

- The uniqueness of this massive locust plague will be as unique as The Day of the Lord!

*Matthew 24:21, "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be."*

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

- The cataclysmic events worldwide initiated by the Rapture of Christians will be the perilous events of the Day of the Lord!
- Joel 1:4 indicate the severity of the devastation! In prophesy, Joel will move from the locust plague to the horrific events of the Day of the Lord!

**"The four different Hebrew words for locusts that appear in v. 4 probably are used to indicate the intensity of the plague and a successive series of locusts that had devastated the land."  
-Kenneth L. Barker, John R. Kohlenberger III,  
*The Expositor's Bible Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1994), 1427.**

**"Even in the past 100 years Jerusalem has been stripped of all vegetation by a plague of locusts like the one Joel describes so vividly. The swarm of several million insects is carried into Palestine by the desert wind from Arabia. The locust grows rapidly from larva to winged adult, and at every stage its appetite is insatiable. It is worse than an invading army: when it moves on there is no green or growing thing left (6-12) ... For Joel, the locust swarm is a sign, a warning of the terror of the Day of the Lord, God's approaching Judgment day (15)."  
-Edited by Pat and David Alexander,  
*The Lion Handbook to the Bible* (Oxford: Lion Hudson plc, 1999), 488**

- Only the Lord can restore what the <sup>(10)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ have eaten in your life!

*Joel 2:25, "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locusts has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you."*

### THE PRAYER OF REPENTANCE – 1:8-20

- Only repentance will save us from locust attack and the debilitating results of sin.



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*Answers: 1-Joel 2:7-3-no 4-5-future 6-foreshadows 7-period 8-rapture 9-locust 10-locusts*

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**Pastor Jerry Johnston's Sermonar  
Wednesday, March 3, 2010  
"Joel: When Is The Day Of The Lord?"  
Message #1 in the series, JOEL  
Bible Text: Joel 1:1-20**

Bible Text: Joel 1:1-20, pp. 1465-1467 in the *Nelson Study Bible*

### THE PROPHET – 1:1

- <sup>(1)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_, (Hebrew *Yo' el*) "Jehovah is God," is named by the Greek Septuagint (LXX), the Latin Vulgate, and the Hebrew Masoretic Text (MT) as the author. There are 12 other men in the Bible named Joel.

*Joel 1:1, "The word of the Lord that came to Joel the son of Pethuel."*

### TIMETABLE: 835 B.C.

- Joel was one of the earliest prophets to Judah, traditionally dated 835 B.C. when Joash (835-796 B.C.) was placed on the throne at the age of <sup>(2)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ and Jehoiada the priest functioned as the real ruler (2 Kings 11 & 12; 2 Chr. 24:1-27).
- Joel prophesied in Jerusalem, repeatedly he refers to "the house of the Lord" (1:9); and "Jerusalem" (3:20).
- Joel makes <sup>(3)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ mention of either the Assyrian (722 B.C.) or Babylonian (586 B.C.) invasions of Israel, hence, the early dates for Joel's prophesy. Israel's enemies are the Phoenicians and Philistines (3:4) and the Egyptians and Edomites (3:19), not the Assyrians and the Babylonians.

**"This would coincide with the time Queen Athaliah had the royal seed of Judah murdered. After the death of King Ahaziah, Queen Athaliah had all her grandchildren put to death, but the baby Joash was spared (the only surviving royal seed). Seven years later Joash was crowned king of Judah (I Ki. 11:12), and Queen Athaliah was slain by her own people (2 Ki. 11:16).  
-David Levy, *Joel The Day of the Lord* (Bellmawr, NJ: The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, Inc., 1987), IX-X.**

## THEME: THE DAY OF THE LORD

- “The Day of the Lord” is the theme of Joel cited <sup>(4)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ times: Joel 1:15; 2:1-2; 2:10-11; 2:30-31; and 3:14-16. This phrase “The Day of the Lord” occurs about 75 times in Scripture.
- It is clear Joel’s usage of “The Day of The Lord” looks to the <sup>(5)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

*James 1:15, “Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as destruction from the Almighty.”*

*Joel 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. 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.”*

*Joel 2:10, “The earth quakes before them, the heavens tremble; the sun and moon grow dark, and the stars diminish their brightness. 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?”*

*Joel 2:30, “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth; blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31) The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.”*

*Joel 3:14, “Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision! 15) The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness. 16) The Lord also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the Lord will be a shelter for His people, and strength of the children of Israel.”*

- In Joel’s prophecy a terrible plague of locusts <sup>(6)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ the great prophetic significance of the Day of the Lord.

**THE DAY OF THE LORD** ... refers to a time <sup>(7)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of judgment and the direct intervention of God in the affairs of man after the Rapture with all the events of the Tribulation until the end of the Millennial Kingdom.



“Joel was the first of the writing prophets, and as he looked down through the centuries, he saw the coming of the Day of the Lord. However, I do not think he saw the church at all – none of the prophets did.” -J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible with J. Vernon McGee Volume iii Proverbs – Malachi* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982), 658.

**THE DAY OF CHRIST** ... mentioned 6 times in Scripture (I Cor. 1:8; 5:5; 2 Cor. 1:14; Phil. 1:6, 10; 2:16) refers to the time when Christ will come to <sup>(8)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ the Church (I Thes. 4:13-18) out of the earth transporting Christians to be with Him forever (John 14:1-3).

## 8 MAJESTIC PROPHETIC EVENTS FORETOLD IN JOEL’S PROPHECY

1. The invasion of Gentile nations upon Israel in the Holy Land under the leadership of the Antichrist – Joel 2:1-10; (Armageddon – Revelation 16:14).
2. The decimation of the enemies of Israel in this battle by the Lord’s host – Joel 2:10-11. (Revelation 19:11, 21)
3. The mass conversion of Jews in the land of Israel during the Tribulation – Joel 2:12-17.
4. God’s promise of deliverance for His people – Joel 2:18-27.
5. The pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the mass conversion of Jews during the Tribulation – Joel 2:28-29.
6. The Second Coming of Christ with the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom – Joel 2:30-32. (Acts 15:15-17).
7. The judgment of the nations at the Second Coming of Christ – Joel 3:1-16.
8. The full blessing of the Millennial Kingdom upon God’s redeemed people – Joel 3:17-21. (Zechariah 14:1-21)

## THE PLAGUE OF LOCUST – 1:2-7

*Joel 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? 3) Tell your children about it, let your children tell their children, and their children another generation. 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.”*

- Israel was in the midst of the greatest <sup>(9)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ plague ever.