

Revelation Lesson #11

BSF Scripture Reading:

THIRD DAY

FIRST DAY:

Read the lesson notes

SECOND DAY:

Read Joel 2:12-27

[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 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.

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 have pity
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 temple porch and the altar.

Let them say, “Spare your people, O 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 will be jealous for his land
and take pity on his people.

[19] The LORD will reply to them:
“I am sending you grain, new wine and 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 army far from you,
pushing it into a parched and barren land,
with its front columns going into the eastern sea
and those in the rear into the western sea.

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

Surely he has done great things.

[21] Be not afraid, O land;
be glad and rejoice.

Surely the LORD has done great things.

[22] Be not afraid, O wild animals,
for the open pastures are becoming green.

Revelation Lesson #11

The trees are bearing their fruit;
the fig tree and the vine yield their riches.
[23] Be glad, O people of Zion,
rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given you
the autumn rains in righteousness.
He sends you abundant showers,
both autumn and spring rains, as before.
[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;

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,
among the survivors
whom the LORD calls.

Joel 3

The Nations Judged

[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 enter into judgment against them
concerning my inheritance, my people Israel,
for 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
that they might drink.
[4] “Now what have you against me, O 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 Sabeans, 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, O 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 sky will tremble.
But the LORD will be a refuge for his people,
a stronghold for the people of Israel.

Revelation Lesson #11

Blessings for God's People

[17] “Then you will know that I, the LORD your God,
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] Their bloodguilt, which I have not pardoned,
I will pardon.”
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 heaven 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

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] “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will
appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will
mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the
clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

Revelation 6:12-14; [12] I watched as he opened
the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun
turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the
whole moon turned blood red, [13] and the stars in
the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree
when shaken by a strong wind. [14] The sky receded
like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and
island was removed from its place.

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.

John 3:3-8; [3] In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you
the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless
he is born again.”

[4] “How can a man be born when he is old?”
Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second
time into his mother's womb to be born!”

[5] Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can
enter the kingdom of God unless he is 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] “Now I am going to him who
sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you
going?’ [6] Because I have said these things, you are
filled with grief. [7] But I tell you the truth: It is for
your good that I am going away. Unless I go away,
the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will
send him to you. [8] When he comes, he will convict
the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness
and judgment: [9] in regard to sin, because men do
not believe in me; [10] in regard to righteousness,
because I am going to the Father, where you can see

Revelation Lesson #11

me no longer; [11] and in regard to 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 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 bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. [15] All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it 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 them speaking in his own language. [7] Utterly amazed, they asked: “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? [8] Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own 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 will of man, but men 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] First of 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 fathers 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 existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water. [6] 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 ungodly men.

[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. 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 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, the home of righteousness.

[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

Revelation Lesson #11

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 already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men 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; 2 Peter 3

[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 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.

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.

It is close at hand —

[2] a day of darkness and gloom,

Revelation Lesson #11

a day of clouds and blackness.
Like dawn spreading across the mountains
a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was of old
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 sky trembles,
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 are those who obey his command.
The day of the LORD is great;
it is dreadful.
Who can endure it?

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,
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Let the bridegroom leave his room
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weep between the temple porch and the altar.
Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD.
Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,
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Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’ ”

The LORD's Answer

[18] Then the LORD will be jealous for his land
and take pity on his people.
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Revelation Lesson #11

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Revelation Lesson #11

2 Peter 3

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[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. 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 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, the home of righteousness.

[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 already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men 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.