

Joel 1:1-20 **Day of Yahweh – Land Laid Waste by Locust and Drought**

The Locust Plague in Judah

1 The word of Yahweh (the Lord) that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

The Land Laid Waste (Exodus 10:1-20)

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.

5 Awake, you drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you drinkers of wine, Because of the new wine, For it has been cut off from your mouth.

6 For a nation has come up against My land, Strong, and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion.

7 He has laid waste My vine, And ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white.

8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the husband of her youth.

9 The grain offering and the drink offering Have been cut off from the house of Yahweh (the Lord); The priests mourn, who minister to Yahweh (the Lord).

10 The field is wasted, The land mourns; For the grain is ruined, The new wine is dried up, The oil fails.

11 Be ashamed, you farmers, Wail, you vinedressers, For the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field has perished.

12 The vine has dried up, And the fig tree has withered; The pomegranate tree, The palm tree also, And the apple tree — All the trees of the field are withered; Surely joy has withered away from the sons of men.

Mourning for the Land

13 Gird yourselves and lament, you priests; Wail, you who minister before the altar; Come, lie all night in sackcloth, You who minister to Elohay (my God); For the grain offering and the drink offering Are withheld from the house of Eloheykm (your God).

14 Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land Into the house of Yahweh Eloheykm (the Lord your God), And cry out to Yahweh (the Lord).

15 Alas for the day! For the day of Yahweh (the Lord) is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.

16 Is not the food cut off before our eyes, Joy and gladness from the house of Eloheyynu (our God)?

17 The seed shrivels under the clods, Storehouses are in shambles; Barns are broken down, For the grain has withered.

18 How the animals groan! The herds of cattle are restless, Because they have no pasture; Even the flocks of sheep suffer punishment.

19 O Yahweh (Lord), to You I cry out; For fire has devoured the open pastures, And a flame has burned all the trees of the field.

20 The beasts of the field also cry out to You, For the water brooks are dried up, And fire has devoured the open pastures.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The word of Yahweh (the Lord) that came to Joel the son of Pethuel. [Joel 1:1]
- ✧ The timing of the book of Joel is not given in the text.
- ✧ It specifies the time of great Judgment from Yahweh and focuses on the Day of The Lord which appears to include the Great Tribulation and establishment of the Kingdom Age to follow.
- ✧ 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?
Tell your children about it, Let your children tell their children, And their children another generation. [Joel 1:2-3]
- ✧ The warning is to the inhabitants of the land at the time of the prophesy, but is applicable to generations yet to come in the last days.
- ✧ The troubles Joel speaks of are noteworthy because they are of such unusual severity which has never been experienced in human history, nor will it ever be experienced again. [Daniel 12:1, Matthew 24:21, Mark 13:19, Luke 21:22, Revelation 6:7-8]
- ✧ The message needs to be passed on to all future generations.

The Land Laid Waste (Exodus 10:1-20)

- ✧ 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. [Joel 1:4]
- ✧ The plague of locust is worse than the plague Yahweh brought against Egypt when He delivered the Israelites from Egyptian bondage. [Joel 1:2, 4, Exodus 10:1-6]

Impact on the People [Joel 1:5-12]

- ✧ Drunkards and drinkers of wine will be wail because the wine has been cut off. [Joel 1:5]
- ✧ Yahweh calls the plague of Locust a nation that is strong and without number that has laid waste His vine and made His fig tree white by removing all foliage and bark. [Joel 1:6-7]
- ✧ The People will lament like a virgin who is widowed before she receives her husband. [Joel 1:8]
- ✧ The Priests who minister to Yahweh will mourn because the grain and drink offerings have been cut off. [Joel 1:9]
- ✧ The land itself will mourn because its fruit, wine, and oil is ruined and gone. [Joel 1:10]
- ✧ Farmers and vinedressers will wail because there is no harvest. [Joel 1:11-12]

Mourning for the Land [Joel 1:13-14]

- ✧ Yahweh called for the religious leaders who minister before Him to lament because the tithes and offerings have been taken away.
- ✧ He calls for the governmental officials to consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly, and gather all the people to the house of Yahweh and to cry out to Him.

The **Day of the Lord** is introduced [Joel 1:15-20]

- ✧ The **Day of Yahweh** (The Lord) comes as **destruction** from the Almighty.
- ✧ It begins with drought and famine.

- ✧ Food, joy and gladness is cut off from the House of Eloheynu (our God) because the harvest of crops are dead and gone..
- ✧ The animals suffer the punishment from Yahweh as He punishes the people for their sins and iniquity.

Lamentation

- ✧ O Yahweh (Lord), to You I cry out; For fire has devoured the open pastures, And a flame has burned all the trees of the field.
The beasts of the field also cry out to You, For the water brooks are dried up, And fire has devoured the open pastures. [[Joel 1:19-20](#)]
- ✧ When Judgment Day comes, the only thing left is lamentation.

- ✧ It would be better, before it is too late, to hear the warning and repent so the punishment may not be needed.
- ✧ Yahweh still says, "I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says Adoney Yahweh (the Lord God). "Therefore turn and live!" [[Ezekiel 18:32, 33:11](#)]
- ✧ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. [[2 Peter 3:9](#)]