

JOEL'S VIEW OF PROPHECY

Joel uses the occasion of a recent and devastating locust plague and drought as a picture of the coming Babylonian attack and the Tribulational attack by the king of the North. The Biblical principle is that God will use national disasters to warn His people (Lv.26:14ff). Joel understands that this is evidence that the Lord is judging His people because of their sin. This is in keeping with the covenant from Moses in Deuteronomy 28. And in keeping with this covenant Joel urges the people to repent and turn back to the Lord. As severe as the locusts were. And as bad as the Babylonian invasion will be, the coming battle of Armageddon will be more dreadful than all.

Locust Invasion and Drought Joel Chapter 1

- The recent devastation is worse than anything anyone has seen (vs.1-2). This should cause Judah to seek God.
- The locusts come in waves of destruction (v.4). It is a divine judgment for their sin of idolatry (Du.28:38).
- These locusts come up like a nation invading the land (v.6).
- This pictures a young maiden exchanging her wedding dress for a course goat's hair garb from news of the death of her husband to be (v.8).
- The priests as the leaders are to take action and proclaim a fast for the nation (v.13).
- This calamity was no natural occurrence. It was from the hand of the Almighty (v.15).
- Animals are effected by the sin of man (vs.18-20).



- Plague & Drought (Jl.1:1-14)
- Starvation & Fire (Jl.1:15-20)



1 Near and Distant Future

Past Judgments by Locusts and Drought

Near & Distant Future "Day of the Lord" (Jl.2:1)

Human Invasion by Babylon / Armageddon Joel 2:1-11

- This "day" will be like nothing Israel has experienced in the past (v.2).
- Joel used the past locust invasion (Joel chapter 1) as a backdrop of an impending human invasion who is not clearly named.
- The Babylonian invasion came in waves (605; 597; 586BC) just as the locust came in waves.
- The Armageddon picture will take place in the second half of Daniel's 70th Week when Antichrist will persecute the Jews.

Joel 2:12-17

- The Lord promises a reversal of His wrath as promised through Moses (Du.30:1-9).

- **Babylon [Near]:** (605; 597; 586BC)
- **Armageddon [Distant]:** (Daniel's 70th Week)

Babylon and Armageddon Judgments Intermixed

Forgiveness and Restoration Joel 2:18-27

- It appears here that the people respond to the Lord's invitation (Jl.2:18).
- This takes place at the end of Daniel's 70th Week when Israel acknowledges their sin and believes on Jesus as their Messiah. This event must take place for the Lord to return (Ho.5:15; 6:1-3; Zc.12:10; Is.59:20; Ps.79:1-3; 80:1-19; Rm.11:25-27).
- The Lord promises to restore all that the locusts have eaten, and the nations will no longer scorn His people (Jl.2:19-27).

Distant Future "Day of the Lord"

During and After Daniel's 70th Week

2 Distant Future

The Event that Triggers the Lord's Return

Distant Future "Day of the Lord" (Jl.2:31; 3:18)

Israel's Spiritual Renewal 2:28-32; 3:18-21

- Joel says that after the deliverance from the invader from the North, God will pour out His spirit on all Israel (Jl.2:28). Other promises clearly say that Israel will be the recipient of the Spirit (Ek.36:27; 39:29; Zc.12:10). God does not give His Holy Spirit to unbelievers. So here it is believing Israelites that are in view.
- Cosmic signs will precede the start of the day of the Lord (Mt.24:29-31; Mk.13:24-27; Lk.21:25-28).

Joel 3:1-16

- This campaign begins at the 6th trumpet judgment (Rv.9:13-21).
- Many nations will gather into Israel at the battle of Armageddon. This is called the "valley of decision" (v.14).

- **Battle of Armageddon**
- **Judgment of Nations**
- **Millennial (Jl.3:17-21)**

Armageddon and the Millennial Kingdom

3 Ultimate Future

JOEL'S PROPHTIC VIEW