

REVELATION Lesson 11

FIRST DAY

Read the Lesson 10 Notes

SECOND DAY:

Read Joel 1:1-2:11

Joel 1

[Joel 1:1] 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 ancestors?

[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,
a mighty army 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 betrothed 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 olive 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 people's joy
is withered away.

A Call to Lamentation

[13] Put on sackcloth, you 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, LORD, I call,
for fire has devoured the pastures in the wilderness
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 pastures in the wilderness.

Joel 2

An Army of Locusts

[2:1] Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy hill.
Let all who live in the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming.

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It is close at hand—

[2] a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and blackness.

Like dawn spreading across the mountains
a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was in ancient times
nor ever will be in ages to come.

[3] Before them fire devours,
behind them a flame blazes.

Before them the land is like the garden of Eden,
behind them, a desert waste—
nothing escapes them.

[4] They have the appearance of horses;
they gallop along like cavalry.

[5] With a noise like that of chariots
they leap over the mountaintops,
like a crackling fire consuming stubble,
like a mighty army drawn up for battle.

[6] At the sight of them, nations are in anguish;
every face turns pale.

[7] They charge like warriors;
they scale walls like soldiers.

They all march in line,
not swerving from their course.

[8] They do not jostle each other;
each marches straight ahead.

They plunge through defenses
without breaking ranks.

[9] They rush upon the city;
they run along the wall.

They climb into the houses;
like thieves they enter through the windows.

[10] Before them the earth shakes,
the heavens tremble,
the sun and moon are darkened,
and the stars no longer shine.

[11] The LORD thunders
at the head of his army;
his forces are beyond number,
and mighty is the army that obeys his command.
The day of the LORD is great;
it is dreadful.

Who can endure it?

THIRD Day:

Read Joel 2:12-27

Rend Your Heart

[12] “Even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,

with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

[13] Rend your heart
and not your garments.

Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.

[14] Who knows? He may turn and relent
and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings
for the LORD your God.

[15] Blow the trumpet in Zion,
declare a holy fast,
call a sacred assembly.

[16] Gather the people,
consecrate the assembly;
bring together the elders,
gather the children,
those nursing at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her chamber.

[17] Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,
weep between the portico and the altar.

Let them say, “Spare your people, LORD.
Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,
a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’ ”

The LORD's Answer

[18] Then the LORD was jealous for his land
and took pity on his people.

[19] The LORD replied to them:

“I am sending you grain, new wine and olive oil,
enough to satisfy you fully;
never again will I make you
an object of scorn to the nations.

[20] “I will drive the northern horde far from you,
pushing it into a parched and barren land;
its eastern ranks will drown in the Dead Sea
and its western ranks in the Mediterranean Sea.

And its stench will go up;
its smell will rise.”

Surely he has done great things!

[21] Do not be afraid, land of Judah;
be glad and rejoice.

Surely the LORD has done great things!

[22] Do not be afraid, you wild animals,
for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green.
The trees are bearing their fruit;
the fig tree and the vine yield their riches.

[23] Be glad, people of Zion,
rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given you the autumn rains
because he is faithful.

He sends you abundant showers,
both autumn and spring rains, as before.

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[24] The threshing floors will be filled with grain;
the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

[25] “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—

the great locust and the young locust,
the other locusts and the locust swarm—
my great army that I sent among you.

[26] You will have plenty to eat, until you are full,
and you will praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has worked wonders for you;
never again will my people be shamed.

[27] Then you will know that I am in Israel,
that I am the LORD your God,
and that there is no other;
never again will my people be shamed.

FOURTH DAY:

Read Joel 2:28-3:21

The Day of the LORD

[28] “And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.

[29] Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

[30] I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

[31] The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and dreadful day of
the LORD.

[32] And everyone who calls
on the name of the LORD will be saved;
for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there will be deliverance,
as the LORD has said,
even among the survivors
whom the LORD calls.

Joel 3

[3:1] “In those days and at that time,
when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,

[2] I will gather all nations
and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.
There I will put them on trial

for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel,
because they scattered my people among the nations
and divided up my land.

[3] They cast lots for my people
and traded boys for prostitutes;
they sold girls for wine to drink.

[4] “Now what have you against me, Tyre and Sidon
and all you regions of Philistia? Are you repaying me
for something I have done? If you are paying me
back, I will swiftly and speedily return on your own
heads what you have done. [5] For you took my
silver and my gold and carried off my finest treasures
to your temples. [6] You sold the people of Judah and
Jerusalem to the Greeks, that you might send them
far from their homeland.

[7] “See, I am going to rouse them out of the places
to which you sold them, and I will return on your
own heads what you have done. [8] I will sell your
sons and daughters to the people of Judah, and they
will sell them to the Sabians, a nation far away.” The
LORD has spoken.

[9] Proclaim this among the nations:
Prepare for war!

Rouse the warriors!

Let all the fighting men draw near and attack.

[10] Beat your plowshares into swords
and your pruning hooks into spears.

Let the weakling say,
“I am strong!”

[11] Come quickly, all you nations from every side,
and assemble there.

Bring down your warriors, LORD!

[12] “Let the nations be roused;
let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat,
for there I will sit
to judge all the nations on every side.

[13] Swing the sickle,
for the harvest is ripe.

Come, trample the grapes,
for the winepress is full

and the vats overflow—
so great is their wickedness!”

[14] Multitudes, multitudes
in the valley of decision!
For the day of the LORD is near
in the valley of decision.

[15] The sun and moon will be darkened,
and the stars no longer shine.

[16] The LORD will roar from Zion
and thunder from Jerusalem;
the earth and the heavens will tremble.

But the LORD will be a refuge for his people,
a stronghold for the people of Israel.

Blessings for God's People

[17] “Then you will know that I, the LORD your
God,

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dwell in Zion, my holy hill.

Jerusalem will be holy;

never again will foreigners invade her.

[18] “In that day the mountains will drip new wine,

and the hills will flow with milk;

all the ravines of Judah will run with water.

A fountain will flow out of the LORD's house

and will water the valley of acacias.

[19] But Egypt will be desolate,

Edom a desert waste,

because of violence done to the people of Judah,

in whose land they shed innocent blood.

[20] Judah will be inhabited forever

and Jerusalem through all generations.

[21] Shall I leave their innocent blood unavenged?

No, I will not.”

The LORD dwells in Zion!

Question 10a

Acts 2:17-21;

[17] “ ‘In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

[18] Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days,

and they will prophesy.

[19] I will show wonders in the heavens above

and signs on the earth below,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

[20] The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and glorious day of the

Lord.

[21] And everyone who calls

on the name of the Lord will be saved.’

Question 10b

Joel 2:28-32; [28] “And afterward,

I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your old men will dream dreams,

your young men will see visions.

[29] Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

[30] I will show wonders in the heavens

and on the earth,

blood and fire and billows of smoke.

[31] The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and dreadful day of

the LORD.

[32] And everyone who calls

on the name of the LORD will be saved;

for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem

there will be deliverance,

as the LORD has said,

even among the survivors

whom the LORD calls.

Isaiah 13:9-11; [9] See, the day of the LORD

is coming

—a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger—

to make the land desolate

and destroy the sinners within it.

[10] The stars of heaven and their constellations

will not show their light.

The rising sun will be darkened

and the moon will not give its light.

[11] I will punish the world for its evil,

the wicked for their sins.

I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty

and will humble the pride of the ruthless.

Matthew 24:29-30; [29] “Immediately after

the distress of those days “ ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’

[30] “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in

heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will

mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the

clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.

Revelation 6:12-14; [21] For prophecy

never had its origin in the human will, but prophets,

though human, spoke from God as they were carried

along by the Holy Spirit.

Question 11a

Genesis 1:2; [2] Now the earth was formless

and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep,

and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

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John 3:3-8; [3] Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

[4] “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

[5] Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. [6] Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. [7] You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ [8] The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

John 16:5-15; [5] but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ [6] Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. [7] But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. [8] When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: [9] about sin, because people do not believe in me; [10] about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; [11] and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

[12] “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. [13] But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. [14] He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. [15] All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

Acts 2:1-13;

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

[2:1] When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. [2] Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. [3] They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that

separated and came to rest on each of them. [4] All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

[5] Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. [6] When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. [7] Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? [8] Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? [9] Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, [10] Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome [11] (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” [12] Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

[13] Some, however, made fun of them and said, “They have had too much wine.”

2 Peter 1:21; [21] For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

FIFTH DAY:

Read 2 Peter 3

The Day of the Lord

[3:1] Dear friends, this is now my second letter to you. I have written both of them as reminders to stimulate you to wholesome thinking. [2] I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Savior through your apostles.

[3] Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. [4] They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.” [5] But they deliberately forget that long ago by God’s word the heavens came into being and the earth was formed out of water and by water. [6]

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By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. [7] By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

[8] But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. [9] The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

[10] But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

[11] Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives [12] as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. [13] But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

[14] So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. [15] Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. [16] He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

[17] Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. [18] But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

SIXTH DAY:

Review Joel 1-3; 2 Peter 3

See above

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