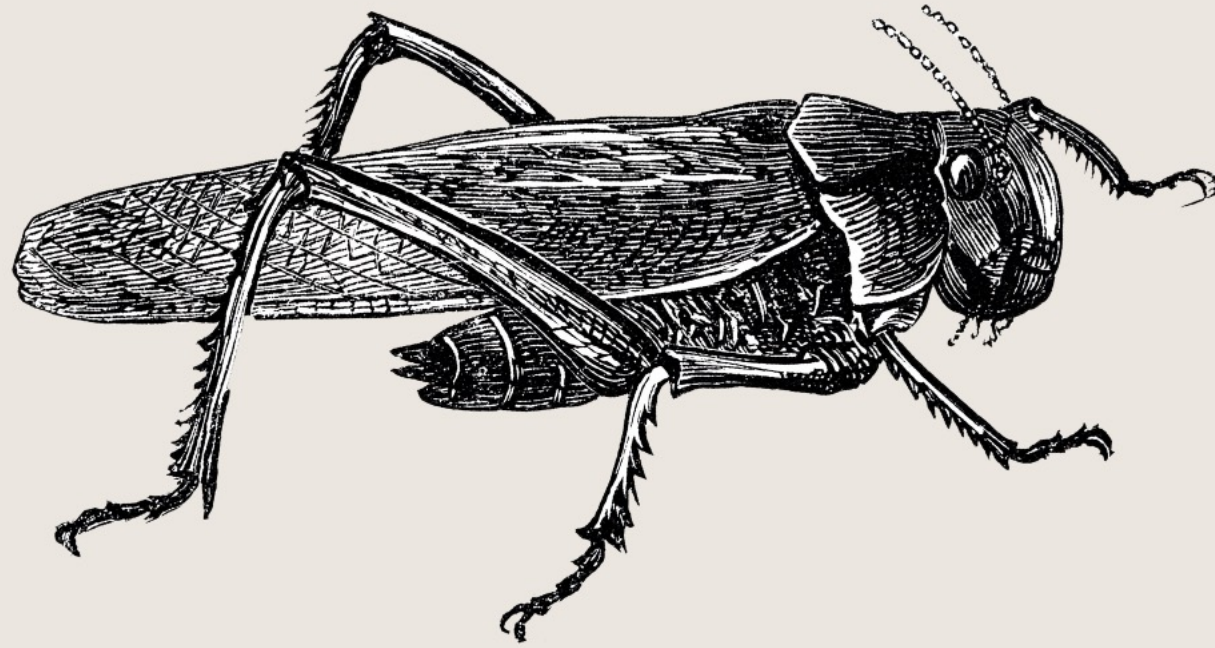


**THE BOOK OF  
JOEL**



**TURN  
TO THE  
LORD**

# Turn to the Lord

Joel 1:1-12

# Author and Date

“Joel, the son of Pethuel”

- “Yahweh is God”

NO consensus on Date

- 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> century BC
- Assyrians (722), Babylonians (586), Persians (539), Greeks (323)

# Context and Themes

## Warnings

- Locusts
- Northern Army
- Day of the Lord

## Call to Repent, Turn to the Lord

- Corporate worship, fasting, authentic intimacy with God

# Warnings

Locust invasion!

- Daily Life totally disrupted
  - Joel 1:2-8
- Luxuries eliminated
  - Vine and fig tree frequent allusions to wealth, prosperity, comfort



**“ Such swarms can cover great distances (they have been seen 1200 miles out to sea) can be of immense size (up to 2000 sq miles in the Red Sea in 1881) and can contain ...up to 120 million per sq mile. One female laying eggs in June can have 18 million descendants in October... Prior, p. 18 ”**

# Warnings

Locust invasion!

- Temple Worship halted
  - Joel 1:9-10
  - No grain! No wine!  
No oil!



“

**The Joel disaster meant the eradication of this daily assurance of the actual presence of God dwelling among the people as the Lord their God, and meeting with them in order to speak with them. ... This was the ultimate disaster. -Prior, p. 35**

”



# Implications

Locust invasion

- Disrupts for *years*. (Joel 2:25)

A Coming Army

- Disrupts for *decades*. (Joel 2:20)

The Day of the Lord

- Disrupts for *eternity*. (Joel 3:20; Is. 2:10-19; 13:6-16)

# Call to Action

Press in to the Lord during hardship. (Isaiah 45:6-7)

He brings both blessing and woe... turn to Him for answers.

Confess and repent of sin

My righteousness is a lost deal. Count on Christ's!

“Rend your heart, not your garment” (Joel 2:12)

Genuine intimacy, not “symptoms”

# Why do we care?

(1) How do we respond to disaster, calamity or hardship?

- Look to ourselves, or cry out to the Lord?
- Lean on religious ritual, cliché and “isms”, or press into genuine relationship with the Lord?

(2) How do we think of the Day of the Lord?

- Ignore it? Relax, “*cuz I got Jesus*”?
- OR worship with abandon, evangelize with courage, press in with gratitude?