

Scripture Reference: Joel 1

This Week's Passage

Scripture Reference:

¹ The word of the LORD that came to Joel son of Pethuel.

An Invasion of Locusts

² Hear this, you elders; listen, all who live in the land.

Has anything like this ever happened in your days or in the days of your forefathers?

³ Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.

⁴ What the locust swarm has left the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left the young locusts have eaten; what the young locusts have left other locusts have eaten.

⁵ Wake up, you drunkards, and weep! Wail, all you drinkers of wine; wail because of the new wine, for it has been snatched from your lips.

⁶ A nation has invaded my land, powerful and without number; it has the teeth of a lion, the fangs of a lioness.

⁷ It has laid waste my vines and ruined my fig trees. It has stripped off their bark and thrown it away, leaving their branches white.

⁸ Mourn like a virgin in sackcloth grieving for the husband of her youth.

⁹ Grain offerings and drink offerings are cut off from the house of the LORD. The priests are in mourning, those who minister before the LORD.

¹⁰ The fields are ruined, the ground is dried up; the grain is destroyed, the new wine is dried up, the oil fails.

¹¹ Despair, you farmers, wail, you vine growers; grieve for the wheat and the barley, because the harvest of the field is destroyed.

¹² The vine is dried up and the fig tree is withered; the pomegranate, the palm and the apple tree—all the trees of the field—are dried up. Surely the joy of mankind is withered away.

A Call to Repentance

¹³ Put on sackcloth, O priests, and mourn; wail, you who minister before the altar. Come, spend the night in sackcloth, you who minister before my God; for the grain offerings and drink offerings are withheld from the house of your God.

¹⁴ Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly.

Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD.

¹⁵ Alas for that day! For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

¹⁶ Has not the food been cut off before our very eyes— joy and gladness from the house of our God?

¹⁷ The seeds are shriveled beneath the clods. The storehouses are in ruins, the granaries have been broken down, for the grain has dried up.

¹⁸ How the cattle moan! The herds mill about because they have no pasture; even the flocks of sheep are suffering.

¹⁹ To you, O LORD, I call, for fire has devoured the open pastures and flames have burned up all the trees of the field.

²⁰ Even the wild animals pant for you; the streams of water have dried up and fire has devoured the open pastures.