from the place where you have sold them, and I will return what you deserve on your head!
- 8 I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they will sell them to *the* Sabeans and to a nation far *away*, for Yahweh has spoken.

- 9 Proclaim this among the nations:
Prepare for war!
Stir up the mighty warriors;
let them approach and come up;
let all the men of war approach.
- 10 Beat your cutting tools of iron into swords
and your pruning hooks into spears;
let the weakling say, 'I am a mighty warrior!'
- 11 Hurry and come,
all the nations, from all around,
and gather *yourselves* there.
Bring down your mighty warriors, O Yahweh!
- 12 Let the nations be roused and let them come up
to the valley of Jehoshaphat,
for there I will sit to judge
all the nations from all around.
- 13 Send forth *the* sickle,
for the harvest is ripe!
Go tread,
for *the* winepress is full!
The vats overflow,
because their evil *is* great! [[Rev 14:15](#)]
- 14 Commotion, commotion
in the valley of decision!
For the day of Yahweh *is* near
in the valley of decision!
- 15 *The* sun and *the* moon grow dark,
and *the* stars have withheld their splendor.
- 16 And Yahweh roars from Zion;
from Jerusalem he utters his voice,
and *the* heavens and *the* earth shake.
But Yahweh *is* a refuge for his people,
and a protection for the children of Israel.

The Glorious Future of Judah

- 17 And you will know that I, Yahweh your God,
am dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain.
And Jerusalem will be *a place of holiness*,
and strangers will pass through *it* no longer.
- 18 And it will happen on that day;
the mountains will drip new wine,
and the hills will flow with milk,
and all the channels of Judah will flow with water.
A spring from the house of Yahweh will come forth,
and it will water the valley of Acacia Trees.
- 19 Egypt will become a desolation,
and Edom will become a desolate desert,
because of the violence *they did* against the children of Judah,
in whose land they have shed innocent blood.
- 20 But Judah will be inhabited forever,
and Jerusalem for all generations.
- 21 I will cleanse their bloodguilt *that* I did not cleanse,
for Yahweh is dwelling in Zion.

Chronological Notes

- 1) The date of Joel.¹
 - A) Early pre-exilic date: during the reign of King Jehoshaphat (873t–849t BC), or his grandson, King Joash (836t–797t BC).²
 - (1) Arguments in favor of this period include the position of Joel in the Hebrew canon; it appears among other prophetic writings of this period. Also, the enemies of Israel that Joel named (Tyre, Sidon, Philistia [cf. 2 Chron. 21:16–17], Egypt [cf. 1 Kings 14:25–26], and Edom [cf. 2 Kings 8:20–22]; 3:2–7, 19) were enemies of Israel during this time. The prominence Joel gave to Judah’s priests and elders rather than to her king—Joash was a boy king under the influence of Jehoiada, the high priest, early in his reign—is a further argument for this view.
 - B) Middle pre-exilic date: during the reign of Joash’s grandson, King Uzziah (791t–740t BC).³
 - (1) Supporters of this view also claim the first two arguments cited in favor of the early pre-exilic view above. They argue, in addition, that the absence of references to Assyria, Babylonia, and Persia make a later date, when these nations were the major ancient Near Eastern superpowers, unlikely. Joel’s reference to Greece in 3:6 may fit this period since the Ionian Greeks were at this time expanding their commercial influence in Asia Minor. Joel’s reference to the Sabeans in 3:8 is appropriate for this period as well. Internal references and linguistic characteristics may also reflect Uzziah’s times, and are similar to the writings of the other eighth-century prophets (i.e., Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah).
 - C) Late pre-exilic date: Between 597 and 587 BC.⁴
 - (1) Statements in Joel could fit this period, and some of his statements are similar to those of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and may reflect conditions before the destruction of Jerusalem. If true, Joel would have been a contemporary of Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. Yet Joel 2:18–19 seems to imply that God had been merciful to Joel’s generation, suggesting that the people had repented, but there is no record of this happening during this period.
 - D) Post-exilic date: between 515 and 500 BC, or even as late as sometime in the 400s BC.⁵
 - (1) Interpreters who see Joel 3:1–2 and 17 as references to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Captivity take the references to the temple in 1:9, 13 and 2:17 as applying to the second temple (completed in 515 BC). Yet all these texts could apply to earlier periods. Generally, scholars who view apocalyptic writing as a late development in Judaism tend to date Joel quite late.
 - E) The wide variety of views on the dating of Joel demonstrate how difficult it is to date.⁶ I have opted to present Joel within the reign of King Joash (c. 830 BC).

¹ Sourced from Thomas L. Constable, “Notes on Joel,” Online: <http://www.soniclight.com>.

² Advocates of this view include Hobart E. Freeman, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophets*, 148; Gleason A. Archer Jr., *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, 305; E. J. Young, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 271–72; C. F. Keil, *The Twelve Minor Prophets*, 1:169–70; Walter C. Kaiser Jr., *Toward an Old Testament Theology*, 188; Charles H. Dyer, *The Old Testament Explorer*, 737; Warren W. Wiersbe, “Joel,” in *The Bible Exposition Commentary/Prophets*, 333; and Leon J. Wood, *The Prophets of Israel*, 268.

³ Advocates include Richard D. Patterson, “Joel,” in *Daniel–Malachi*, vol. 7 of *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary*, 231–33.

⁴ Advocates include Wilhelm Rudolph, *Joel-Amos-Obadja-Jona*, 14–15; and Arvid S. Kapelrud, *Joel Studies*, 154–58.

⁵ Advocates include Robert B. Chisholm Jr., “Joel,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament*, 1410; idem, “A Theology of the Minor Prophets,” in *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*, 387; idem, *Handbook on the Prophets*, 368; Raymond B. Dillard, “Joel,” in *The Minor Prophets*, 240–42 (though see 301–2); David A. Hubbard, *Joel and Amos*, 27; and John Bright, *A History of Israel*, 417.

⁶ For an excellent examination of all the evidences used in dating Joel, see Duane A. Garrett, “Hosea Joel,” *NAC*, 287–294. He concludes: “In summary, clear pointers to the date of Joel are few and far between.”