



(Nehemiah views the ruins of Jerusalem, by Gustav Doré)

Exile and Rebuilding

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<http://catholic-resources.org>*

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- 8:30** *Arrival & Setup*
- 8:45** *Opening Prayer / Initial Announcements*
- 9:00** **Session 1 – The Babylonian Exile and Ezra**
- 10:00** *Q & A*
- 10:15** *Break*
- 10:30** **Session 2 – Rise of the High Priest & Temple-Centered Identity
(Zechariah/Haggai/Malachi)**
- 11:30** *Group Discussions: How do Ezra’s tactics of survival warn us about contemporary faith and society? What are the temptations of “purity” for us today?*
- 11:45** **Presentation – Joel** (by Randy Lopez)
- 12:00** *Lunch*
- 1:00** **Session 3 – Ezekiel**
- 2:00** *Group Discussions: How does thinking about modern minority social issues help us understand some of the issues of the Babylonian Exile? Give some examples. How can minority Christians offer some unique insights into biblical texts and traditions that arise in circumstances of minority/diaspora/exilic existence? How might the idea of “trauma” and “PTSD” in Ezekiel help us think about modern issues of trauma?*
- 2:15** *Break*
- 2:30** **Session 4 – Third Isaiah, Lamentations, and Responses to Exile**
- 3:30** *Q & A*
- 3:45** *Final Announcements / Closing Prayer*
- 4:00** *Clean-up & Departure*

The Book of the Prophet Joel

Level of Interpretation	Notes
<p>LITERAL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the actual content of the biblical text, as written by the ancient author? • What literary <i>genre</i> is used by the biblical author? • Is some helpful background information found in your "Study Bible" and/or our textbook? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: One of the Twelve Minor Prophets • NABRE Outline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Announcement of Disaster (1:2-20) ○ The Day of the Lord (2:1-27) ○ The Lord's Final Judgment (3:1—4:21) • Genre: Prophetic language with much agricultural (2:22), war (4:9-10; cf Isa 2:4; Mic 4:3), and eschatological (4:1-3) imagery.
<p>RHETORICAL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was the original message or intended purpose of this text? • What lesson did the ancient writer want the original readers to know or learn? • How did the biblical author expect the readers to react? • What did he want them to do in response? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Who?</i> → Joel, son of Pethuel ○ <i>When?</i> → ca. 730 BCE OR ca. 450-400 BCE? ○ <i>Audience?</i> → Addresses Judah (if 730) or post-exilic Judahites (if 450) • Restoration of Judah...but it does not seem that it is a restoration to pre-exilic conditions (2:3; 4:17-21) • For post-exilic people, the first half of Joel served as a warning while the second half provided hope to a people who have returned.
<p>PERSONAL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does this biblical text say to me personally? • How can I apply this message in my own faith life today? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joel 2:12-13 <i>Yet even now—oracle of the LORD—return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting in punishment.</i> • Reminds me of who God is (gracious, merciful, slow to anger...) • Calls me to return, turn away from sin, and intensify my relationship with the Lord.
<p>COMMUNAL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does the biblical text mean for us, in our communal lives together, in the church, society or world? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joel 2:16 <i>Gather the people, sanctify the congregation; assemble the elderly; gather the children, even infants nursing at the breast; let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her bridal tent.</i> • In the context of Ash Wednesday, the verbs above call us to act. • Let us, as community, focus this Lent to gather, sanctify, and assemble. One of the ways in which we form community at SMCHS during Lent is to gather on Wednesdays for fellowship and sharing of the Sunday readings (this year, we're reflecting on <i>Evangelii Gaudium</i>).

Use of Joel in Catholic Lectionary for Mass

Reading	Occasion	Year	Date in 2015
Joel 3:1-5	Pentecost Sunday, Vigil Mass, option 4	ABC	May 23/24
Joel 2:12-18	Ash Wednesday	1&2	February 18
Joel 1:13-15	Ordinary Time, Week 27, Friday	1	October 19
Joel 4:12-21	Ordinary Time, Week 27, Saturday	1	October 20

Catholic Bible Institute – February 7, 2015 – Opening Prayer

Leah Group

Call to Prayer:

In my days of darkness, I look up and call your name, LORD of heaven and earth, of might and mercy, listen to my prayers. Hear my voice in my fainted breath. Come to my help, rescue me from the abyss of despair and darkness. Your Spirit lifts me up and heals me, filling me with joy and confidence in your faithfulness, restoring me and bringing me to your table of banquets. My soul is uplifted, my cup is overflowed, my LORD and my God.

Responsorial (*Jonah 2:3,4,5,7-8*)

Response: *You will rescue my life from the pit, O Lord.*

Out of my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me;

From the midst of the nether world I cried for help, and you heard my voice. (**Response**)

For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the sea, and the flood enveloped me;

All your breakers and your billows passed over me. (**Response**)

Then I said, "I am banished from your sight!

Yet would I again look upon your holy temple." (**Response**)

When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD;

My prayer reached you in your holy temple. (**Response**)

Reading (*Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19*)

The Lord has consumed without pity all the dwellings of Jacob;

He has torn down in his anger the fortresses of daughter Judah;

He has brought to the ground in dishonor her king and her princes.

On the ground in silence sit the old men of daughter Zion;

They strew dust on their heads and gird themselves with sackcloth;

The maidens of Jerusalem bow their heads to the ground.

Worn out from weeping are my eyes, within me all is in ferment;

My gall is poured out on the ground because of the downfall of the daughter of my people,

As child and infant faint away in the open spaces of the town.

In vain they ask their mothers, "Where is the grain?"

As they faint away like the wounded in the streets of the city,

And breathe their last in their mothers' arms.

To what can I liken or compare you, O daughter Jerusalem?

What example can I show you for your comfort, virgin daughter Zion?

For great as the sea is your downfall; who can heal you?

Your prophets had for you false and specious visions;

They did not lay bare your guilt, to avert your fate;

They beheld for you in vision false and misleading portents.

Cry out to the Lord; moan, O daughter Zion!

Let your tears flow like a torrent day and night;

Let there be no respite for you, no repose for your eyes.

Rise up, shrill in the night, at the beginning of every watch;

Pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord;

Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your little ones who faint from hunger at the corner of every street.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Concluding Prayer:

Heavenly Father, you know what your children need. Kindly watch over us in our daily life; guard our words and deeds; shine your light on our path. You are the rock of refuge, the source of our joy and purpose. With you walking by our side, we are confident to live and be fruitful as your children. Thank you for being with us always. **Amen.**

Catholic Bible Institute – February 7, 2015 – Closing Prayer

Miriam Group

Call to Prayer:

Leader: We call upon you, O God, for you will answer us;

All: Turn to us and hear our prayer.

First Reading (Joel 2:12-13)

Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow in anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 51: 11-21

Response: Creator, reshape my heart to love as you love me.

Creator, reshape my heart; God, steady my spirit.

Shut your eyes to my sin, make my guilt disappear. **(Response)**

Save me, bring back my joy, support me, strengthen my will.

Then I will teach your way and sinners will turn to you. **(Response)**

When I offer a holocaust, the gift does not please you.

So I offer my shattered spirit; a changed heart you welcome. **(Response)**

In your love make Zion lovely, rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Then sacrifice will please you, young bulls upon your altar. **(Response)**

Second Reading (Isaiah 43:1-2, 4a)

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, and the flame will not consume you....

Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

For Reflection:

If God can respond to me in sure love and forgiveness, how can I respond to those whom I encounter?

Intercessional Prayer:

Response: Beloved God, hear our prayer.

For responsive hearts to follow the Spirit's gentle promptings in our daily living, we pray...

For prophets and mystics whose words and wisdom make clear the call of the Gospel today, we pray...

For those whose work is hidden and unnoticed, whose selfless service builds up the Body of Christ, we pray...

Closing Prayer:

Lord of our heart,

give us vision to inspire us.

Lord of our heart,

give us wisdom to direct us.

Lord of our heart,

give us courage to strengthen us.

Lord of our heart,

give us grace to root our lives in you.