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# *Joel*

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## **I. The Past Day of the Lord—A Devastating Plague of Locusts (1:1—2:27)**

### A. A Call for Reflection on the Impact of the Locust Plague (1:1-4)

1. Introduction (1:1)
2. Joel challenges the elders to recall anything more devastating than the present locust plague (1:2).
3. Joel instructs the elders to pass the news of the locust plague on to their descendants (1:3).
4. Joel describes the totally devastating effects of the locust plague (1:4).

### B. A Call for Mourning over the Devastation of the Locust Plague (1:5-20)

1. The devastating effects of the “nation” of locusts left drunkards devoid of wine (1:5-7).
2. The devastating effects of the locust plague left the priests devoid of grain and drink offerings (1:8-10).
3. The devastating effects of the locust plague left the farmers devoid of a harvest (1:11-12).
4. The devastating effects of the locust plague left the priests devoid of grain and drink offerings (1:13).
5. The devastating effects of the locust plague left the people devoid of food (1:14-18).
6. The devastating effects of the locust plague prompted Joel to call on the Lord for help (1:19-20).

### C. A Call for Repentance over the Spiritual Cause of the Locust Plague (2:1-27)

1. “Blow the trumpet in Zion” as a warning about the coming of the Day of the Lord (2:1-14).
  - a. The locust plague associated with the Day of the Lord was like a terrifying invading army (2:1-11).
  - b. The locust plague associated with the Day of the Lord should prompt genuine spiritual repentance (2:12-14).

2. “Blow the trumpet in Zion” as an announcement to gather in repentance before the Lord (2:15-27).
  - a. People of all ages and all stations in life were to gather in repentance before God (2:15-17).
  - b. In response to the people’s repentance, God would take pity and remove the army of locusts (2:18-20a).
  - c. In response to God’s pity, the land and God’s people would once again rejoice (2:20b-24).
  - d. God promised to restore His people’s prosperity and dignity so that they would recognize Him as their only God (2:25-27).

## **I I. The Prophetic Day of the Lord—The Future Judgment of God (2:28—3:21)**

### **A. The Outpouring of the Spirit (2:28-32)**

1. God promised that He would pour out His Spirit on all people (2:28-29).
2. God warned that He would show signs in heaven before the coming Day of the Lord (2:30-31).
3. God promised that He would grant salvation to everyone who calls on the name of the Lord (2:32).

### **B. The Judgment of the Nations (3:1-17)**

“In those days . . .”

1. God will gather all nations for judgment in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (3:1-8).
2. God will rouse the nations to battle against Him and meet their judgment in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (3:9-16).
3. God will demonstrate His protection and presence in the city of Jerusalem (3:17).

### **C. The Restoration of Judah (3:18-21)**

“In that day . . .”

1. God will restore perpetual prosperity to Judah (3:18-20).
2. God will grant spiritual pardon to Judah (3:21).