

The Book of Joel

Chapter Two

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- While Chapter One looked at Israel's situation with the locust infestation, Chapter Two looks to future events.
- In this chapter we will see the current situation (locusts) used to illustrate both the coming Assyrian invasion and the Tribulation.
- vs. 1 – This verse is a clear break from the previous chapter. It does not talk about what *is happening* but what *is coming*. This is further emphasized using the phrase “day of the Lord” which typically looks forward to the Tribulation and Armageddon.
- vs. 2 – Who is this army? Compare to vs. 20 and see that is a “northern army”. I think it primarily represents the Antichrist's army of Armageddon. We may also see echoes of the Assyrian and Babylonian invasions.
- vs. 3-9 – This consuming, relentless army is easily pictured by the locust invasion.
- vs. 10 – this doesn't sound like locusts and proves the divine side of the judgment.
- vs. 11 – I think “his army” here is the invading army. They are carrying out God's command in executing judgment. Compare to how God speaks about Cyrus in Isaiah 44:28 and 45:1.
- vs. 12-17 – looks ahead to Israel's national repentance - Zechariah 12:10, Hosea 5:15
 - vs. 13 – I love the opening words of this verse. God is more concerned with inward change than outward.
- vs. 18 – “Then” – God responds to man's repentance
- vs. 19-27 – look ahead to Israel's condition during the Millennial Kingdom.
- vs. 28-32 – these verses anticipate the spiritual economy of the Millennial Kingdom. We have a taste of it now (as Peter said in Acts 2), but the complete fulfillment is yet to come.
 - vs. 28 – this verse is quoted by Peter at Pentecost in Acts 2:16. J. Vernon McGee says: “He does not say it was a fulfillment of what Joel had predicted. Rather, he said, ‘This is *that*’ – this is like that or similar to that.”
 - vs. 32 – the deliverance here is tied to Zion, Jerusalem, and the remnant. I think it speaks of those that trust in Christ at the close of the Tribulation will enter in to the Millennial Kingdom. - Matthew 25:31-46