

The Overthrow of Athaliah (836t BC)

2 Kings 11:4–20

4 In the seventh year Jehoiada summoned the officers of the units of hundreds of the Carians and the royal bodyguard.

He met with them in the LORD's temple. He made an agreement with them and made them swear an oath of allegiance in the LORD's temple. Then he showed them the king's son.

5 He ordered them,

"This is what you must do. One third of the unit that is on duty during the Sabbath will guard the royal palace.

6 Another third of you will be stationed at the Foundation Gate. Still another third of you will be stationed at the gate behind the royal guard. You will take turns guarding the palace.

7 The two units who are off duty on the Sabbath will guard the LORD's temple and protect the king.

8 You must surround the king. Each of you must hold his weapon in his hand. Whoever approaches your ranks must be killed. You must accompany the king wherever he goes."

9 The officers of the units of hundreds did just as Jehoiada the priest ordered. Each of them took his men, those who were on duty during the Sabbath as well as those who were off duty on the Sabbath,

and reported to Jehoiada the priest.

10 The priest gave to the officers of the units of hundreds King David's spears and the shields that were kept in the LORD's temple.

11 The royal bodyguard took their stations, each holding his weapon in his hand. They lined up from the south side of the temple to the north side and stood near the altar and the temple, surrounding the king.

12 Jehoiada led out the king's son and placed on him the crown and the royal insignia. They proclaimed him king and poured olive oil on his head. They clapped their hands and cried out, "Long live the king!"

13 When Athaliah heard the royal guard shout,

she joined the crowd at the LORD's temple.

14 Then she saw the king standing by the pillar, according to custom. The officers stood beside the king with their trumpets and all the people of the land were celebrating and blowing trumpets.

Athaliah tore her clothes and screamed, "Treason, treason!"

2 Chronicles 23

1 In the seventh year Jehoiada made a bold move. He made a pact with the officers of the units of hundreds: Azariah son of Jehoram, Ishmael son of Jehochanan, Azariah son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zikri.

2 They traveled throughout Judah and assembled the Levites from all the cities of Judah, as well as the Israelite family leaders. They came to Jerusalem,

3 and the whole assembly made a covenant with the king in the temple of God.

Jehoiada said to them, "The king's son will rule, just as the LORD promised David's descendants.

4 This is what you must do. One third of you priests and Levites who are on duty during the Sabbath will guard the doors.

5b and still another third at the Foundation Gate.

5a Another third of you will be stationed at the royal palace

5c All the others will stand in the courtyards of the LORD's temple.

6 No one must enter the LORD's temple except the priests and Levites who are on duty. They may enter because they are ceremonially pure. All the others should carry out their assigned service to the LORD.

7 The Levites must surround the king. Each of you must hold his weapon in his hand. Whoever tries to enter the temple must be killed. You must accompany the king wherever he goes."

8 The Levites and all the men of Judah did just as Jehoiada the priest ordered. Each of them took his men, those who were on duty during the Sabbath as well as those who were off duty on the Sabbath.

Jehoiada the priest did not release his divisions from their duties.

9 Jehoiada the priest gave to the officers of the units of hundreds King David's spears and shields that were kept in God's temple.

10 He placed the men at their posts, each holding his weapon in his hand. They lined up from the south side of the temple to the north side and stood near the altar and the temple, surrounding the king.

11 Jehoiada and his sons led out the king's son and placed on him the crown and the royal insignia. They proclaimed him king and poured olive oil on his head. They declared, "Long live the king!"

12 When Athaliah heard the royal guard shouting and praising the king,

she joined the crowd at the LORD's temple.

13 Then she saw the king standing by his pillar at the entrance.

The officers and trumpeters stood beside the king and all the people of the land were celebrating and blowing trumpets, and the musicians with various instruments were leading the celebration.

Athaliah tore her clothes and yelled, "Treason! Treason!"

<p>15 Jehoiada the priest ordered the officers of the units of hundreds, who were in charge of the army, “Bring her outside the temple to the guards. Put the sword to anyone who follows her.” The priest gave this order because he had decided she should not be executed in the LORD’s temple.</p> <p>16 They seized her and took her into the precincts of the royal palace through the horses’ entrance. There she was executed.</p> <p>17 Jehoiada then drew up a covenant between the LORD and the king and people, stipulating that they should be loyal to the LORD.</p> <p>18 All the people of the land went and demolished the temple of Baal. They smashed its altars and idols to bits. They killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altar.</p> <p>Jehoiada the priest then placed guards at the LORD’s temple.</p> <p>19 He took the officers of the units of hundreds, the Carians, the royal bodyguard, and all the people of land, and together they led the king down from the LORD’s temple. They entered the royal palace through the Gate of the Royal Bodyguard, and the king sat down on the royal throne.</p> <p>20 All the people of the land celebrated, for the city had rest now that they had killed Athaliah with the sword in the royal palace.</p>	<p>14 Jehoiada the priest sent out the officers of the units of hundreds, who were in charge of the army, and ordered them, “Bring her outside the temple to the guards. Put the sword to anyone who follows her.” The priest gave this order because he had decided she should not be executed in the LORD’s temple.</p> <p>15 They seized her and took her into the precincts of the royal palace through the horses’ entrance. There they executed her.</p> <p>16 Jehoiada then drew up a covenant stipulating that he, all the people, and the king should be loyal to the LORD.</p> <p>17 All the people went and demolished the temple of Baal. They smashed its altars and idols. They killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars.</p> <p>18 Jehoiada then assigned the duties of the LORD’s temple to the priests, the Levites whom David had assigned to the LORD’s temple. They were responsible for offering burnt sacrifices to the LORD with joy and music, according to the law of Moses and the edict of David.</p> <p>19 He posted guards at the gates of the LORD’s temple, so no one who was ceremonially unclean in any way could enter.</p> <p>20 He summoned the officers of the units of hundreds, the nobles, the rulers of the people, and all the people of land, and he then led the king down from the LORD’s temple. They entered the royal palace through the Upper Gate and seated the king on the royal throne.</p> <p>21 All the people of the land celebrated, for the city had rest now that they had killed Athaliah.</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 was seven years old when he began to reign.</p> <p>12:1 In Jehu’s seventh year Jehoash became king; he reigned for forty years in Jerusalem. His mother was Zibiah, who was from Beer Sheba.</p> <p>2 Throughout his lifetime Jehoash did what the LORD approved, just as Jehoiada the priest taught him.</p> <p>3 But the high places were not eliminated; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense on the high places.</p>	<p>1 Joash was seven years old when he began to reign.</p> <p>He reigned for forty years in Jerusalem. His mother was Zibiah, who was from Beer Sheba.</p> <p>2 Joash did what the LORD approved throughout the lifetime of Jehoiada the priest.</p> <p>3 Jehoiada chose two wives for him who gave him sons and daughters.</p>

Joel’s Prophecy to Judah (c. 830 BC)

Joel 1–3

Judah Devastated by an Invasion of Locusts

1:1 This is the LORD’s message that was given to Joel the son of Pethuel:

- 2 Listen to this, you elders;
pay attention, all inhabitants of the land.
Has anything like this ever happened in your whole life
or in the lifetime of your ancestors?
- 3 Tell your children about it,
have your children tell their children,
and their children the following generation.
- 4 What the *gazam*-locust left the *’arbeh*-locust consumed,

- what the *'arbeh*-locust left the *yeleq*-locust consumed,
and what the *yeleq*-locust left the *hasil*-locust consumed!
- 5 Wake up, you drunkards, and weep!
Wail, all you wine drinkers,
because the sweet wine has been taken away from you.
- 6 For a nation has invaded our land.
There are so many of them they are too numerous to count.
Their teeth are like those of a lion;
they tear apart their prey like a lioness.
- 7 They have destroyed our vines;
they have turned our fig trees into mere splinters.
They have completely stripped off the bark and thrown them aside;
the twigs are stripped bare.
- 8 Wail like a young virgin clothed in sackcloth,
lamenting the death of her husband-to-be.
- 9 No one brings grain offerings or drink offerings
to the temple of the LORD anymore.
So the priests, those who serve the LORD, are in mourning.
- 10 The crops of the fields have been destroyed.
The ground is in mourning because the grain has perished.
The fresh wine has dried up; the olive oil languishes.
- 11 Be distressed, farmers;
wail, vinedressers, over the wheat and the barley.
For the harvest of the field has perished.
- 12 The vine has dried up;
the fig tree languishes—
the pomegranate, date, and apple as well.
In fact, all the trees of the field have dried up.
Indeed, the joy of the people has dried up!
- 13 Get dressed and lament, you priests!
Wail, you who minister at the altar!
Come, spend the night in sackcloth, you servants of my God,
because no one brings grain offerings or drink offerings
to the temple of your God anymore.
- 14 Announce a holy fast;
proclaim a sacred assembly.
Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land
to the temple of the LORD your God,
and cry out to the LORD.
- 15 How awful that day will be!
For the day of the LORD is near;
it will come as destruction from the Divine Destroyer.
- 16 Our food has been cut off right before our eyes!
There is no longer any joy or gladness in the temple of our God!
- 17 The grains of seed have shriveled beneath their shovels.
Storehouses have been decimated
and granaries have been torn down, for the grain has dried up.
- 18 Listen to the cattle groan!
The herds of livestock wander around in confusion
because they have no pasture.
Even the flocks of sheep are suffering.
- 19 To you, O LORD, I call out for help,
for fire has burned up the grassy pastures,
flames have razed all the trees in the fields.
- 20 Even the wild animals cry out to you;
for the river beds have dried up;
fire has destroyed the grassy pastures.

The Coming “Day of the LORD”

- 2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm signal on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land shake with fear,
for the day of the LORD is about to come.
Indeed, it is near!
- 2 It will be a day of dreadful darkness,
a day of foreboding storm clouds,
like blackness spread over the mountains.
It is a huge and powerful army—
there has never been anything like it ever before,
and there will not be anything like it for many generations to come!
- 3 Like fire they devour everything in their path;
a flame blazes behind them.
The land looks like the Garden of Eden before them,
but behind them there is only a desolate wilderness—
for nothing escapes them!
- 4 They look like horses;
they charge ahead like war horses.
- 5 They sound like chariots rumbling over mountain tops,
like the crackling of blazing fire consuming stubble,
like the noise of a mighty army being drawn up for battle.
- 6 People writhe in fear when they see them.
All of their faces turn pale with fright.
- 7 They charge like warriors;
they scale walls like soldiers.
Each one proceeds on his course;
they do not alter their path.
- 8 They do not jostle one another;
each of them marches straight ahead.
They burst through the city defenses
and do not break ranks.
- 9 They rush into the city;
they scale its walls.
They climb up into the houses;
they go in through the windows like a thief.
- 10 The earth quakes before them;
the sky reverberates.
The sun and the moon grow dark;
the stars refuse to shine.
- 11 The voice of the LORD thunders as he leads his army.
Indeed, his warriors are innumerable;
Surely his command is carried out!
Yes, the day of the LORD is awesome
and very terrifying—who can survive it?

A Call to Repentance

- 12 “Yet even now,” the LORD says,
“return to me with all your heart—
with fasting, weeping, and mourning.
Tear your hearts, not just your garments!”
- 13 Return to the LORD your God,
for he is merciful and compassionate,
slow to anger and boundless in loyal love—
often relenting from calamitous punishment.
- 14 Who knows?
Perhaps he will be compassionate and grant a reprieve,
and leave blessing in his wake—

- a meal offering and a drink offering for you to offer to the LORD your God!
- 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion.
Announce a holy fast;
proclaim a sacred assembly!
- 16 Gather the people;
sanctify an assembly!
Gather the elders;
gather the children and the nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom come out from his bedroom
and the bride from her private quarters.
- 17 Let the priests, those who serve the LORD, weep
from the vestibule all the way back to the altar.
Let them say, "Have pity, O LORD, on your people;
please do not turn over your inheritance to be mocked,
to become a proverb among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
"Where is their God?"

The LORD Has Mercy on Israel

- 18 Then the LORD became zealous for his land;
he had compassion on his people.
- 19 The LORD responded to his people,
"Look! I am about to restore your grain
as well as fresh wine and olive oil.
You will be fully satisfied.
I will never again make you an object of mockery among the nations.
- 20 I will remove the one from the north far from you.
I will drive him out to a dry and desolate place.
Those in front will be driven eastward into the Dead Sea,
and those in back westward into the Mediterranean Sea.
His stench will rise up as a foul smell."
Indeed, the LORD has accomplished great things.
- 21 Do not fear, my land!
Rejoice and be glad,
because the LORD has accomplished great things!
- 22 Do not fear, wild animals!
For the pastures of the wilderness are again green with grass.
Indeed, the trees bear their fruit;
the fig tree and the vine yield to their fullest.
- 23 Citizens of Zion, rejoice!
Be glad because of what the LORD your God has done!
For he has given to you the early rains as vindication.
He has sent to you the rains—
both the early and the late rains as formerly.
- 24 The threshing floors are full of grain;
the vats overflow with fresh wine and olive oil.
- 25 I will make up for the years
that the *'arbeh*-locust consumed your crops—
the *yeleq*-locust, the *hasil*-locust, and the *gazam*-locust—
my great army that I sent against you.
- 26 You will have plenty to eat,
and your hunger will be fully satisfied;
you will praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has acted wondrously in your behalf.
My people will never again be put to shame.
- 27 You will be convinced that I am in the midst of Israel.
I am the LORD your God; there is no other.
My people will never again be put to shame.

The LORD Will Pour Out His Spirit

- 28 After all of this
I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your elderly will have revelatory dreams;
your young men will see prophetic visions.
- 29 Even on male and female servants
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.
- 30 I will produce portents both in the sky and on the earth—
blood, fire, and columns of smoke.
- 31 The sunlight will be turned to darkness
and the moon to the color of blood,
before the day of the LORD comes—
that great and terrible day!
- 32 It will so happen that
everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be delivered. [[Rom 10:13](#)]
For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who survive, [[Obad 1:17](#)]
just as the LORD has promised;
the remnant will be those whom the LORD will call. [[Acts 2:17–21](#)]

The LORD Judges the Nations

- 3:1 For look! In those days and at that time
I will return the exiles to Judah and Jerusalem.
- 2 Then I will gather all the nations,
and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. [[Zech 14:4](#)]
I will enter into judgment against them there
concerning my people Israel who are my inheritance,
whom they scattered among the nations.
They partitioned my land,
and they cast lots for my people.
They traded a boy for a prostitute;
they sold a little girl for wine so they could drink.
- 4 Why are you doing these things to me, Tyre and Sidon?
Are you trying to get even with me, land of Philistia?
I will very quickly repay you for what you have done!
- 5 For you took my silver and my gold
and brought my precious valuables to your own palaces.
- 6 You sold Judeans and Jerusalemites to the Greeks,
removing them far from their own country.
- 7 Look! I am rousing them from that place to which you sold them.
I will repay you for what you have done!
- 8 I will sell your sons and daughters to the people of Judah.
They will sell them to the Sabeans, a nation far away.
Indeed, the LORD has spoken!
- 9 Proclaim this among the nations:
“Prepare for a holy war!
Call out the warriors!
Let all these fighting men approach and attack!
- 10 Beat your plowshares into swords,
and your pruning hooks into spears!
Let the weak say, ‘I too am a warrior!’
- 11 Lend your aid and come,
all you surrounding nations,
and gather yourselves to that place.”
Bring down, O LORD, your warriors!
- 12 Let the nations be roused and let them go up
to the valley of Jehoshaphat,
for there I will sit in judgment on all the surrounding nations.

- 13 Rush forth with the sickle, for the harvest is ripe!
Come, stomp the grapes, for the winepress is full!
The vats overflow.
Indeed, their evil is great! [[Rev 14:15](#)]
- 14 Crowds, great crowds are in the valley of decision,
for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision!
- 15 The sun and moon are darkened;
the stars withhold their brightness.
- 16 The LORD roars from Zion;
from Jerusalem his voice bellows out.
The heavens and the earth shake.
But the LORD is a refuge for his people;
he is a stronghold for the citizens of Israel.

The Glorious Future of Judah

- 17 You will be convinced that I the LORD am your God,
dwelling on Zion, my holy mountain.
Jerusalem will be holy—
conquering armies will no longer pass through it.
- 18 On that day the mountains will drip with sweet wine,
and the hills will flow with milk.
All the dry stream beds of Judah will flow with water.
A spring will flow out from the temple of the LORD,
watering the Valley of Acacia Trees.
- 19 Egypt will be desolate
and Edom will be a desolate wilderness,
because of the violence they did to the people of Judah,
in whose land they shed innocent blood.
- 20 But Judah will reside securely forever,
and Jerusalem will be secure from one generation to the next.
- 21 I will avenge their blood which I had not previously acquitted.
It is the LORD who dwells in Zion!

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Chronological Notes

1) The date of Joel.¹

A) Early pre-exilic date.²

(1) During the reign of King Jehoshaphat (873t–849t BC), or his grandson, King Joash (836t–797t BC).

(2) 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.

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.

B) Middle pre-exilic date.³

- (1) During the reign of Joash's grandson, King Uzziah (791t–740t BC).
- (2) 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.⁴

- (1) Between 597 and 587 BC.
- (2) 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.⁵

- (1) Between 515 and 500 BC, or even as late as sometime in the 400s BC.
- (2) 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).

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."