

**Summary:**

An unstoppable swarm of locusts came and devastated the country. We are impacted by how much damage sin caused, and what a terrible judgment sin deserved. Since our God-theater invariably shows judgment-unto-salvation, Joel lined up with the pattern. Only God was able to restore the locust-eaten country, and He did so by re-directing His devastating 'locust' judgment onto His Son alone, which once-for-all satisfied God's punishment for sin. After the Son rose from the dead, God the Father, as promised, gave His Holy Spirit to God the Son. The Son then poured out His Holy, life-giving Spirit, who enabled the people to repent and believe. In this way, God provided resurrection life to His dead people. God (Father/Son/Spirit) restored the people. The Spirit dwelled with the people to preserve their holy walk before God.

**Themes:**

- A warning/invitation to all humans, and a response is required!
- Our biggest thing to fear? God! Our biggest source of hope and change? God!
- What is the long-term impact of sin? full devastation in the day of Judgment!
- How do we avoid that impact? Repent, and God restores/blesses abundantly!
- To whom does this core warning/invitation apply? Every person in every age!

**The man:**

- not the usual info. Historical, but not clear exactly when. Vague on purpose!
- Joel is just a voice (Is.40:3/Jn.1:23); not distracted by him; must focus on the message!
- a poetic style, many figures of speech, engaging literature!

**Familiar phrases:**

- The sun and the moon are darkened... (Joel 2:10, 31, Acts 2:20)
- Rend your hearts, and not your garments... (Joel 2:12)
- God has given the early and the latter rain (Joel 2:23)
- God will restore to you the years the locust have eaten (Joel 2:25)
- I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. (Joel 2:28, and Acts 2:17)
- I will restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem (Joel 3:1)
- Beat your plowshares into swords... (Joel 3:10)
- The valley of decision (Joel 3:14)

**Outline:**

- The Day of the Locust (1:1-20)
- The Day of The LORD (2:1-17)
- The Day of Restoration (2:18-27)
- The Day of The Spirit (2:28-32)
- The Day of Decision (3:1-21)

**Fulfillments of the prophecy:**

- in The Day of Pentecost
- in the worldwide proclamation of the gospel to the nations
- in the day of final judgment when all peoples stand before God to be judged/rescued