

April 4

The Book of Joel
Christ Church Women's Bible Study
Thurs, Apr 4, 2019
Matt Boulter

- I. Joel 2 in Acts 2.
- II. Two big sins in the OT.
 - A. Idolatry.
 - B. Oppression.
 - C. Surely we, the people of God of today, are no longer guilty of these sins, right?
- III. What is a prophet?
 - A. Comparison with a priest.
 - B. Applying the standards of God's law.
- IV. The imaginative portrayal of military attack/invasion by means of a locust swarm.
- V. According to the text,
 - A. How is the invasion/swarm explained (or is it)?
 - B. In the face of this calamity, is there any express hope? If so, what?
- VI. "the Day of the LORD."¹ (This brings us back to Acts 2.)

Acts 2:14-21

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, "since it is only the third hour of the day.² 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

17 "And in the last days it shall be, God declares,

^wthat I will pour out my Spirit ^xon all flesh,

and your sons and ^yyour daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,

and your old men shall dream dreams;

18 even on my male servants and female servants

in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and ^zthey shall prophesy.

19 And I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

20 ^athe sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,

before ^bthe day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

21 And it shall come to pass that ^ceveryone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

Joel 1

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

2 ^aHear this, ^byou elders;

give ear, ^ball inhabitants of the land!

^cHas such a thing happened in your days,

or in the days of your fathers?

3 ^dTell your children of it,

and let your children tell their children,

and their children to another generation.

4 What the cutting locust left,

the swarming locust has eaten.

What the swarming locust left,

the hopping locust has eaten,

and what the hopping locust left,

the destroying locust has eaten.

5 Awake, you drunkards, and weep,

and wail, all you drinkers of wine,

because of the ^bsweet wine,

for it is cut off from your mouth.

6 For a nation has come up against my land,

powerful and beyond number;

its teeth are lions' teeth,

and it has the fangs of a lioness.

¹ "LORD" versus "lord."

7 It has laid waste my vine
and splintered my fig tree;
it has stripped off their bark and thrown it down;
their branches are made white.

8 Lament like a virgin¹ wearing sackcloth
for the bridegroom of her youth.

9 The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off
from the house of the Lord.
The priests mourn,
the ministers of the Lord.

10 The fields are destroyed,
the ground mourns,
because the grain is destroyed,
the wine dries up,
the oil languishes.

11 Be ashamed,² O tillers of the soil;
wail, O vinedressers,
for the wheat and the barley,
because the harvest of the field has perished.

12 The vine dries up;
the fig tree languishes.
Pomegranate, palm, and apple,
all the trees of the field are dried up,
and gladness dries up
from the children of man.

13 Put on sackcloth and lament, O priests;
wail, O ministers of the altar.
Go in, pass the night in sackcloth,
O ministers of my God!
Because grain offering and drink offering
are withheld from the house of your God.

14 Consecrate a fast;
call 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 Alas for the day!
For the day of the Lord is near,
and as destruction from the Almighty³ it comes.

16 Is not the food cut off
before our eyes,
joy and gladness
from the house of our God?

17 The seed shrivels under the clods;⁴
the storehouses are desolate;
the granaries are torn down
because the grain has dried up.

18 How the beasts groan!
The herds of cattle are perplexed
because there is no pasture for them;
even the flocks of sheep suffer.⁵

19 To you, O Lord, I call.
For fire has devoured
the pastures of the wilderness,
hand flame has burned
all the trees of the field.

20 Even the beasts of the field pant for you
because the water brooks are dried up,
hand fire has devoured
the pastures of the wilderness.