

## The Cause of the Great Destruction

### I. The **Prophet** - an Introduction (Joel 1:1-3)

- A. The Author of the book (Joel 1:1)
- B. Hear - To whom this **Prophecy** is written (Joel 1:2)
- C. Tell – Pass it On to the **next generation** (Joel 1:3)

### II. The **Prophecy** – God’s Great Army (Joel 1:4 – 2:17)

#### Joel 1:4

That which the **palmerworm** hath left hath the **locust** eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the **cankerworm** eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the **caterpillar** eaten.

#### A. The **Work** of a Destructive Famine (Joel 1:4)

- 1. The Palmerworm (**Moth** larva) eat tree leaves - responsible for deforestation
- 2. The Locust (**Swarming** grasshopper) - destroyer of **leafy** plants suddenly)
- 3. The Cankerworm – (Inchworms) – eat all parts of the leaf
- 4. Caterpillar the larval stage of butterflies and moths that eat all green foliage

1. **Palmer-worm** = (Heb. gazam). The English word may denote either a **caterpillar** which wanders like a palmer or pilgrim, or which travels like pilgrims in bands # Joe 1:4 2:25 the wingless locusts, or the **migratory locust in its larva state.**

#### **THE EVERYDAY GRASSHOPPER LARVA**

2. **Locust** = **There are ten Hebrew words used in Scripture to signify locust.**

The name also occurs in # Re 9:3,7 in allusion to this Oriental devastating insect.

They are of many species. **The ordinary Syrian locust resembles the grasshopper, but is larger and more destructive.**

"The legs and thighs of these insects are so powerful that **they can leap to a height of two hundred times the length of their bodies.** When so raised they spread their wings and fly so close together as to appear **like one compact moving mass.**"

The devastations they make in Eastern lands are often very appalling. The invasions of locusts are the heaviest calamities that can befall a country. "Their numbers exceed computation: the hebrews called them 'the countless,' and the **Arabs knew them as 'the darkeners of the sun.'** **Unable to guide their own flight, though capable of crossing large spaces, they are at the mercy of the wind,** which bears them as blind instruments of Providence to the doomed region given over to them for the time. **Innumerable as the drops of water or the sands of the seashore, their flight obscures the sun and casts a thick shadow on the earth**

#### **DESTROYER OF BROAD LEAFED PLANTS - most farm crops**

3. **Cankerworm** = (Heb. yelek), "the licking locust," which licks up the grass of the field; probably the locust at a certain stage of its growth, just as it emerges from the caterpillar state # Joe 1:4 2:25 The word is rendered "caterpillar" in # Ps 105:34 Jer 51:14-17 (but R.V. "canker-worm"). "It spoileth and fleeth away" # Na 3:16 or as some read the passage, "The cankerworm

putteth off [i.e., the envelope of its wings], and fleeth away." **They live Underground for 13-17 years**

## **THE EGGS LEFT BEHIND FROM THE LOCUST THAT WILL DESTROY THE GRASS FROM BENEATH**

4. **Caterpillar** = lyox chaciyl khaw-seel' from 02628;TWOT-701a; n m AV-caterpillar 6; 6 1) locust

### **ANOTHER ROUND OF LOCUST**

#### **B. The **Wake** of a Destructive Famine (Joel 1:5-1:12)**

##### **1. Wake, Weep, Wail all Drunkards (**pleasure** seekers) (Joel 1:5)**

**Joel 1:5-7**

5 Awake, ye **drunkards**, and weep; and howl, all ye **drinkers of wine**, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.

##### **a. The Enemy has attacked**

6 For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.

##### **b. They have destroyed the Land**

7 He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.

##### **c. How destruction occurred – We were asleep from our drunkenness**

**Webster's 1828**

**drunkards** = *noun* One given to ebriety or an excessive use of strong liquor; a person who habitually or frequently is drunk.

**"A drunkard and a glutton shall come to poverty." [Proverbs 23:21](#).**

**"The nation's under attack but no one seems to care because they feel relaxed!"**

##### **2. Households will be destroyed (Joel 1:8)**

8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth **for the husband of her youth**.

##### **3. The Lord's house is in famine also (no **nourishment**) (Joel 1:9)**

9 The **meat offering and the drink offering is cut off** from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD'S ministers, mourn.

##### **4. The food industry is destroyed (Joel 1:10-12)**

10 The **field is wasted**, the **land mourneth**; for the **corn is wasted**: the **new wine is dried up**, the oil languisheth.

11 Be ye ashamed, O ye **husbandmen**(a worker of the land not an **owner**); howl, O ye **vinedressers**(worker of the **vines**), for the wheat and for the barley; because **the harvest**(reaping of the **crop**) of the field is perished.

12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all **the trees of the field, are withered**: because **joy is withered away from the sons of men**.

### **Matthew 9:36-38**

**36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.**

**37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;**

**38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.**