

SURVEY OF THE BIBLE

FAITH AND OBEDIENCE IN THE NEW KINGDOM

WARNINGS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Quarter Seven, Lesson Nine

Focus Texts: Joel, Obadiah, and Jonah

CONTENT

1. When were these three short books written, and what do we know about their authors?

JOEL

2. Joel begins with a description of great stress on the land. Who is mentioned in the warnings of coming disaster?

What does the prophet say will happen to the land, and how extensive will the destruction be?

3. Joel 2. 1 – 11 gives a word picture of the Lord's sending an army. Describe its fierceness.

How will the people react to this army?

4. According to Joel 2. 12 – 17, what could be done to prevent the impending destruction?

5. According to Joel 2. 18 – 37, how would God respond to the people's repentance?

6. What is the message in chapter 3?

OBADIAH

7. Who was Edom, and why does God promise retribution against the people of Edom?

What had Edom done when the people of Judah and Jerusalem were being attacked and taken captive?

How did God say Edom would be repaid?

8. Explain the word picture in Obadiah 18 – 21.

Lesson continues. . . .

JONAH

9. Briefly recount the events leading to Jonah's arrival at Nineveh.

10. What effect did Jonah's preaching have on the city? How extensive was that effect?

11. What lesson was God teaching Jonah with the plant that shaded him one day and withered the next?

CONNECTIONS

1. Both Joel and Obadiah teach us that God will judge those who are unfaithful. Many people claim that the God of the New Testament is kinder and gentler than the God of the Old Testament. Has God changed his attitude toward those who persecute his people?

Has God changed the way he deals with his own people who turn their backs on him?

Has God's nature changed since Old Testament times? How do we know?

2. What lessons can we learn from Jonah's attempt to escape God's call?

What can the book of Jonah teach us about God's mercy?

Can we be guilty of attitudes like Jonah's attitude toward Nineveh? How?

What attitude did Jesus say we should have toward those who sin against us? against those who repent?

3. Does the power of God's word depend on the sincerity of the preacher? (Consider Paul's comments in 1 Corinthians 3. 4 – 9.) Can you find other New Testament evidence to support this conclusion?

4. What points does Jesus use the story of Jonah to make in Matthew 12. 38 – 41?

5. According to Peter's sermon in Acts 2, when were the predictions in Joel 2. 28 – 32 fulfilled?