

Joel 1:1 - 12**2009 October 3rd for 21st**

The prophet Joel was son of Pethuel. No other information, such as time of writing or means of calling, is given.

Something unusual has happened in Israel, something not seen in generations: an invasion of locusts.

“What the locust swarm has left the great locusts have eaten;
what the great locusts have left the young locusts have eaten;
what the young locusts have left other locusts have eaten.”

The drunkards weep, their wine has been taken away. A lion has invaded the land and ruined everything. The vines are wasted; the fig trees are stripped of bark. Mourn like a young widow. There are no offerings in the house of God; there is nothing to offer. All the crops have failed. The farmers are in despair. The fruit trees are withered. “Surely the joy of mankind is withered away.”

Joel 1:13 - 20**2009 October 3rd for 22nd**

The prophet instructed further mourning, even for the priests and elders. There was to be no grain and drink offering to God. The day of destruction from God had come. Food was cut off. There was no joy and gladness. “The seeds are shriveled beneath the clods.” Granaries and storehouses were in ruins. The cattle had nothing to eat. The sheep suffered. Streams had dried up. Fire had burned up all the pastures. “Even the wild animals pant for you...”

Joel 2:1 - 17**2009 October 3rd for 23rd**

The locusts have come: [Hebrew poetry.]

“Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming.
It is close at hand -- a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness.
Like the dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come.

“Before them fire devours, behind them a flame blazes.
Before them the land is like the garden of Eden, behind them, a desert waste -- nothing escapes them.

They have the appearance of horses; they gallop along like cavalry.
With a noise like that of chariots they leap over the mountaintops,
like a crackling fire consuming stubble, like a mighty army drawn up for battle.

“At the sight of them, nations are in anguish; every face turns pale.
They charge like warriors; they scale walls like soldiers.
They all march in line, not swerving from their course.
They do not jostle each other; each marches straight ahead.
They plunge through defenses without breaking ranks.
They rush upon the city; they run along the wall.
They climb into the houses; like thieves they enter through the windows.

“Before them the earth shakes, the sky trembles,
the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars no longer shine.
The Lord thunders at the head of his army;
his forces are beyond numbers, and mighty are those who obey his command.
The day of the Lord is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?”

Joel 2:18 - 32

2009 October 5th for October 26th

After the ravages of the locusts, God will have pity on his people. He will give them wine and oil again to satisfy them and remove their scorn. He will drive the army of locusts far off into the sea. A stench will rise.

God does great things. The pastures become green again, the vines produce, and the people rejoice. The rains come and at the harvest the threshing floors are busy again. God repays the years that the locusts destroyed.

“You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the Lord your God, who has worked wonders for you;
never again will my people be shamed.”

They will then know that God is God in Israel, their Lord.

Then comes the Day of the Lord.

“And afterward, 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.
Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.
I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.
And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved;
for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said,
among the survivors whom the Lord calls.”

Joel 3:1 - 8

2009 October 6th for 27th

When God restores the fortunes of his people, Judah and Jerusalem, he will also bring judgment on their conquerors.

“They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine that they might drink.”

Do Tyre and Sidon think they are preparing to do something against God? He will turn it right back on them! Upset that they scattered the people of Judah throughout the nations, they will be sold to far away nations.

Joel 3:9 - 21

2009 October 6th for 28th

“Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war!
Rouse the warriors. Let all the fighting men draw near and attack.
Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears.
Let the weakling say, ‘I am strong!’
Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there.

“Bring down your warriors, O Lord!

“Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side.
Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.
Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow -- so great is their wickedness!

“Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!
For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.
The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine.
The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble.
But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

“Then you will know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill.
Jerusalem will be holy; never again will foreigners invade her.

“In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water.
A fountain will flow out of the Lord’s house and will water the valley of acacias.
But Egypt will be desolate, Edom a desert waste,
because of violence done to the people of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood.
Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem through all generations.

Their bloodguilt, which I have not pardoned, I will pardon.’

“The Lord dwells in Zion!”

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