

- Last week we looked at the way God wants to be worshiped with reverence and awe ([Hebrews 12:28](#)) and in spirit and in truth ([John 4:24](#)). We talked about how it is human nature to want to try to worship God they we want to instead ([2 Timothy 4:3](#)). We also talked about how we should search the scriptures to find the answers ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)) and how we had to do this ourselves – our parents, teachers, elders, etc. can't do it for us. ([Philippians 2:12](#)) We used examples of how people often ignore scripture when it comes to worship, including instrumental music ([Ephesians 5:19](#)), and the role of women in worship ([1 Timothy 2:8-15](#)). We also talked about how the empires we are going to study paved the way for the Gospel to appear. We talked about the Persian empire and their advances in mass communication ([Esther 8:10](#)). Finally, we talked about how after a long history of wars called the Peloponnesian War (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peloponnesian_War) the next big empire to conquer and defeat the Persians was unified. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great
- In this lesson, we are going to look more at Alexander the Great and what happened to the Greek empire after his rule and who came next. First, we will look at the prophet Joel.
- Joel is a “minor prophet” – called that because of the length of the book and his “narrow and deep” approach to material (as opposed to “major” prophets who books tend to be longer and more “broad and shallow” in their approach to content). <https://www.gotquestions.org/major-minor-prophets.html>
- We don't know exactly when the book of Joel takes place, but we know Joel was writing during a time when various locusts had devoured much of the crops, leaving desolation in the land. ([Joel 1:4](#))
- Joel's biggest concern was that, because of this tragedy, the offerings at the temple will be impacted. ([Joel 1:9](#))
- Still, Joel believes all this was God executing judgment. He calls it the “Day of the Lord” ([Joel 2:11](#))
- Joel calls for the people of Israel to repent. ([Joel 2:12-14](#))
- The people do repent, and so Joel says God will allow the people of Israel to prosper again. ([Joel 2:19](#))
- Joel sees another “Day of the Lord” coming ([Joel 2:31](#)) in which God will “pour out His spirit” on all people. ([Joel 2:28](#)).
- Joel mentions that three things will happen on this day: prophecy, dream, and visions. ([Joel 2:28](#)).
- These aren't prophecies, dreams, and visions about anything – they are all about the power of God. When God chooses to impart his spirit on people, these are the kinds of things that happen. A good example of this very thing happened to the Israelite elders under Moses ([Numbers 11:24-30](#)).
- This second “Day of the Lord” is exactly what happened again on the day of Pentecost. God poured out His spirit and people began to prophecy in various languages, and Peter even explains that his is what Joel was talking about. ([Acts 2:1-21](#)) ([Acts 2:42-43](#)).

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- Remember we closed last week talking about how Alexander the Great's family rose to power after the Peloponnesian War. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_the_Great
- This same source is used for much of the following bullets.
- Alexander was tutored by Aristotle until the age of 16.
- It took him 10 years, but he finally led the Greek empire to overthrow the Persians under King Darius III around 330 B.C.
- The Greek empire under Alexander the Great was the largest yet in the world – it stretched from what is now Croatia and Albania in the East all the way to India in the West. It also included Egypt in the south.
- Alexander founded a lot of cities – and his gave his name to at least 20, including Alexandria of Egypt.
- Alexander died in the 321 B.C. His empire is going to be split up into four parts and we are doing to study that next. <http://www.bible-history.com/maps/05-greek-empire.html>
- The major contribution of the Greeks to the spread of the Gospel was the Greek language known as Koine Greek. It was probably the most expressive and economical language in world history – it was certainly the widest ranging and most influential. It was what the New Testament writers used to communicate the Gospel account and their inspired writings about it. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koine_Greek)

Questions:

1. What are the two reasons minor prophets are called "minor"?
2. What year did the book of Joel take place?
3. What event was occurring when Joel wrote the book?
4. What is Joel's main concern about this event?
5. How does Joel explain what is happening in the land? What does he call it?
6. What does Joel call for the people of Israel to do?
7. What is the result of Joel's call?
8. What does Joel say will happen in the second "Day of the Lord?"
9. What three things does Joel say will happen on that day?
10. What is one historical example of God pouring out his spirit and prophecy resulting?
11. What happened on the second "Day of the Lord" that Joel predicts?
12. How do we know that this is what Joel was predicting?
13. Who tutored Alexander?
14. What empire did Alexander lead and which one did he overthrow?
15. When did all this happen?
16. How big was the Greek empire at its height?
17. What famous city is named after Alexander?
18. When does Alexander die?

Originally developed by Madison Laird for high school study at the East Foothill Church of Christ in San Jose, CA following a curriculum outline by Aaron Curtis. Edited by Betty Brown of Jackson, TN. Material may be used free of charge without license or royalty. Questions or comments: madison@madisonlaird.com

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19. What was the major contribution of the Greek empire?