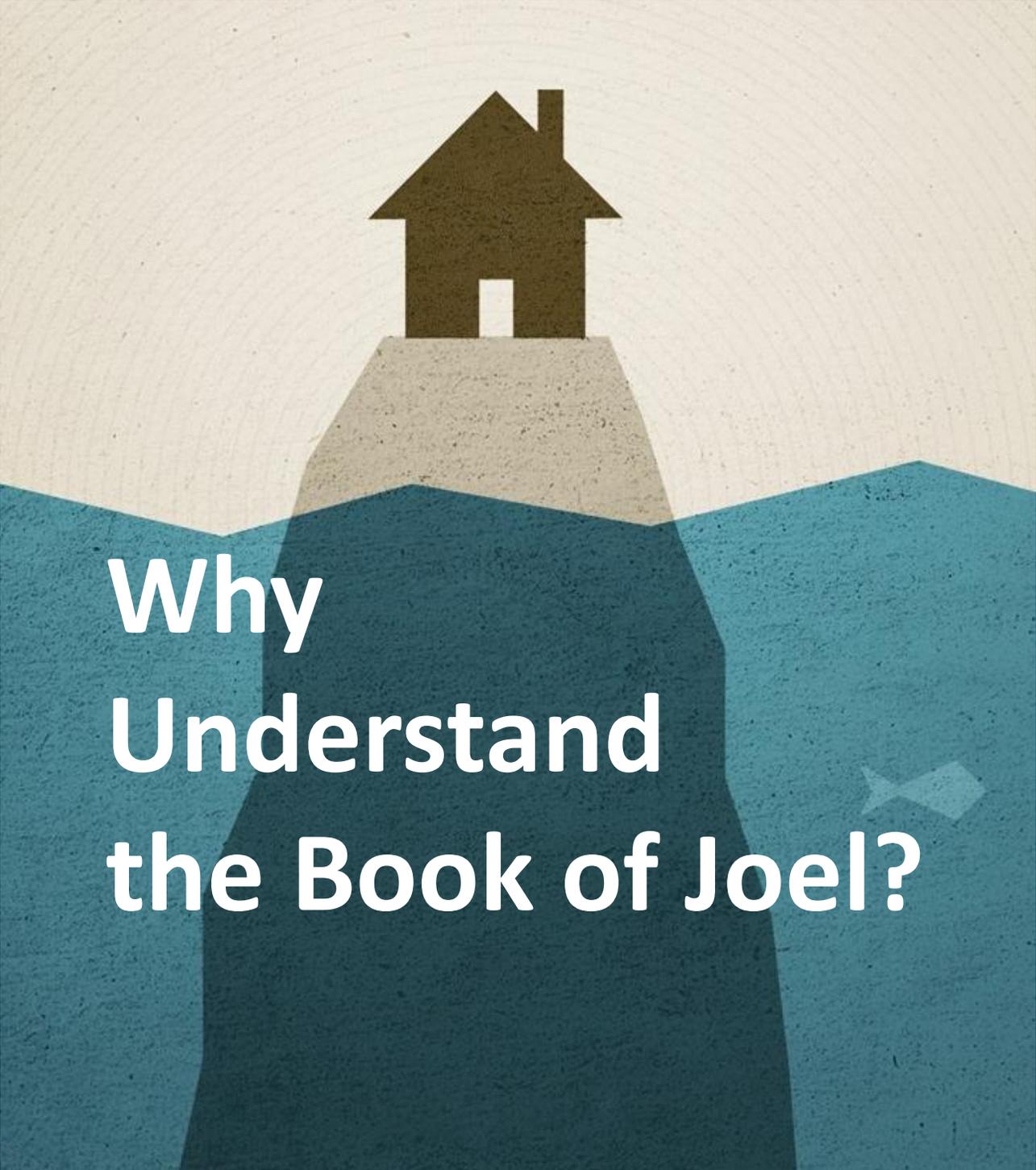


Week 7

Joel 2 Lifestyle



**Why
Understand
the Book of Joel?**

Matthew 7:24-25

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock; and the rains descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

The year was 600 BC. The headlines of the news in the Kingdom of Judah read “LOCUSTS INVASION LEAVES NATION IN SEVERE ECONOMIC CRISIS. NO END TO DROUGHT IN SIGHT!”

Not just one wave, or two waves, but the Kingdom of Judah had just been hit by four successive waves of locusts, each of which was more ferocious and devastating than the previous one. The crops and the agriculture were totally wiped out. It was a major catastrophe of unprecedented magnitude and a huge economic crisis ensued. The field was wasted, the oil failed, the land mourned. Everywhere was a scene of desolation and depression.

In the midst of all these, a lone voice who was in God’s counsel arose and spoke.

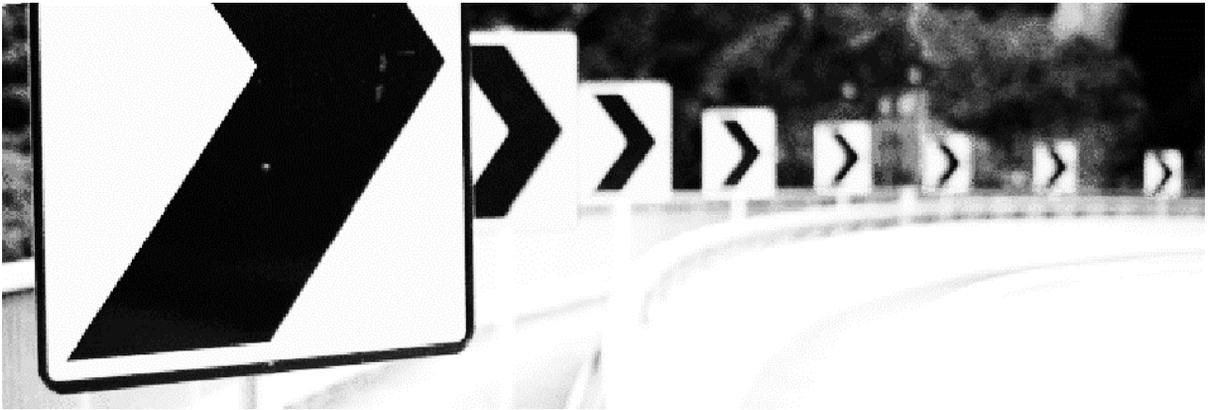
Prophet Joel did not give the people false words of comfort, or “politically correct” statements. Instead, he warned Israel of a greater judgment that was to come. If they did not turn - Israel would be invaded and ravaged by a ruthless foreign army. Joel also told them exactly what God is looking for, and how the nation of Israel can respond in the time of escalating crisis.

This is what the Book of Joel is about. It describes Israel in the time of her greatest crisis, and in the midst of this, God through the prophet Joel reveals what He is looking for and how the people should respond.

Do we see the parallel between what was happening in the time of Joel and what is happening to us now? How would we have responded if we were living in the time of Joel? How will we respond now in our times?



The Book of Joel is so relevant to our times. It gives us the clearest prophetic insight into what is happening in the world right now. Crisis after crisis after crisis. We can hardly take a breath. Before one thing settles down, another event happens. Things will not get better. Things will intensify and get worse. But if we can understand what God is saying and what He requires, we can align our lives with Him in such a time as this.



The Book of Joel gives us **the KEY to interpret what is happening** and **know what God is doing**. Through what is happening in the past, God is giving and teaching us principles which we can apply to our present. By studying the Book of Joel, it enables us to make sense of what is happening in our times.

God is using the greatest shaking in the history of Israel to give us a prophetic picture of something even greater and more intense that is to come in our generation. Something very serious is happening to human history in our time. And it is unfolding right before our eyes! God wants us to know the seriousness of it all, and that there is no other solution except from Him and through Him.

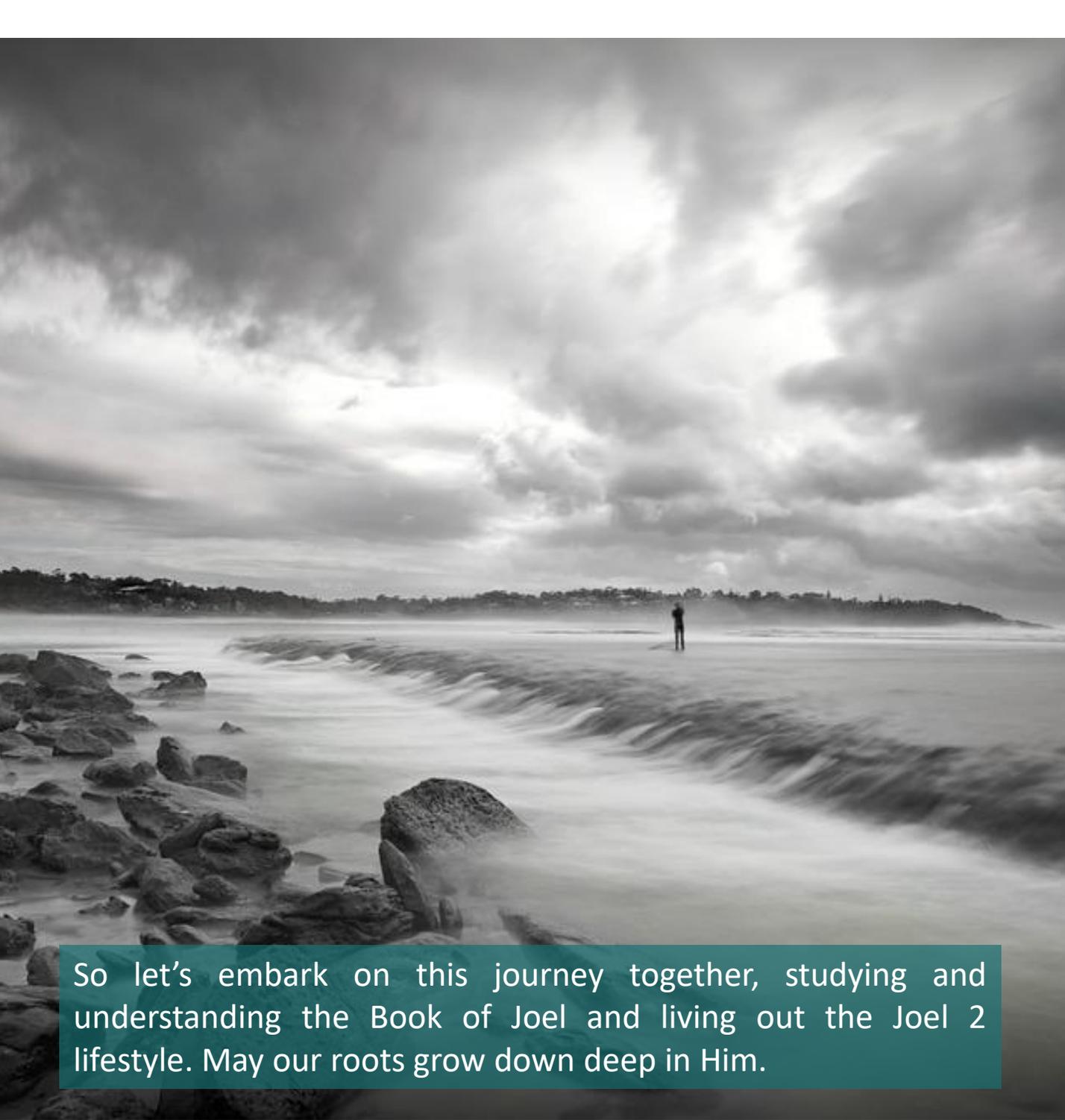
The Book of Joel also gives us the clearest message on **how we should respond to God**, both individually and as a Church, in such a time as this. It tells us clearly what is the requirement of God, which is the Joel 2 lifestyle(Joel 2:12-17). If we fail to respond in God's way, things will intensify and escalate. But if we respond in God's way, He may relent and turn the greatest crisis into the greatest revival of all times.



Lastly and most importantly, the main purpose of the Book of Joel is to help us to establish our confidence in the Lord so that we will not be shaken in times of crises.

When we return to the Lord, and get to know Him deeply as the God who is gracious, merciful, slow to anger, of great kindness and relents from doing harm, we will develop great confidence in who He is. In times of crises, we will be able to run into our strong Tower and our Refuge, and find our peace under the shadow of the Almighty.

We need to start doing so now, studying and understanding the Lord, the very core nature of who He is, so that when the storms come, we will stand and not be shaken.



So let's embark on this journey together, studying and understanding the Book of Joel and living out the Joel 2 lifestyle. May our roots grow down deep in Him.

**May we be ones who build
our house on the Rock so
that when the storms
come, we will truly stand!**



Readings and Prayers for the week

Readings for Week 7

Meditate on Joel 2:11 “For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; who can endure it?” What does it mean when Joel says “great” on one hand, and “very terrible” on the other?

Is there a group of people who can endure? How do we become this group of people?

Prayers for Week 7

Pray and ask God for grace to be the very kind of people that He is looking for in such a time as this, to be able to stand when the storms come and to shine.

Pray Col 1:9-10 for ourselves for a spirit of wisdom and understanding to know God’s heart and grace to walk worthy of Him.