

JOEL CHAPTER 1

Chapter 1

A short time before the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon

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

1:2 Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?

1:3 Tell ye your children of it, and [let] your children [tell] their children, and their children another generation. **[Ex 10:2]**

1:4 That which the palmerworm [*root word for palmerworm is cutting locust*] hath left hath the [*swarming*] locust eaten; and that which the [*swarming*] locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm [*un-winged stage*] hath left hath the caterpillar [*worm stage Isa 33:4 (locusts) An invading army Jer 51:14; Nah 3:15*] eaten. *[There are four stages in the growth of Islam] [Compare Joel 2:25]*

1:5 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine, for it is cut off from your mouth. *[Calling us to awake from false doctrine] [Isaiah 29:9-14]*

Swarm of locusts that will cover the whole earth as "a nation". This is a very unusual term for a swarm of insects, but remember the whole burden of the book of Joel is the devastation that will be caused by this plague of locusts.

1:6 For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number **[Joel 2:25 where the locusts are juxtaposed to a "great army"]**, whose teeth [*ferocity*] [are] the teeth of a lion **[Rev 9:3, 7 & 8]**, and he hath the cheek teeth [*the fangs used to kill and tear its prey*] of a great lion. *[The locusts in the book of Joel represent Islam]*

This verse is beginning to describe the terrible devastation that Islam is going to bring upon apostate Christendom and especially the professed remnant church

1:7 He hath laid my vine [*church*] waste, and barked [*reduced to a stump*] my fig tree [*church*]: he hath made it clean bare, and cast [it] away; the branches **[John 15:5]** thereof are made white. **[Eze 9:3-8; Isa 5:4-7, 13, 14; Matt 23:27]**

1:8 Lament like a virgin **[True church- 2 Corinthians 11:2; "young bride"]** girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth. **[Parallel passage Joel 2:17]**

1:9 The meat offering and the drink offering [*the priests portion - Lev Ch 2*] is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD'S ministers, mourn. **[no harvest for an apostate church]**

1:10 The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth. **[4th plague- Rev 16:8]**

LOCUST PLAGUE UPON UNGODLY

Vs 1 In this verse Joel is simply telling us this is a prophecy from the Lord, and not his own words.

Vs 2 see Ex 10:6

Exodus 10 describes the plague of locusts in Egypt which was followed by one more plague, and then the Passover, which was death to the Egyptians but deliverance to God's people. Joel describes a scourge of symbolic locusts that will destroy the whole Earth. They will come to their end during the sixth plague, which is followed by one more plague, and then death to all sin and sinners, and eternal deliverance to God's people. Both of these passages are describing a terrible scourge of locusts and saying this is something that has never been seen before in the world.

Vs 3 See Ex 10:2 The parallel in these verses is undeniable. Both are saying this is something that needs to be told to following generations, and we are the final generation.

Vs 4 First, the rise of Islam in the early centuries. **Second**, the conquering of Constantinople, and their ruling of the eastern division of what had been the Roman Empire. **Third**, their fall from power, when they became known as "the sick man of the east". **And finally**, their resurrection to a world power as the King of the North, when they will soon make their bid to take the world for Allah

Vs 5 The drinkers of water needed not to care when the vine was laid waste, they could live as well without it as they had done; it was no trouble for the Nazarites; but the drinkers of wine will weep and howl. - Matthew Henry

Vs 8 This church has lost her husband before the consummation of the marriage. The marriage is the Investigative Judgment. (See Matthew 22:1-14) The consummation is the conclusion of the judgment when it is determined who will be a part of the bride. When the judgment is finished, probation closes. This occurred in 1956-57 when our historic doctrine of the "fallen nature" of Christ was changed and the church began worshiping a false Christ.

Vs 9: Today, this would be equivalent to the tithe. A large share of the tithe has been cut off from the church because faithful members have been removed, and the leaders are continually crying for support.

Vs 10-12: In the plague that follows, power is given to the sun "to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat." Verses 8, 9. The prophets thus describe the condition of the earth at this fearful time: "The land mourneth; . . . because the harvest of the field is perished. . . . All the trees of the field are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men." "The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate. . . . How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture. . . . The rivers of water are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness." "The songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord God: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence." **Joel 1:10-12, 17-20; Amos 8:3. The Great Controversy, page 628**

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1:11 Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished. *[4th plague- Rev 16:8] [the shame of the apostate leaders for their utter failure, and all who continue to follow these false shepherds will perish with them]*

1:12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, [even] all the trees *[Luke 21:29]* of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men. *[4th plague- Rev 16:8] [Emphasizes the severity of the situation]*

1:13 Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of **my** God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of **your** God.

Reverts back to period just before the close of probation

1:14 Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders [and] all the inhabitants of the land [into] the house of **the LORD your God**, and cry unto the LORD.

1:15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD [is] at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. *[This Scourge, as Islam attempts to conquer the world, is the judgment from the Lord- Zeph 1:14-18]*

Brings us to the close of probation, also see Amos 8:9-10

1:16 Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, [yea], joy and gladness from the house of our God?

1:17 The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.

1:18 How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.

1:19 O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the **fire** hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the **flame** hath burned all the **trees** of the field. *[Revelation 16:8, 9; 9:4, 6]*

1:20 The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the **fire** hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness. *[Revelation 16:8, 9; 9:4, 6]*

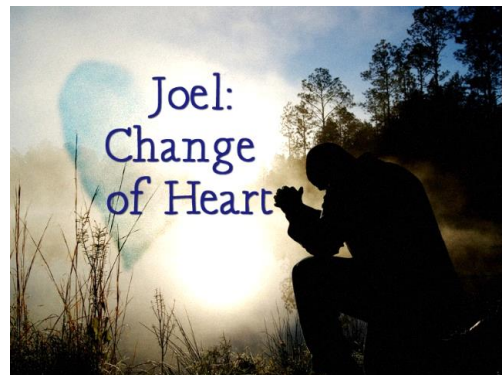
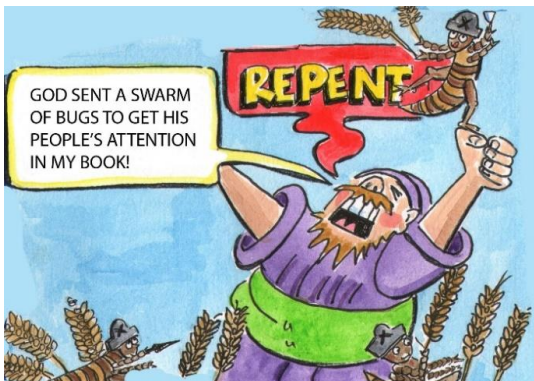
Vs 13: The leaders and ministers will at this time be weeping and howling for the misery that has come upon them, but it will be too late. All support for the apostate church has dried up. They are worshiping a God of their own making, a false Christ.

Vs 14: Joel now reverts back to **the period just before the close of probation**, and gives the only remedy for God's people in this fearful hour. To sanctify means to set apart for holy use. This is **a call for revival and reformation** which would be of no avail if probation had already closed. **Only God's true remnant and the honest in heart will heed this call and find shelter in the time of trouble.** It is a call to return to the worship of "the LORD your God", the true Christ. We need to be coming together now more than ever to fast and pray for forgiveness for our own sins, and for our loved ones, and also for the abominations that have come into the church. Only those "that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof" (Ezekiel 9:4) will receive the seal of God.

Vs 15: "As the angels of God cease to hold in check the fierce winds of human passion, all the elements of strife will be let loose. The whole world will be involved in ruin more terrible than that which came upon Jerusalem of old. ...There are **forces now ready, [Islamic?] and only waiting the divine permission, to spread desolation everywhere.** ...Those who honor the law of God have been accused of bringing **judgments** upon the world, and they will be regarded as the cause of the fearful convulsions of nature and the **strife and bloodshed among men** that are filling the earth with **woe.**" *The Great Controversy*, page 614

Vs 17-20: the fourth plague (see *The Great Controversy*, page 628). Compare these passages in *Joel* with *Revelation* 16:8, 9 (**fire/ great heat**); *Revelation* 9:4, 6.

In the first fulfillment of *Revelation* 9, judgment was mingled with mercy. After probation closes, there is no mercy for the transgressor.



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Different Stages in the Locust's Life Span

Joel 1:4

Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia (BHS)

יִתֵּר הַגָּזָם אָכַל הָאַרְבֶּה
 וַיִּתֵּר הָאַרְבֶּה אָכַל הַיֵּלֶק
 וַיִּתֵּר הַיֵּלֶק אָכַל הַחֲסִיל:

English Standard Version (ESV)

What the **cutting locust** left, the **swarming locust** has eaten.
 What the **swarming locust** left, the **hopping locust** has eaten,
 and what the **hopping locust** left, the **destroying locust** has eaten.

גָּזָם The "gazam" refers to the caterpillar stage in the development of a locust (Septuagint (LXX) Kampe "caterpillar")

אַרְבֶּה The "arbeh" refers to the "migratory locust" and it occurs 24 times in the Bible. These are the locusts of "the plague of locusts" that attacked Egypt in Exodus 10:4.

יֵלֶק Although the KJV translates the "yeleq" as "cankerworm," and the NKJV as "crawling locust," other translations read "hopping locust" (RSV, NLT, NASB) and "young locust" (NIV). In fact, the Septuagint (LXX) uses the Greek word "brooches" (ὁ βροῦχος), meaning "unwinged locust," to translate this Hebrew word.

חֲסִיל The "chasil" is the final wave in a series of grasshopper/locust plagues, presumably the adult and certainly the most destructive.



The Old Testament uses nine different Hebrew words for "locust" (four are found in Joel)

In Joel 2:25, the NRSV translates "chasil" on this basis as "the destroyer," the worst of the grasshopper plagues.

Angels are now restraining the **winds of strife**, that they may not blow until the world shall be warned of its coming doom; but a storm is gathering, ready to burst upon the earth; and when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, **there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.**

The Bible, and the Bible only, gives a correct view of these things. Here are revealed the great final scenes in the history of our world, events that already are casting their shadows before, the sound of their approach causing the earth to tremble and men's hearts to fail them for fear. "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. . . . They have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate. . . . The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth." **Isaiah 24:1-18.**

"Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. . . . The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered. How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate." "The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men." **Joel 1:15-18, 12.**

"I am pained at my very heart; . . . I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, **the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.** Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled."

"I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down." **Jeremiah 4:19, 20, 23-26.** [**Jeremiah 4:6** also says; "Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for **I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction.**"]

"Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it." **Jeremiah 30:7.**

"Come, My people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast." **Isaiah 26:20.**

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"Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, Even the Most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, Neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling." **Psalm 91:9, 10.** *Education*, pages 179-181

Elder A.T. Jones also makes a very interesting comment in connection with the book of *Joel*. **He did not have enough information to tie the prophecy in *Joel* with the King of the North because in his day Turkey was "the sick man of the east". But today, as we watch the Muslim Brotherhood causing all the uprisings in the Middle East in their quest to resurrect the Ottoman Empire and reestablish the Caliphate, the connection between *Joel* and the King of the North becomes crystal clear.** We will confirm this again and again as we go through the prophecy. In his book, Elder Jones parallels the destruction of the Roman Empire "**by the mighty armies of the peoples of the north**" when the beast (the papacy) was formed, to the "utter ruin of the world, **by the mighty armies of another people**" (**the King of the North**) when the Image of the Beast is formed. He refers to it this way;

The result, to the Roman Empire, of the making of the Beast in the Roman Empire, and by the Roman Empire, was the utter ruin of that empire. **This ruin was accomplished by the mighty armies of the peoples of the north marching forth under the first four of the Seven Trumpets.** And the result, to the world, of the making of the Image of the Beast, and the worship of the Beast and his Image, in the world and by the world, will be the **utter ruin of the world, by the mighty armies of another people marching forth under the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet**, accompanied by the mighty notes of "the last trump." And concerning this, it is written: [**Joel 2:1-11 quoted**]. A.T. Jones, *The Great Nations of Today*, page 202.

The Four Stages Of The Locust

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1. Gnawer, pupa stage, the Palmerworm Gazam **H1501** gâzâm *gaw-zawm'* From an unused root meaning to *devour*; a kind of *locust*: - palmer-worm.
2. Swarmer, imbro stage, the Locust Arbeh **H697** 'arbeh *ar-beh'* From **H7235**; a *locust* (from its rapid *increase*): - grasshopper, locust
3. Devourer, Cankerworm Yelek **H3218** yeleq *yeh'-lek* From an unused root meaning to *lick* up; a *devourer*; specifically the young *locust*: - cankerworm, caterpillar.
4. Consumer, Caterpillar Hasil **H2625** châsîyl *khaw-seel'* From **H2628**; the *ravager*, that is, a *locust*: - caterpillar. **H2628** châsal *khaw-sal'* A primitive root; to *eat* off: - consume. **Joel chapters 1-2**

[I Will Stand Upon My Watch - Habakkuk's Tables](#)