

## When Disaster Strikes

“ ‘Be a Man!’ said I, ‘You are scared out of your wits! What good is religion if it collapses under calamity? Think of what earthquakes and floods, wars and volcanoes, have done before to men! Did you think God had exempted Weybridge? He is not an insurance agent.’ ”

– H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds*

### WHEN CATASTROPHE STRIKES...

Initial optimism often gives way to devastating doubt or deep resentment.

Good fortune in the middle of disaster often leads to false pride or false guilt.

### Judah's devastation

While many think that Joel prophesies about judgment and repentance, his message is really about recovering honor from shame.

Joel's message is one of hope and freedom!

## JUDAH'S RECOVERY

1. **Embrace the disaster for what it is**  
Burying the pain doesn't eliminate it
2. **Return to God as your center**  
Open your heart to God's gracious provisions
3. **Revive your worship in heart and in community**  
Do in community what you can't do in your closet
4. **Look to the future for God's response**  
Rejoice in God's restoration; recognize his hand
5. **Have a heart centered in eternity**  
God's blessings beyond our view  
God's provision beyond our reach  
God's plan beyond our time  
God's presence exceeding our wildest dreams

Was there anything in today's study that particularly impressed you, challenged you, or troubled you? Take a moment and jot it down.

If you can boil down what you take away from today's message in one 10-second sound bite, note it below and then memorize it.