



JOEL

The image is a full-page graphic with a monochromatic red and orange color scheme. In the center, the word "JOEL" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The background depicts a sunset or sunrise over a mountain range, with a bright sun partially obscured by clouds. A large flock of birds is shown in flight, scattered across the sky and over the mountains. The overall mood is dramatic and evocative.

JOEL = TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES

→ Follow the Lord anyways!



JOEL = TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES → Follow the Lord

Ch.1:1-12 & 2:1-11 A terrible description of how a plague of locusts destroyed Israel...

1:4 Four waves of plagues:

Locust swarm...

Great locusts...

Young locusts...

Other locusts...



JOEL = TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES → Follow the Lord

Ch.1:1-12 & 2:1-11 A terrible description of how a plague of locusts destroyed Israel...

→ Our lives may also face **Tough Circumstances:**

- Sickness...
- Accidents...
- Suffering...
- Poverty...
- Problems...
- Death...



JOEL = TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES → Follow the Lord

What is our Response?

→ “Wail because the new wine has been snatched from our lips...” (= present happiness ceases) **1:5**

→ “Mourn like a virgin in sackcloth grieving for the husband of her youth...” (= past joy has finished) **1:8**

→ “Offerings are cut off... Priests are in mourning...” (= spiritual life is depressed) **1:9**

→ “Despair as a farmer because the harvest of the field is destroyed...” (= prosperity has gone) **1:11**

→ “The vine, fig tree, pomegranate, palm and apple tree are withered...” (= no future fruitfulness is left) **1:12a**

→ “Surely the joy of mankind is withered away...” (= depression in all facets of life) **1:12b**

JOEL = TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES → Follow the Lord

Why does God allow Suffering & Tough Stuff to happen to His People?

5 Answers in Joel...

(A) God calls us to Repent and Fast and Return to Him

(B) God wants us to Pray and Cry out to Him

(C) God wants to Speak to us & Save us

(D) God prepares us for the final Day of the Lord

(E) Ultimately, God wants to bless his people forever

JOEL = TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES → Follow the Lord

Why does God allow Suffering & Tough Stuff to happen to His People?

**(A) God calls us to Repent and Fast and Return to Him
1:13-14, 2:12-14.**

“Put on sackcloth, declare holy fast, cry out to the Lord...
return with all your heart, return to the Lord...”





's of Repentance



Recieve

Gift of forgiveness and peace

Release

forgive others and yourself

Restitution

Restore what was lost if possible

Reveal

Confess your sin

Resolve

Decide to change your behavior

Regret

Feel sorry for what you've done

Realize

Know you've made a mistake

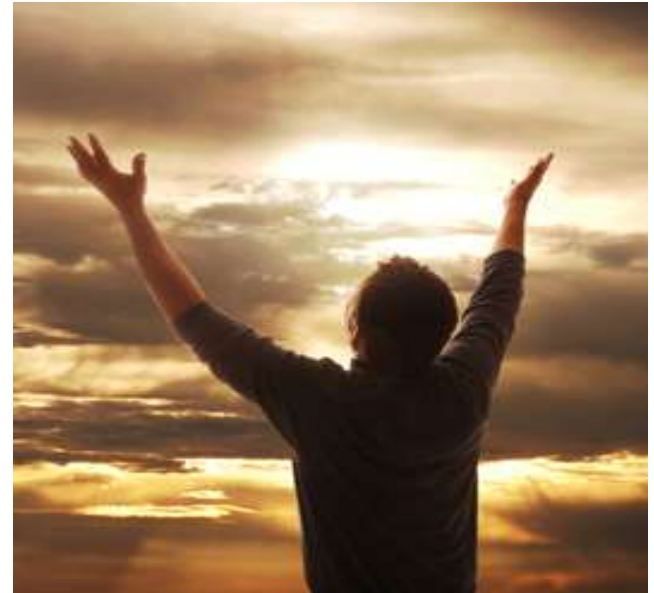
JOEL = TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES → Follow the Lord

Why does God allow Suffering & Tough Stuff to happen to His People?

(B) God wants us to Pray and Cry out to Him

2:15-23a.

“Gather the people, say ‘spare your people O Lord’...
The Lord will take pity... will reply...
will bless... will deliver...
He will do great things...”



Our Father WHICH IS IN HEAVEN

hallowed be your name.

YOUR KINGDOM *Your WILL be done*

COME ON EARTH AS IT IS

HEAVEN

Give Us Today Our Daily Bread

& forgive us our debts **FORGIVEN**
as we also have **OUR DEBTORS.**

Lead us not into temptation

BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE

FOR YOURS is the KINGDOM

AND THE POWER *and the* **Glory**

FOREVER *Amen*

How to pray?
What to pray?



JOEL = TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES → Follow the Lord

Why does God allow Suffering & Tough Stuff to happen to His People?

(C) God wants to Speak to us & Save us

2:28-32.

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people: Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams... your young men will see visions ... I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth... And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”



FOR EVERYONE
WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD
WILL BE SAVED

ROMANS 10:13

”For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” Jn 3:16

“ARE YOU SAVED?”

answer in 3 easy steps!

1

I WAS SAVED ▶ ROM 8:24

“For in this hope we were saved”

Past

2

I AM BEING SAVED ▶ 1 COR 1:18

“but to us who are being saved”

Present

3

I HOPE TO BE SAVED ▶ ROM 5:9

“much more shall we be saved”

Future

JOEL = TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES → Follow the Lord

Why does God allow Suffering & Tough Stuff to happen to His People?

(D) God prepares us for the final Day of the Lord

3:1-2, 12-16.

“I will gather all nations...
I will enter into judgement
against them...
The Day of the Lord is near.
The Lord will be a refuge
for His own people...”





2 Peter 3:10-14

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

JOEL = TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES → Follow the Lord

Why does God allow Suffering & Tough Stuff to happen to His People?

**(E) Ultimately, God wants to bless his people forever
2:25-27, 3:17-21.**

“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten, you will praise the Lord... Judah & Jerusalem will be inhabited forever...”



Revelation 21:1-4



*My dove
my undefiled
is one*

*She is the only one of her mother
She is the choice one
of her that bare her*

*The daughters saw her
and called her blessed
the queens and the concubines
and they praised her*

*Who is she *Listen*
that looketh forth*

*as the morning
Fair as the moon
Clear as the sun*

*Terrible as an army
with banners?*

*Thou art all fair
my love*

And there is no spot in thee

Song Of Songs 6:9-10 4:7



to heaven



Are we ready for His return?

JOEL = TOUGH CIRCUMSTANCES → Follow the Lord

So why does God allow Suffering & Tough Circumstances to happen in our lives?

Perhaps one or more of Joel's answers also apply to us...

(A) God calls us to Repent and Fast and Return to Him?

(B) God wants us to Pray and Cry out to Him for help?

(C) God wants to Speak personally to us & Save us?

(D) God is preparing us for the final Day of the Lord?

(E) Ultimately, God wants to bless us forever and ever!



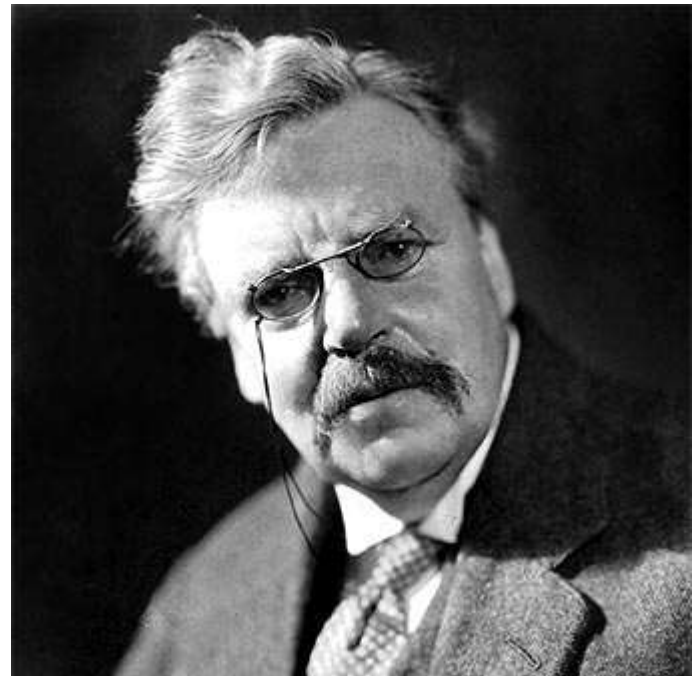
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A newspaper once sent out an inquiry to famous authors, asking the question, “What’s wrong with the world today?” A well known British author responded:

“Dear Sir,

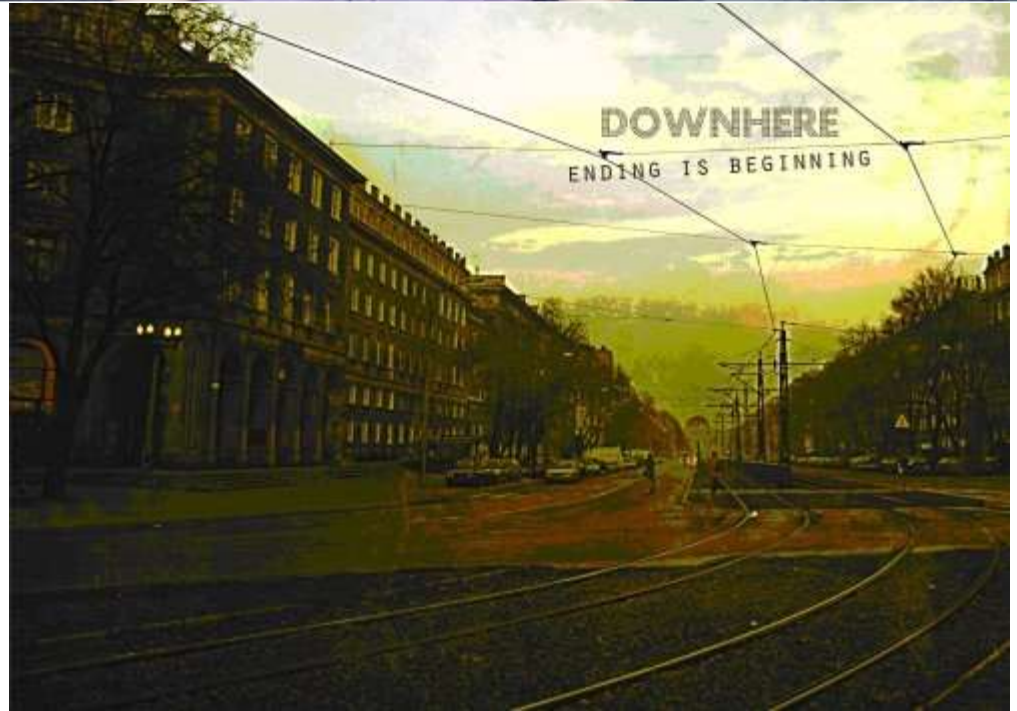
I am.

Yours, G.K. Chesterton.”



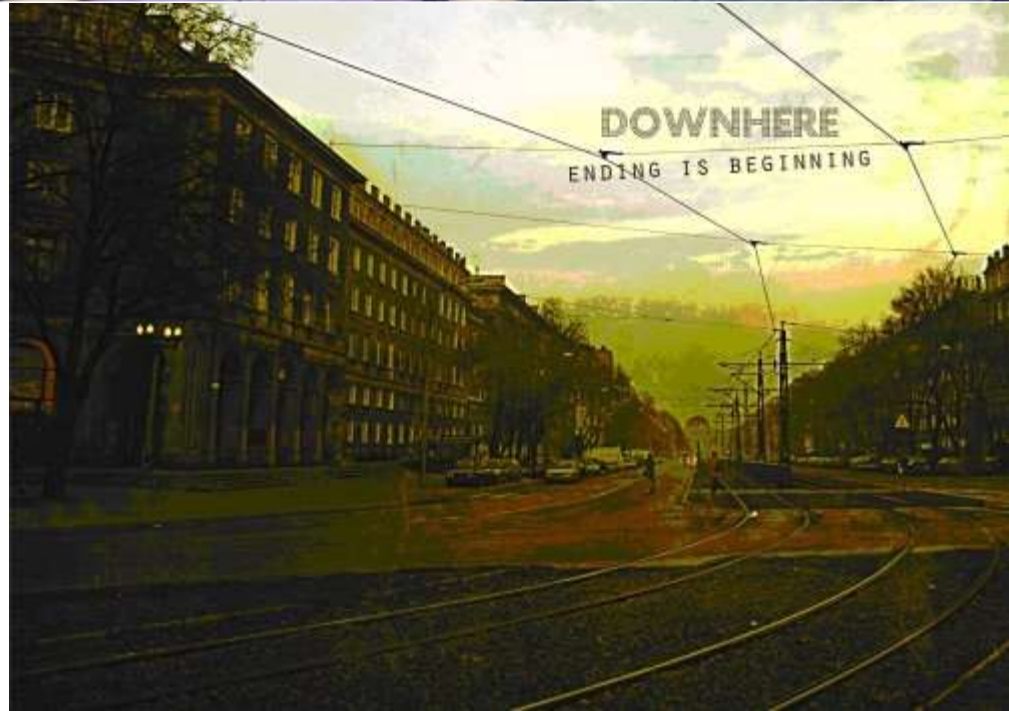


**SONG:
“THE
PROBLEM
WITH THE
WORLD”**

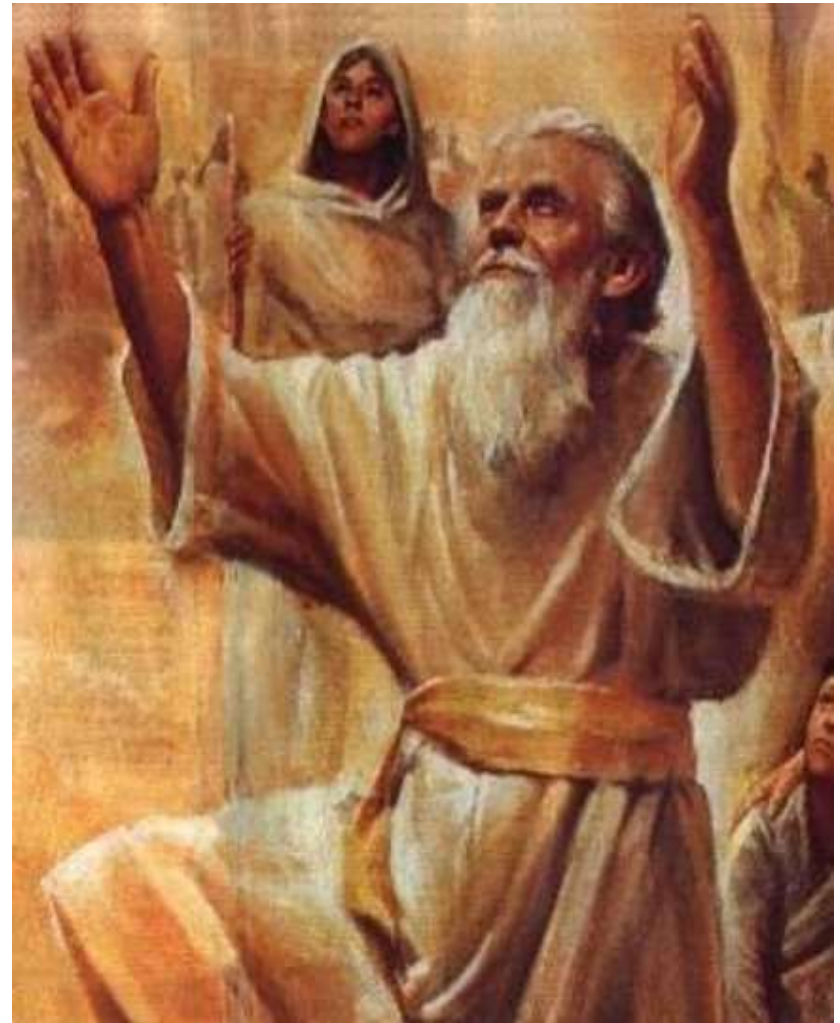




**... So WHY is God
allowing Suffering
and really Tough
Circumstances to
happen in YOUR life?**



- ➔ Is God calling YOU to Repent and Return to Him?
- ➔ Is God wanting YOU to Pray and Cry out to Him for Help?
- ➔ Is God trying to Wake YOU Up - in order to Save YOU?
- ➔ Is God preparing YOU for that final Day of the Lord?
- ➔ Remember God wants to bless YOU forever and ever!



Joel's Message...