

## Joel 1 The Devastation by Locusts

1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel: 2 Hear this, you elders, And listen, all inhabitants of the land. Has anything like this happened in your days, Or in your fathers' days? 3 Tell your sons about it, And have your sons tell their sons, And their sons the next generation.

4 What the gnawing locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten; and what the swarming locust has left, the creeping locust has eaten; And what the creeping locust has left, the stripping locust has eaten. 5 Awake, you heavy drinkers, and weep; and wail, all you wine drinkers, Because of the sweet wine, For it has been eliminated from your mouth.

6 For a nation has invaded my land, Mighty and without number; Its teeth are the teeth of a lion, And it has the jaws of a lioness. 7 It has made my vine a waste And my fig tree a stump. It has stripped them bare and hurled them away; Their branches have become white.

8 Wail like a virgin clothed with sackcloth or the groom of her youth. 9 The grain offering and the drink offering have been cut off From the house of the LORD. The priests mourn, The ministers of the LORD. 10 The field is ruined, The land mourns; For the grain is ruined, The new wine has dried up Fresh oil has failed.

11 Be ashamed, you farm workers, Wail, you vinedressers For the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field is destroyed. 12 The vine has dried up And the fig tree has withered; The pomegranate, the palm also, and the apple tree,

All the trees of the field have dried up. Indeed, joy has dried up From the sons of mankind. 13 Put on sackcloth

And mourn, you priests; Wail, you ministers of the altar! Come, spend the night in sackcloth, You ministers of my God, For the grain offering and the drink offering Have been withheld from the house of your God.

Starvation and Drought

14 Consecrate a fast, Proclaim a solemn assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land To the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD. 15 Woe for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty.

16 Has food not been cut off before our eyes, and Joy and rejoicing from the house of our God? 17 The leaves have dried up under their shovels; the storehouses have become desolate, The grain silos are ruined, Because the grain has dried up. 18 How the animals have groaned! The herds of cattle have wandered aimlessly because there is no pasture for them; even the flocks of sheep have suffered.

19 To You, LORD, I cry out; for fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame has burned up all the trees of the field. 20 Even the animals of the field

pant for You; For the stream beds of water are dried up,  
And fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
- Did anything confuse you?
- Did anything move you emotionally?
- Did God instruct you to do something?
- Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's helpful insights and questions

1. The word of the Lord came to Joel – but how did it come?
2. God is presenting a question through Joel, God wants this message to be proclaimed everywhere. Why?
3. Why was it necessary for Joel to have to tell the people to listen to him?
4. The question of 'has this happened before?'
5. We beget what we sow, saying it is sowing it!
6. The locust was an inappropriate dismantling of how things were. Can you see this happening in our day?
7. Why does God want people with drink problems to sober up?
8. What are the different ways a nation can be invaded?
9. Does 'the teeth of the lion' convey anything in particular to you in these days?
10. Which has the most aggressive teeth – the lion or the lioness?
11. This enemy has come into the land and brought destruction and chaos to the status quo.
12. This enemy has brought total devastation! Why was God allowing this to happen?
13. What does 'the virgin with sackcloth' convey to you?
14. What happens to the temple and religious practice when the offerings stop flowing?
15. Why do the ministers of God mourn?
16. Having grown a harvest, it is taken away in destruction so there is no possibility of reaping the harvest.
17. Why does the vine dry up? Why does the fig tree fail? What does it mean 'to dry up'?
18. Why does rejoicing dry up from the sons of men?
19. Why are the religious servants of God encouraged to wail and mourn?
20. What does it mean for the priests to dress in sackcloth and mourn?
21. Once the offerings stop, the Lord's provision for salvation stops flowing.
22. Calling the people of the land to fast and pray is only possible if there is still a connection.
23. To cry out to God is to know we are in big trouble!
24. This destruction has come from the almighty God in the humbling of His people.

25. The stored provision has come to its' end, even animals know destruction has come.

26. It is fire that has brought this destruction upon the world.

27. What is it to pant for God?

28. When the water is gone life's end is near.