

The Day of the Lord and the Locusts

Chapter 2

Audio Lesson: Old Testament number 75



Objective: To understand the personal and devotional application of the message of the prophet Joel.



“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm—my great army that I sent among you. 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. Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the LORD your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.

—Joel 2:25-27

Joel prophesied not long after a terrible plague of locusts had invaded the Southern Kingdom. This event is one example of “The Day of the Lord,” an expression used often in the book, but Joel’s prophecy also applies this term to the Babylonian captivity yet to come, as well as to the second coming of Jesus. Like many of the prophets, Joel’s message mixes prophecies about current-day events, coming historical events, and ultimate end-time events.

“The Day of the Lord,” as Joel uses the expression, can refer to a variety of events in which God works: chastisement, judgment, deliverance, blessing, and more. God is always working in our circumstances, even in the most difficult, for the good of those who love Him. Joel exhorts us to realize that each day—past, present, and future—should be considered the day of the Lord. Joel is challenging us to see the hand of God in everything that happens to us. As the apostle Paul said: “All things are working for the good, to all those who love Him, those who have been called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)



1. True or false? Joel is a difficult book to date, and without historical perspective, his message is meaningless.
2. True or false? Some scholars believe Joel lived at the same time as Elijah or Elisha.
3. True or false? All Christians agree on the chronology of events of the end times.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. What did Joseph call the plague of locusts that came upon Judah?
 - a. The “attack of Satan”
 - b. A “natural disaster”
 - c. The “day of the Lord”
 - d. A “sign of Moses’ victory over Pharaoh”
5. What did Joel compare the locusts to?
 - a. A flood
 - b. A storm
 - c. The Exodus
 - d. An army
6. What did Joel preach that the people of Judah should do?
 - a. Repent
 - b. Flee
 - c. Plant new crops
 - d. Worship the locust god
7. Besides locusts, what did Joel mean by “the day of the Lord”? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. The future Babylonian captivity
 - b. Israel’s most important feast
 - c. The Sabbath
 - d. The miracle of Pentecost
 - e. The day Jesus was born
 - f. The last days
8. What is the devotional message of the book of Joel?
 - a. Any circumstance in our life can be “the day of the Lord” for us.
 - b. God always judges His people with locust plagues.
 - c. God never judges His people at all.
 - d. Some situations in our life cannot be redeemed.
9. According to 2 Peter 3:11-12, what is the fate of the earth?
 - a. It will last forever.
 - b. It will melt with intense heat.
 - c. It will blow up with a huge explosion.
 - d. It will gradually cease to sustain life.

Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought we to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God, and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

—2 Peter 3:11-12



What events in your life can you call “the day of the Lord”? How does God’s promise to work all things together for good comfort you? What circumstances do you need to trust Him with today?



Thank God that He is Lord of every situation in your life. Ask Him to help you live each and every day understanding that this world will be destroyed when He returns.



Going Deeper

1. Explain this statement: “The primary prophecy of Joel was pre-filled on the Day of Pentecost and will be fulfilled in the end-time.” _____

2. In what sense did Joel mean that the plague of locusts was a day of the Lord? _____

3. When Joel compared the locusts to an army, what was the deeper meaning behind that metaphor? _____

4. How do you feel about the years the locusts have eaten in your life? Explain. _____

5. As you look back over the years of your life, how many events do you think should be labeled a day of the Lord? _____

6. Compare what Joel writes about the Day of the Lord with what Peter writes about it in Second Peter chapter three. In light of what they both wrote, what kind of person should you be? _____

7. What was the obstacle addressed by Joel? _____
