

JOEL – CHAPTERS 1:1-2:27 – The Land Laid Waste; The Day of the Lord; Restoring the Years of the Locust

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

THE LAND LAID WASTE

Joe 1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

Joe 1:2 Hear this, you elders, And give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, Or even in the days of your fathers?

Joe 1:3 Tell your children about it, Let your children tell their children, And their children another generation.

Joe 1:4 What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten.

Joe 1:5 Awake, you drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you drinkers of wine, Because of the new wine, For it has been cut off from your mouth.

Joe 1:6 For a nation has come up against My land, Strong, and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion.

Joe 1:7 He has laid waste My vine, And ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white.

Joe 1:8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the husband of her youth.

Joe 1:9 The grain offering and the drink offering Have been cut off from the house of the LORD; The priests mourn, who minister to the LORD.

Joe 1:10 The field is wasted, The land mourns; For the grain is ruined, The new wine is dried up, The oil fails.

Joe 1:11 Be ashamed, you farmers, Wail, you vinedressers, For the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field has perished.

Joe 1:12 The vine has dried up, And the fig tree has withered; The pomegranate tree, The palm tree also, And the apple tree— All the trees of the field are withered; Surely joy has withered away from the sons of men.

v. 1 Joel, like Hosea, mentions the name of his father only, and then is silent about his extraction, his tribe, his family..

v. 2 The old men - The oldest among you, who can remember things done many years ago

v. 3 In the order of God's goodness, generation was to declare to generation the wonders of His love

v. 4 Palmer - worm - Four sorts of insects, are here mentioned, which succeeded each other, and devoured all that might be a support to the Jews, whence ensued a grievous famine.

v. 5 Is cut off - Suddenly cut off even when you are ready to drink it, and totally cut off by these devouring vermin. An instantaneous rehab situation. The real sin at this time is drunkenness!

v. 6 Here the locusts are compared to an invading army and its destructiveness. These little bitty insects, the locusts, can tear a tree down

v. 7 The locusts actually can kill a fig tree. They absolutely stripped a fig tree of its bark, leaving nothing but the naked wood exposed. "White" describes snow! They leave behind a white powdery white flour.

v. 8 the He says something now that is unusual: (1) They are to *lament*. Like a young bride who has lost her husband, perhaps killed in battle, that is the way this nation should weep.

v. 9 This verse and other verses lead us to believe that the prophet Joel was in Jerusalem. He speaks here to the priests who minister in the house of the Lord. No more drink offerings!

v. 10 The There was no olive oil and no grapes and no grain. The three staple crops which they had were now destroyed. Even the land is to mourn. You see, the land and the people were closely intertwined. The Mosaic Law was not only given to a people, it was given to a land.

v. 11 "Be ashamed, O ye husbandmen." "Wail, O ye vinedressers." The vinedressers are vineyard owners. "The apple tree" is actually the orange tree which is indigenous to that land.

v. 12 All who labor only for the meat that perishes, will, sooner or later, be ashamed of their labor. Those that place their happiness in the delights of sense, when deprived of them, or disturbed in the enjoyment, lose their joy; whereas spiritual joy then flourishes more than ever. See what perishing, uncertain things our creature-comforts are. Economically, the country would collapse – and it did!

INTRODUCTION TO JOEL:

Joel is thought to have prophesied around 830BC, which if true, would make him the first to write a prophetic book in the OT. When this book was written, the land of Judah had been invaded by locusts that had completely wiped out the land. The Lord then raised up Joel to explain to the people what was happening, what they should be doing, and what the big picture was concerning the invasion of these locusts. Joel came on the scene and although his message was relatively short, what he said was powerful and extremely helpful for any who feel eaten up or devoured by any given situation.

First, we see Joel speaking to the people practically. Second, he was speaking to the people prophetically—that is he was talking about the Day of the Lord, a day yet to come.

Third, he was actually speaking to us personally! Maybe in the last year your marriage, ministry, business, or family has been eaten away by locusts. Take heart! The Book of Joel is for you because it addresses the issue for those who feel as if they been eaten up, destroyed, set back or devoured in any area of your life.

JOEL – CHAPTERS 1:1-2:27 – The Land Laid Waste; The Day of the Lord; Restoring the Years of the Locust

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

MOURNING FOR THE LAND

Joe 1:3 Gird yourselves and lament, you priests; Wail, you who minister before the altar; Come, lie all night in sackcloth, You who minister to my God; For the grain offering and the drink offering Are withheld from the house of your God.

Joe 1:14 Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land Into the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD.

Joe 1:15 Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.

Joe 1:16 Is not the food cut off before our eyes, Joy and gladness from the house of our God?

Joe 1:17 The seed shrivels under the clods, Storehouses are in shambles; Barns are broken down, For the grain has withered.

Joe 1:18 How the animals groan! The herds of cattle are restless, Because they have no pasture; Even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment.

Joe 1:19 O LORD, to You I cry out; For fire has devoured the open pastures, And a flame has burned all the trees of the field.

Joe 1:20 The beasts of the field also cry out to You, For the water brooks are dried up, And fire has devoured the open pastures.

THE DAY OF THE LORD

Joe 2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand:

Joe 2:2 A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, Like the morning clouds spread over the mountains. A people come, great and strong, The like of whom has never been; Nor will there ever be any such after them, Even for many successive generations.

Joe 2:3 A fire devours before them, And behind them a flame burns; The land is like the Garden of Eden before them, And behind them a desolate wilderness; Surely nothing shall escape them.

Joe 2:4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like swift steeds, so they run.

Joe 2:5 With a noise like chariots Over mountaintops they leap, Like the noise of a flaming fire that devours the stubble, Like a strong people set in battle array.

Joe 2:6 Before them the people writhe in pain; All faces are drained of color.

v. 13 "Gird yourselves," "and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar." The priests could not perform their function because there was nothing for them to use for the offerings. They were to lie all night girded with sackcloth and ashes because there was no meat offering and no drink offering. The economy of the land was wrecked, and there was not even enough to make an offering to God. However, God makes it clear that it was not the ritual that was important but the hearts of the people.

v. 14 Consecrate a fast - You priests, set apart a day wherein to afflict yourselves, confess your sins, and sue out your pardon. Into the house - The courts of the temple, where the people were wont to pray.

v. 15 The day of the Lord - A day of greater trouble than yet they felt, troubles which God will heap upon them. Shall it come - Unless fasting, prayers and amendment prevent. A key verse!

v. 16 Cut off - Devoured by locusts, or withered with drought.

v. 17 Laid desolate - Run to ruin because the owners discouraged with the barrenness of the seasons, would not repair them.

vs. 18-19 The locusts have their own scorched earth policy. It was just as if the ground had been entirely burned off.

v. 20 This was a very terrible, treacherous time. Even the animal world—both the animals in the barnyard and the wild animals out yonder in the forest—were being affected by this plague. It was a judgment that touched all life in that land in that day, and it becomes a picture of the Day of the Lord that is coming. The Romans called the locusts “burners of the field”.

v. 1 Blow ye - The prophet continues his exhortation to the priests, who were appointed to summon the solemn assemblies. Num. chapter 10

v. 2 A day of darkness - A time of exceeding great troubles and calamities. And this passage may well allude to the day of judgment, and the calamities which precede that day. As the morning - As the morning spreads itself over all the hemisphere and first upon the high mountains, so shall the approaching calamities overspread this people. A great people - This seems more directly to intend the Babylonians. No seeing the sun for up to three months.

v. 3 A fire - The Chaldeans, as a fire shall utterly consume all things. Behind them - What is left behind is as burnt with a flame. As Eden - Fruitful and pleasant.

v. 4 The head of the locust resembles a horse's head, and the Italian word for locust means "little horse"; the German word means "hay horse." As the horse eats hay, the locusts would eat up everything green. Joel is describing the locust plague and is beginning to make application of it to the Day of the Lord.

vs. 5-6 "All faces shall gather blackness"—that is, they will be scorched.

Three days spoken of in the Scriptures:

1. The **day of man** (**1 Cor. 4:3**) – Mankind having his own way
2. The **Day of Christ** (**1 Cor. 1:7-8; 2 Cor. 1:14; Phil. 1:6**) The Day of Christ is synonymous with The Rapture of the church. We'll be given our rewards and live in mansions.
3. The **Day of the Lord** (**Is. 2:12; 13:6; Ez. 30:3**)— five times in the Book of Joel. The Day of the Lord begins with the Tribulation and goes all the way to the end of the Millennium. It starts darkly, but ends in the glorious light of the kingdom age. Joel is the first prophet to write about this Day.

JOEL – CHAPTERS 1:1-2:27 – The Land Laid Waste; The Day of the Lord; Restoring the Years of the Locust

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

Joe 2:7 They run like mighty men, They climb the wall like men of war; Every one marches in formation, And they do not break ranks.

Joe 2:8 They do not push one another; Every one marches in his own column. Though they lunge between the weapons, They are not cut down.

Joe 2:9 They run to and fro in the city, They run on the wall; They climb into the houses, They enter at the windows like a thief.

Joe 2:10 The earth quakes before them, The heavens tremble; The sun and moon grow dark, And the stars diminish their brightness.

Joe 2:11 The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?

A CALL TO REPENTANCE

Joe 2:12 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

Joe 2:13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

Joe 2:14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him— A grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God?

Joe 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly

Joe 2:16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room.

Joe 2:17 Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?' "

Joe 2:18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And pity His people.

v. 7 break ranks - This skill in ordering and the steadiness in keeping under, exactly like trained soldiers, foretells the terror and strength of both the armies signified by these locusts, and of the locusts themselves. **Prov. 30:27 v. 8** the weapons - The sword shall not be a weapon to destroy them; literally verified in the locusts, and verified in the strange preservations in the most desperate adventures made by the Assyrians or Babylonians. **(Rev. 9:3-10)**

v. 9 Runs to and fro - This seems not proper to these insects, but it well suits with soldiers, that conquer a city and search all places for plunder. Run upon the wall - To clear the wall of all the besieged. The houses - Either forsaken by the inhabitants, or defended by such as are in them. Like a thief - Suddenly, unexpectedly, to spoil if not to kill.

v. 10 The earth - A divine hyperbole. But this also may have a reference to the great day.

v. 11 Gives voice - Summon them in and encourage them as a general doth his soldiers. His army - Of locusts and insects, and of Chaldeans signified by these. **(Mt. 24:22) Terrible times are coming!**

v. 12 Turn to Me - Three means of turning are recommended: Fasting, weeping, mourning, i.e., continued sorrow.

v. 13 And He relents - He turns from executing the fierceness of his wrath.

v. 14 if He will turn - God doth not move from one place to another; but when he withholds his blessings, he is said to withdraw himself. And so when he gives out his blessing, he is said to return. And leave a blessing behind him - Cause the locusts to depart before they have eaten up all that is in the land.

v. 15 This verse unlocks the whole message of the Book of Joel. Following the Rapture of the Church, the events described in Revelation 6-19.

v. 16 The people - Though they understand little what is done, yet their cities ascend, and God with pity looks on their tears. These that suck - Their cries and tears may perhaps move the congregation to more earnest supplication to God for mercy. So the Ninevites, **Jon 3:7-8**. The bridegroom - Let the new married man leave the mirth of the nuptials and afflict himself with the rest.

v. 17 The altar - The altar of burnt - offering, which stood at some distance from this porch, and here are the priests commanded to stand, fasting and praying, whence they might be heard and seen by the people in the next court, in which the people were wont to pray. To reproach - Famine, though by locusts is a reproach to this thine heritage; it will be greater reproach to be slaves to the nations signified by the locusts, therefore in mercy deliver us from both one and the other.

v. 18 Now he is definitely moving into the future. Notice the time-word "Then." It will appear several times in this chapter.

JOEL – CHAPTERS 1:1-2:27 – The Land Laid Waste; The Day of the Lord; Restoring the Years of the Locust

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

*Joe 2:19 The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.
Joe 2:20 "But I will remove far from you the northern army, And will drive him away into a barren and desolate land, With his face toward the eastern sea And his back toward the western sea; His stench will come up, And his foul odor will rise, Because he has done monstrous things."
Joe 2:21 Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the LORD has done marvelous things!*

*Joe 2:22 Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field; For the open pastures are springing up, And the tree bears its fruit; The fig tree and the vine yield their strength.
Joe 2:23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you— The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month.
Joe 2:24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.
Joe 2:25 "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.*

Joe 2:26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.

Joe 2:27 Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.

Next is the section quoted by Peter on the Day of Pentecost - God's Spirit poured out!!!!

v. 19. At that time the Lord will give them grain and new wine and oil; they will be satisfied, and no longer will they be a reproach among the heathen.

v. 20 The northern army - That part of the locusts which are toward the north. With his face - The van of this army shall be driven into the dead sea, east of Jerusalem. The hinder part - The rear of this army shall be driven into the west sea. His stink - The stench of these locusts destroying and lying putrified on the face of the earth, or the corpses of the Assyrians slain and unburied.

v. 21 Fear not, O land - Before, they were bidden to tremble Joe 2:1, now they are bidden, “fear not;” before, “to turn in weeping, fasting and mourning;” now, “to bound for joy and rejoice;” before, “the land mourned;” now, “the land is bidden to rejoice.” The enemy had “done great things;” now the cause of joy is that God had “done great things;” the Almightiness of God overwhelming and sweeping over the might put forth to destroy.

v. 22 Their strength - Bring forth as much as they are able to stand under.

v. 23 The former rain - The autumn rain which is needful to mellow the earth and fit it to receive the corn. The latter rain - Needful to bring forward and ripen the fruits, accounted the latter rain because these husbandmen and vine - dressers reckoned from seed time to spring and harvest. The first month - That is, our March.

v. 24 The vats - The vessels into which the liquor ran out of the press.

v. 25 I will restore....the years - It has already been remarked that the locusts not only destroyed the produce of that year, but so completely ate up all buds, and barked the trees, that they did not recover for some years. Here God promises that he would either prevent or remedy that evil; for he would restore the years that the locusts, cankerworm, caterpillar, and palmerworm had eaten. This verse is one of my favorites!

v. 26 And praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you - In so destroying this formidable enemy; and so miraculously restoring the land to fertility, after so great a devastation. **If God has blessed you, don't apologize, but be thankful and praise Him!**

v. 27 God had foretold their rebellion His forsaking them, “the troubles” which should “find” them, and that they should say, “Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?” Deu 31:17. It had been the mockery of the Pagan in their distress, “Where is their God?” Joe 2:17. “Now, by the fulfillment of His promises and by all God's benefits, they should know that He was among them by special grace as His own peculiar people.”

v. 25 - RESTORING THE YEAR OF THE LOCUST

The promise is incredible! God promises not only to carry us from the point of devastation but actually to make up the lost time! Three steps are required by the people (and by us):

1.Sincere Repentance - Joe 2:12 "Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

Joe 2:13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

Repentance – a military turn meaning “about face”! Turning from and turning to! I'm going to march the other way. He doesn't expect your being perfect, but to be sincere!

2. A Solemn Regathering - Joe 2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand: All of you are to come!

3..A Spirited Rejoicing - Joe 2:21 Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the LORD has done marvelous things! Begin to act and to live as though it has already happened! Believe it and then you'll see it!

God says He will recover and restore! Not just to take you on, but to restore! Faith - Heb 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb 11:2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

My great army which I sent among you. If the years of the locust is required to bring us to our knees, then He will send it! Remember your year/s of the locust have been allowed, if not sent by the Lord, ultimately for our good. Don't murmur! But REJOICE!