

# Joel's Prophecy



"The Former & the Latter Rains"  
"The Seasons of His Coming"



## The Book of Joel

The Future is Hidden in the Past

Hidden Revelation in Hebrew

The Yom Kippur Service in Revelation

The Spirit of Error Merges

The End Time Locust Armies

Clues To Gog-Magog & Armageddon

The Kings of the Locusts

The Desert of the Abyss

It is the Worst of Times for Them

The End Time Outpouring

The Former & Latter Rains

Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

The Spirit of Truth Separates

It is the Best of Times for the Church

## Joel chapter One - The Locust Army

1 The word of the Lord that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

2 Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land.  
Has this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?

3 Tell your children of it, and let your children  
tell their children, and their children another generation.

4 That which the palmerworm has left has the locust eaten;  
and that which the locust has left has the cankerworm eaten;  
and that which the cankerworm has left has the caterpillar eaten.

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.

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

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

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

9 The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the House of the Lord;  
the priests, the Lord's ministers, mourn.

10 The field is wasted, the land mourns; for the corn is wasted:  
the new wine is dried up, the oil languishes.

11 Be ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers,  
for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.

12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languishes;  
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.

13 Gird yourselves, and lament, you priests: howl, you ministers of the altar:  
come, lie all night in sackcloth, you ministers of my God:  
for the meat offering and the drink offering is withheld from the House of your God.

<sup>14</sup>Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly,  
gather the elders and all the land's inhabitants  
into the House of the Lord your God, and cry to the Lord,

<sup>15</sup>Alas for the Day! For the Day of the Lord is at hand,  
and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

<sup>16</sup>Is not the meat cut off before our eyes,  
yes, joy and gladness (are cut off also) from the House of our God?

<sup>17</sup>The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate,  
the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.

<sup>18</sup>How do the beasts groan! The herds of cattle are perplexed,  
because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.

<sup>19</sup>O Lord, to You will I cry: for fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness,  
and the flame has burned all the trees of the field.

<sup>20</sup>The beasts of the field cry also to You:  
for the rivers of waters are dried up,  
and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

The Locust Army in Joel Chapter 1 are the same Locust Army in Revelation chapter 9  
4 Stages of Enemy Destruction

Palmerworm

Locust

Cankerworm

Caterpillar



## Revelation 9 - "Here Comes the Locusts"

The 5<sup>th</sup> Trumpet introduces the 1st Woe Judgment

The Revelation Locust Army is the same as Joel's Locust Army

1. And the 5th angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth:  
and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.
2. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit,  
as the smoke of a great furnace;  
and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.
3. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth:  
and to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.
4. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth,  
neither any green thing, neither any tree;  
but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.
5. And to them it was given that they should not kill them,  
but that they should be tormented 5 months:  
and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he strikes a man.
6. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it;  
and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.
7. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared to battle;  
and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.
8. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.
9. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron;  
and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.
10. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails:  
and their power was to hurt men 5 months.
11. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit,  
whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon,  
but in the Greek tongue has his name Apollyon.

12. One woe is past; and behold, there come 2 woes more hereafter.
13. And the 6th angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the 4 horns of the golden altar which is before God,
14. Saying to the 6th angel which had the trumpet,  
Loose the 4 angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.
15. And the 4 angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay 1/3 part of men.
16. And the number of the army of the horsemen were 200,000,000:  
and I heard the number of them.
17. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone:  
and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions;  
and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.
18. By these 3 was 1/3 part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.
19. For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails:  
for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.
20. And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues of the works of their hands,  
that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:
21. Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

## Joel chapter 2- "The Day of the Lord"

- <sup>1</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain:  
let all the inhabitants of the land tremble:  
for the Day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;
- <sup>2</sup> A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness,  
as the morning spread upon the mountains:  
a great and strong people; there hasn't been ever the like,  
neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.
- <sup>3</sup> A fire devours before them; and behind them a flame burns:  
the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate  
wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.
- <sup>4</sup> The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; as horsemen, so shall they run.
- <sup>5</sup> Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains they shall leap,  
like the noise of a flame of fire that devours the stubble,  
as a strong people set in battle array.
- <sup>6</sup> Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.
- <sup>7</sup> They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war;  
and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:
- <sup>8</sup> Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path:  
and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.
- <sup>9</sup> They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall,  
they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.
- <sup>10</sup> The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble:  
the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:
- <sup>11</sup> And the Lord shall utter His voice before His army: for His camp is very great:  
for He is strong that executes His word:  
for the Day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?
- <sup>12</sup> Therefore also now, says the Lord, turn even to me with all your  
heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

<sup>13</sup> And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repents Him of the evil.

<sup>14</sup> Who knows if He will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind Him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God?

<sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: ([Yom Kippur](#))

<sup>16</sup> Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

<sup>17</sup> Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not YOUR heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?

<sup>18</sup> Then will the Lord be jealous for His land, and pity His people.

<sup>19</sup> Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto His people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:

<sup>20</sup> But I will remove far off from you the Northern army, ([Ezek 39:2 Gog/Magog War](#)) and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea ([Dead Sea](#)); ([Ezek 39:11 Gog/Magog War](#)) and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, ([Mediterranean Sea](#)) and his stink shall come up, and his ill savor shall come up, ([Ezek 39:11](#)) - because he has done great things.

<sup>21</sup> Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things.

<sup>22</sup> Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree bears her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.

<sup>23</sup> Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

<sup>24</sup> And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

- <sup>25</sup> And I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, My great army which I sent among you.
- <sup>26</sup> And you shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the Name of the Lord your God, that has dealt wondrously with you: and My people shall never be ashamed.
- <sup>27</sup> And ye shall know that *I AM* in the midst of Israel, and that *I AM* the Lord your God, and none else: and My people shall never be ashamed.
- <sup>28</sup> And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:
- <sup>29</sup> And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit.
- <sup>30</sup> And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.
- <sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come.
- <sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the Name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in Mt. Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

1. Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My Holy Mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the Day of the Lord comes, for it is nigh at hand;

This is the great shofar on Yom Kippur (Revelation=Yom Kippur service). Earth dwellers are being warned of God's judgment that will be soon executed during the Tribulation.

Joel 1:14-15 "Sanctify a fast call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord \_your God, and cry to the Lord. Alas for the Day! For the Day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Lord shall it come."

Obadiah 1:15 "For the Day of the Lord is upon all the heathen, as, you have done, so shall it be done to you, your reward shall return upon your own head.

Zephaniah 1:14 "the great day of the Lord is near; it is near; and hastens greatly; even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That Day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and bitterness A day of waste and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness..

2. A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

Zephaniah 1:15 That Day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and bitterness A day of waste and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness..

3. A fire devours before them; and behind them a flame burns: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.
4. The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. (The 4 Horses of the Apocalypse?)
- 5 Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devour the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. (Joel 1 -The Locust army)
6. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness (fear).
7. They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war, (locust army) and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:
8. Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. (supernatural )



9. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. ([The thief in the night](#))
10. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: ([6<sup>th</sup> Seal Revelation](#))
11. And the Lord shall utter His Voice before His army: for His camp is very great: for He is strong that executes His word: for the Day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?
12. Therefore also now, says the Lord, turn even to me with all your heart, ([repent - teshuvah](#)) and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:
13. And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord your God: for He is gracious & merciful, slow to anger & of great kindness, and He repents of the evil.
14. Who knows if He will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind Him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God?
15. Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: ([Yom Kippur](#))
16. Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.
17. Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not Your heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: Wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?
18. Then will the Lord be jealous for His Land ([Israel](#)), and pity His people ([The Jews](#)) .
19. Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto His people,  
Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and you shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:
20. But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea & his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up and his ill savor shall come up, because he has done great things. ([The War of Gog-Magog/ Armageddon/ Ezekiel 38-39](#))

**Ezekiel :29:11** "And it shall come to pass in that Day, that I will give to Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop up the noses of the passengers.....

21. Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things.
22. Be not afraid, beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree bears her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.
23. Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He has given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.
24. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
25. And I will restore to you the years that the locust ([arbeh](#)) has eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.
26. And you shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that has dealt wondrously with you: and My people shall never be ashamed.
27. And you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and My people shall never be ashamed. ([Jesus Messiah in person](#))
28. And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:
29. And also on the servants and on the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit.
30. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.
31. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, ([Revelation 6<sup>th</sup> Seal](#)) Before the great and terrible Day of the Lord come.
32. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the Name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in Mt. Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.

## Former and Latter Rains - "The Seasons of His Coming"

After 10 years of study on these rains, from every verse in the Bible plus an in depth study on the Feasts of the Lord as the Redemptive Calendar of the Messiah, there can be no mistake that the former and latter rains are tied to Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> Coming in Spring near Passover and then again point to His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming in the Fall near Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles. The blessing of the rains are a physical promise from God for Israel obeying His Covenant and also a spiritual picture of the Land preparing for the Messiah. When the Jews returned in 1948 after almost 2000 exile, the rains also returned to replenish the Land and turned a barren wasteland into a desert that is blossoming like a rose as Scripture declares. The Rains also refer not only to the people returning to the Land, but the return of the Word of God as true doctrine. The overall study shows "the rains" as 4 themes in the Bible!

1. The Rains returning as the Jews return to the Land - physical
2. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Messiah - prophetic
3. The Doctrine of the Word as Rain to mature the people - doctrinal
4. The Holy Spirit softens people's hearts for the harvest of souls - evangelical

Hosea 6:3 "...the LORD: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and **He shall come unto us as** the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth."

James 5:7 "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto **the coming of the Lord**. Behold, the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and has long patience for it, until he receives the early and latter rain."

The former rain Yoreh comes in Tishrei - the latter rain Malkosh comes in Nisan.

Deut.11:14 keeps us from getting them reversed. "I will give you the rain of your land in its due season, the first (yoreh - sprinkling, autumnal showers) rain and the latter rain (malqosh - spring rain), that you may gather in your corn, and your wine, and your oil."

Joel 2:23 "Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He has given you the former rain moderately (and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain and the latter rain) in the first month.

## Joel chapter 3 - "The Day of the Lord Time Table"

1. For, behold, in those days, and in that time,  
when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah (1948) and Jerusalem (1967),
2. I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat,  
and will plead with them there for My people and for My heritage Israel,  
they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.
3. And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for a harlot,  
and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.
4. Yea, and what have you to do with Me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine?  
Will you render Me a recompence? And if you recompense Me,  
swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head;
5. Because you have taken My silver and My gold,  
and have carried into your temples My goodly pleasant things:
6. The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have you sold to the Grecians,  
that you might remove them far from their border. (Javan is also Turkey)
- 7 Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither you have sold them,  
and will return your recompence upon your own head:
8. And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah,  
and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: for the Lord has spoken it.
9. Proclaim this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men,  
let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:
10. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears:  
let the weak say, I am strong.
11. Assemble yourselves, and come, all you heathen & gather yourselves together round about:  
thither cause your mighty ones to come down, O Lord.
12. Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat:  
for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

13. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; ([the winepress of God's wrath](#)) for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great.
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 the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.  
[Revelation 6:13 - The 6<sup>th</sup> Seal opens!](#)
16. The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem;  
and the heavens and the earth shall shake:  
but the Lord will be the hope of His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.
17. So shall you know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, My Holy Mountain:  
then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.
18. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine,  
and the hills shall flow with milk,  
and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters,  
and a fountain shall come forth out of the house of the Lord,  
and shall water the valley of Shittim.
19. Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness,  
for the violence ([Hamas](#)) against the children of Judah,  
because they have shed innocent blood in their land.
20. But Judah shall dwell forever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.
21. For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the Lord dwells in Zion.

## Former Rains - Moreh - Sept/Oct - the Fall Rains

Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming is likened to RAIN in Psalms

"He shall judge the poor of His people, He shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure throughout all generations. **He shall come down like rain** upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth. In His days shall the righteous flourish and abundance of peace so long as the moon endures." [Psalms 72:6](#)

### God equates RAIN with HIS WORD and HIS SPIRIT

[Isaiah 55:10](#) For as the **rain comes down** and the snow from heaven and returns not thither, but waters the earth & makes it bring forth bud that it may give seed to the sower & bread to the eater So shall **my word** be that goes forth out of my mouth, it shall not return unto Me void."

[Isaiah 44:3](#)"For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground. I will pour my spirit upon your seed and my blessing upon your offspring."

[Deut 32:2](#) "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass"

### God Withholds the Rain because of Israel's Adultery

"If a man put away his wife & she go from him & become another man's, shall he return to her again? Shall not that land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers; yet return to Me, says the Lord. Lift up your eyes to the high places and see where you have not been lien with. In the ways have you sat for them as the Arabian in the wilderness; and you have polluted the land with your whoredoms & with your wickedness. Therefore the showers have been withheld, there has been **no latter rain**; you have a whore's forehead, you refuse to be ashamed." [Jer. 3:1-3](#)

### The Rains as the Seasons of the Coming of the Lord

1. Early rain    2. Teacher (TWOT from root Yoreh)

#### Joel 2:23

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He had given you the former rain **H4175 moderately**, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, **H4175** and the latter rain in the first (month).

**"For He has given you the teacher of Righteousness"** - alternate translation

**מֹרֶה** m. pr. part. Hiphil, of the root **רָהַ** — (1) *a shooter, darter, archer.*

(2) *the early rain*, see the root Hiphil No. 1, 2.

(3) *one teaching*, Isaiah 9:14; 2 Ki. 17:28; *a teacher*, in plur. used of prophets, Isa. 30:20. — Job



"The Latter Rains" Malquosh - March / April Rain

שׁוֹקֵלֵם

Deut. 11:14 That I will give *you* the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, **H4456** that thou may gather in your corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

Job  
29:23 And they waited for me as for the rain;  
and they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain. **H4456**

Pro 16:15 In the light of the king's countenance *is* life;  
and his favor *is* as a cloud of the latter rain. **H4456**

Jer 3:3 Therefore the showers have been withheld, and there has been no latter rain; **H4456** and you have a whore's forehead, you refuse to be ashamed.

Jer 5:24 Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that gives rain, both the former and the latter, **H4456** in his season: He reserve unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.

Hos 6:3 Then shall we know, *if we* follow on to know the LORD: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter **H4456** *and* former rain unto the earth.

Joe 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He has given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain **H4456** in the first *month*.

Zee 10:1 Ask of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; **H4456** *so* the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

מִלְקוֹשׁ m. (from the root לָקַשׁ) *the latter* (i. e. the spring) *rain*, which falls in Palestine in the months of March and April, before the harvest. Deu. 11:14; Jer. 3:3; 5:24; opp. to the former or autumnal rain (יֹרֵה, מוֹרֵה). Poet. an eloquent and profitable discourse is compared to the latter rain Job 29:23.

## "The Former and the Latter Rain" - A Movement Based on a Misunderstanding

[Deu 11:14](#) That I will give [you](#) the [rain](#) of your land in his due season, the first [rain](#) and the [latter rain](#), that you may gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

[Job 29:23](#) And they waited for me as for the [rain](#); and they opened their mouth wide [as](#) for the [latter rain](#).

[Pro 16:15](#) In the light of the king's countenance [is](#) life; and his favor [is](#) as a cloud of the [latter rain](#).

[Jer 3:3](#) Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there has been no [latter rain](#); and you had a whore's forehead, you refused to be ashamed.

[Joe 2:23](#) Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He has given you the former [rain](#) moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the [rain](#), the former [rain](#), and the [latter rain](#) in the first [month](#).

[Zec 10:1](#) Ask ye of the LORD [rain](#) in the time of the [latter rain](#); [so](#) the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of [rain](#), to every one grass in the field.

[Jas 5:7](#) Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and [latter rain](#).

[Jer 5:24](#) Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth [rain](#), both the former and the [latter](#), in his season: he reserves unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.

[Hos 6:3](#) Then shall we know, [if](#) we follow on to know the LORD: His going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the [rain](#), as the [latter](#) and former [rain](#) unto the earth.

Lunar Month	Preexilic Hebrew Name	Postexilic Babylonian Name	Modern Equivalent	Festivals	Agricultural Season
1	Abd (Exod 13:4; 23:15; 34:18; Deut 16:1)	Nisan (Neh 2:1; Est 3:7)	Mar - Apr	1st: New Moon 10th: Passover lamb selected (Exod 12:3) 14th: Passover lamb killed (Exod 12:6-7; Lev 23:5) 15th - 21st: Unleavened Bread (Lev 23:6-8) 16th: Wave sheaf offered (Lev 23:10-14)	Latter (spring) rains Barley harvest Flax harvest
2	Zv (1 K 6:1, 37)	Iyyar	Apr - May	1st: New Moon 14th: Later Passover for those unclear in 1st month (Num 9:10-11)	Dry season begins
3		Sivan (Est 8:9)	May - June	1st: New Moon 6th: Feast of Weeks (Feast of Wheat Harvest Pentecost), loaves of wheat flour offered on 50th day from 16th of Nisan (Exod 23:16; Lev 23:19-21)	Early figs open Vine-tending
4		Tammuz	June - July	1st: New Moon	Wheat harvest First ripe grapes
5		Ab	July - Aug	1st: New Moon	Grape harvest
6		Elul (Neh 6:15)	Aug - Sept	1st: New Moon	Dates and summer figs
7	Etiyahim (1 Kings 8:2)	Tishri	Sept - Oct	1st: Blowing of Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah, New Year, Lev 23:24). Beginning of civil year 10th: Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur, Lev 16:23:27-32) 15th-21st: Feast of Ingathering (Exod 23:16) or Tabernacles (Succoth, Booth, Lev 23:34-43) 22nd: Holy convocation (Lev 23:36, Num 29:35)	Early (Autumn) rains
8	Bul (1 Kings 6:38)	Marchesvan	Oct - Nov	1st: New Moon	Plowing Olive harvest
9		Kislev (Neh 1:1; Zech 7:1)	Nov - Dec	1st: New Moon 25th: Dedication (1 Macc 4:52-59, John 10:22)	Grain planting

The "Latter Rain" Movement

The Spirit of Error

Doctrines

World Wide end Times Revival

History

) Leaders/Pastors

Eschatology

Ecclesiology - Unity

Apostles & Prophets

Verses Mis-Used

UnScriptural Practices/Manifestations

## "Joel's Army" - "A Time of Departing"

Joel's Army is a Charismatic movement closely connected with the [Latter Rain Movement](#) that began in the 1940s. The term *latter rain* refers to [Joel 2:23](#), which says God will send a "latter rain" in addition to a "former rain" (KJV). Some Pentecostals have interpreted this not as God's physical blessing on Israel but as an outpouring of the Spirit in the "last days" that will usher in a worldwide great revival. Only with complete unity (ecumenism) can this great revival take place. Doctrine is now divisive, and only deeds matter (Rick Warren - Purpose Driven). Part of Dominion Now teaching, the Church must conquer the whole earth (The 7 Mountain Mandate) before Jesus can return. "Joel's Army" sees itself as soldiers that God is raising up during the last days to perform miracles, execute judgment, and take dominion on earth before Christ returns. This movement emphasizes the teachings and revelation of modern-day "apostles" and "prophets (NAR)," as well as the impartation of miraculous gifts. Leaders associated with the Joel's Army movement include: William Branham, C. Peter Wagner, Bill Hamon, Rick Joyner, Mike Bickle, Bill Johnson, Paul Cain, Bob Jones, Rodney Howard Browne, most Prosperity preachers, and so many more.

There are many theological problems with the Joel's Army movement. First, there simply are [no modern-day apostles](#). To be an [apostle](#) in the biblical sense, one must be an eyewitness of the risen Lord Jesus Christ ([1 Corinthians 9:1](#)), be sent forth by the Holy Spirit ([Acts 9:15](#)), and have the ability to perform signs and wonders ([Acts 2:43; 2 Corinthians 12:12](#)). The Bible says there were 12 apostles, and they laid the foundation of the church ([Ephesians 2:20](#)).

Rick Joyner, a popular purveyor of the Joel's Army doctrine, writes of a time when "news teams will follow apostles like national leaders, recording great miracles ..... Miracles which exceed even some of the most spectacular Biblical marvels will cause whole nations to acknowledge Jesus ..... The appearances of angels will be so common that they will cease to be related as significant events. The Lord Himself will appear to councils of apostles and elders to give them directives ..... Young children will cast out demons, heal the sick, raise the dead, and divert raging floods with a word. Some will actually take dominion over entire hospitals and mental institutions, healing every patient in them by laying hands on the buildings" (*The Harvest*, 1993, p. 32-34). This is a bold prophecy- and one we are still waiting to be shown to contain an ounce of truth.

New prophecy is another problematic teaching of Joel's Army. Those receiving a word directly from God, in the same way the biblical prophets did, would effectively reopen the canon of Scripture. Joel's Army's belief that large numbers of Christians are being raised up, performing Spirit-filled miraculous works, taking "possession" of large areas of earth prior to Christ's return, and causing dread *in* the hearts of unbelievers goes directly against clear biblical teaching. God cannot contradict His own Word, and He is not adding to it through the visions of self-proclaimed prophets today.

True to their Holiness roots, Joel's Army expects to be completely sinless as they complete God's work in the world. Joel's Army, the sinless ones, will be the agents through whom God will purge all sin out of the world. Such teaching is totally unbiblical. The apostle John could not have been more clear: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us" ([1 John 1:8](#)).

God nowhere instructs Christians to execute judgment on unbelievers. The kingdom of God will not be brought to earth forcibly by Christians. Rather, we are to share the good news of the gospel and pray that more will come to salvation in Christ ([Matthew 28:18-20](#); [2 Peter 3:9](#)).

It is God Himself who will execute judgment during the tribulation and at the final resurrection. It is also God who will establish an earthly kingdom during Jesus' millennial reign. The authority to judge has been given to Jesus, not to "Joel's Army" ([John 5:27](#)). And taking political, economic, and cultural [dominion](#) on earth is not a task for "Joel's Army." "The Church takes Jesus' place.

Additionally, some in this movement such as Rick Joyner, claim to have conversations with dead people such as Adam. The practice of live humans conversing with the deceased is called necromancy and is prohibited in Scripture as a form of divination ([Deuteronomy 18:11](#); [Acts 19:19](#)). There is absolutely nothing in Scripture that could lead anyone to think that it's appropriate for the living to speak to the dead. These same prophets have personal angels who advise them.

Further, the Joel's Army movement connects spiritual warfare with supernatural healings and miracles beyond the context of Scripture. [Ephesians 6:12](#) notes believers are in a spiritual battle, but nowhere are believers called to march around naming and casting out demons or healing every sickness in their midst. Instead, believers seek the will of God and follow the Spirit of God by focusing on the Word of God. The Bible is full of warnings against false prophets, [false teachers](#), and imposters of Christ ([Matthew 24:1-25](#); [2 Peter 3:3](#); [Jude 1:17-18](#)). No one *should* be fooled by the leaders of Joel's Army, but many are caught up in the "New Wine." This movement has grown into a gigantic spider web of deception infiltrating and infecting the Holy Ghost Churches.

[First John 4:1](#) says, "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." Members of the Joel's Army movement may sincerely believe that they are doing the work of God, but their doctrine is unbiblical. We should pray for the members of this movement to come to the knowledge of God's truth, and we should avoid any level of participation in it.

### Other Names for Joel's Army Movement

Dominion Now/ Kingdom Now

The New Wine

The NAR

The New Breed

The Man Child Company

The Order of Melchizedek

The Manifested Sons of God

The Latter Rain

The Third Wave

The Kansas City Prophets

The Restoration of All things



"Latter Rain" or "Dominion Teaching"  
"End Time Revival & End Time Apostasy?"

"When the Son of Man comes will He find faith upon the earth?" (Luke 18:8).

"Because of iniquity, the love of many will wax cold." Matthew 24:12

"But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these." (2 Timothy 3:1-5 NASB)

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths." (2 Timothy 4:3-4 NASB)

"Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts," (2 Peter 3:3 NASB)

Latter Rain Doctrines

- 1 The Church must be Restored & Equipped to rule by the five-fold ministries.
- 2 It must come to Perfection & Complete Visible UNITY. (includes Rome)
- 3 Out of the purified church will come a Spiritual Elite Corps,  
a Corporate Christ who possess the Spirit without measure
- 4 They will Purge the earth of all Wickedness & Rebellion
- 5 They will Judge the Apostate Church
- 6 They will redeem Creation, and Restore the Earth
- 7 They will eventually overcome death itself in a Counterfeit of the Rapture
- 8 The Church will thus Inherit the Earth,  
and Rule over it from the Throne of Christ.
9. Jesus can only Return the 2<sup>nd</sup> time when the Church has conquered all.
10. They do not recognize Israel in Bible prophecy
11. They teach a worldwide end time outpouring of the Holy Spirit
12. Part of these groups deny the Rapture, the others deny persecution.

Other Names for Latter Rain Teaching: (Now Called NAR)

Kingdom Now

"The ManChild"

Dominion Now

7 Mountain Mandate

Joel's Army

Order of Melchizedek

Manifested Sons

Bridal Paradigm

"The church isn't going sit and take it any more. The church isn't going to wait to be helicoptered out of the world in some rapture rescue plan. The church will stay right here and by its spiritual authority even defeat the principalities and powers in the heavenlies, dragging them to earth and putting them under their heel". Paul Cain, a survivor of the Latter Rain (1950) is currently marketing a vision of an elite company of overcoming spiritual warriors called "Joel's army". This end-time spiritual army unit will be an invincible band, which leads the church in dominion on the earth. A purging of the wider church of those who will not follow the new order is necessary to constitute a unified global church. -

Teachers of the new order tell us that all this has been prophesied. This is an end-time fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles. These teachers assert that Passover found fulfillment in the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. The Feast of Pentecost was fulfilled in the outpouring of Spirit, and now the only remaining feast is that of Tabernacles to be fulfilled in the last days' church. It is a second Pentecost with restored apostles and prophets. This end time spiritual army will put all God's enemies under its feet, yes even the last enemy, death itself. This introduces us to another added teaching of the Latter Rain (1950).

After the bizarre 2008 Todd Bentley Revival in Lakeland, a letter was issued that asked: Do you, Stephen Strader agree with and stand behind the official statements of the Assemblies of God General Councils of 1949 and in Resolution 16 at General Council 2000 concerning the Latter Rain movement and End Time Revival, which both condemned the Latter Rain movement and its doctrines as unbiblical?

These doctrines include:

- The overemphasis on identifying, bestowing, or imparting spiritual gifts by the laying on of hands and naming, supposedly by prophecy, specific gifts.
- The problematic teaching that present-day offices of apostles and prophets should govern church ministry at all levels. and "The erroneous teaching that the church is built on the foundation of present-day apostles and prophets"
- "The extreme teaching... of confession of sin to man and deliverance as practiced, which claims prerogatives to human agency which belongs only to Christ"
- The practice of imparting/ imposing personal leadings by means of gifts of utterance.
- Wresting and distorting Scripture through interpretations that are in opposition to the primary meaning of biblical passages.
- Kingdom Now or Dominion theology.
- Manifest Sons of God and Joel's Army
- Spiritualizing Biblical Events and History
- The Hyper Prosperity Gospel
- Birthing
- Generational Curses
- Excessive fixation on Satan and demonic spirits/Deliverance
- Excessive Fascination with Physical "Manifestations"

## True Former and Latter Rains - The Book of Joel

The first Pentecost was the birth of the Church and marked the event of when the Holy Spirit was first given. It was directed towards the Jewish people who were to bring the gospel to the nations. While this has become a cliché for the so-called new revival, there are numerous differences between then and now. The Holy Spirit came like a mighty rushing wind at this first assembly. We don't see this repeated at any other time in Scripture so we should not expect to see this today. Also, the shekinah glory appeared over each person in the upper room in the form of a visible presence. It was never repeated in the New Testament. It was a singular act showing a physical manifestation that the Spirit was first given in the upper room to a gathering of a faithful remnant.

**Acts Chapter 2** - The new Jewish believers spoke in other tongues on the Day of Pentecost. Other Jews heard them in their own languages giving praises to God. This was a sign for those who were unbelievers. Then Peter under the unction of the Holy Spirit preached a bold sermon - **Acts 2:14-36**. Peter stood up among the 11 disciples who were accused of being drunk. Their accusers who were mockers were mistaken because they heard them speak in other languages. Yet we hear from promoters of the New Revivals of the Latter Rain, that these people were drunk in the Spirit, reeling and babbling like drunkards, Peter says that they were not drunk, meaning they were not acting like that. He then points to Joel's prophecy.

Today the Latter Rain adherents believe in a Last Day's Revival unlike any other in history. The Bible speaks a great End Time Apostasy, a falling away instead of a Great End Time Revival before Jesus returns. This Latter Rain movement is an outgrowth of the Restoration Kingdom Now Movement also known as Joel's Army that claims to bring restored truth which sadly is continual heresy. This false theology is mostly anti-Israel and applies eschatological passages for Israel to the Church, known as Replacement Theology. It introduces numerous false teachings such as the Manifested Sons of God doctrine (William Branham) that certain believers will not die but be made immortal in these last days. The false fruit of this false doctrine states there will be an army led by new prophets and apostles into the greatest manifestations of spiritual gifts the church has ever seen. (NAR - New Apostolic Reformation) Their miracle power will be greater than even Jesus' or the apostles. All false doctrines!

A common mistake is taking the scripture in **Acts 2:17** which says: 'God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh.' This verse is being used to validate the New Revivals of the Latter Rain theology today.

What exactly did Peter mean when he said this and then **quoted Joel 2:28**? Peter says in Acts 2 quoting from Joel 2 and purposely stops because the later part of this verse and next chapter is for a different time period. If we go back to the book of **Joel (2:28-32)**, we find that the timing of these events are just before the great and dreadful Day of the Lord. The location where this takes place is Israel. The people being referred to here are the Jews. Peter himself makes perfectly clear whom he is speaking to and where he is. (**Also Joel 3** states: 'for behold in those days and in that time...' It then goes on to speak of Armageddon and judgment). This is also mentioned earlier in **Joel 2:10-11**. These verses speak specifically to the Jewish nation concerning a future event. What Peter refers to in Acts 2 does not include all of what happened in Joel 2. This is known as the Law of double reference when a prophecy has a partial fulfillment at that time and a complete fulfillment at a later date. This can be classified as a literal prophecy with application (a pre-fulfillment). There is a similarity in one point of the text, yet he quotes all of it from Joel. This one parallel point has is the manifestation of the Spirit.

What Peter said is this is "like that" (**Acts 2:16**) not this is that! In **Acts 1:4-5**, we read about the promise that Jesus told the disciples: "John baptized you in water but you will be baptized with the Spirit not many days from now..."

This promise that Jesus made to His disciples was followed not many days later with the fulfillment of the promise of the prophet Joel. If one looks carefully at Joel and then at what took place in Acts 2, we see that it was not fulfilled in a completely literal sense at that time. Ex: They did not prophesy or dream dreams.

We should also notice that Peter quotes Joel mentioning that the sun is darkened and the moon is turned to blood-red: 'Blood and pillars of smoke before the coming of the great and terrible Day of the Lord'. So this is clearly referring to a specific time and a future event. None of these natural phenomenon's had occurred in Acts 2 but had some similarities. Those at Pentecost were experiencing a glimpse of what would happen by the Spirit during the tribulation period, which would bring revival to Israel as a nation. This would be a greater harvest in number and in spiritual manifestations will be given to people of all ages both men and women alike.

All of the book of Joel is uniquely linked to the national salvation of the Jews preceding Christ's return it is referring to the Tribulation period. In **Joel 2:23**, we find the phrase 'the latter rain' that has been used and is still being ascribed to revival: 'Be glad then you children of Zion and rejoice in the Lord your God, for He has given you the former rain faithfully and He will cause the rain to come down for you. The former rain is in September ( the fall Feasts) and the latter rain is in March-April (the Spring Feasts). "The threshing floor shall be full of wheat, the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil." The modern day prophets have misunderstood these verses and misapplied the concepts, and sadly they have used them to manipulate Christians into wrong doctrines/bizarre practices.

In **Joel 2:27**, God will pour out His provisions on their crops, thereby giving Israel abundance and restoring the material blessings to their nation which will prove that God is with them again, and that their shame has been removed. Truly the meaning here is physical rain needed to restore wheat, wine, and oil. What's even more important: the latter rain is in the first month (Fall - September/October). Physical rain is needed to restore Israel's wheat, wine, and oil. In Israel there are only 2 rainy seasons: the former (fall)and later rain (Spring). At the end of the spring rain, Israel harvests for grain, at the end of the fall season, they harvest fruits. In between the 2 rains is a long hot summer in Israel. Israel depends on 2 rains (Latter and former), because it doesn't rain in summer. Now we can understand this spiritually: The former rain and the latter rain ARE the 2 rains that ALSO parallel Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming. Israel's 7 Feast Days (Leviticus 23) detail His 1<sup>st</sup> Coming as the 3 Spring Feasts (Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits). Jesus fulfilled these exactly on time at His 1<sup>st</sup> coming, On the 4<sup>th</sup> Feast (Pentecost) the Holy Ghost came exactly on time (Acts 2). Jesus will in like manner fulfil the final Fall Feasts ( Trumpets, Atonement, and Booths) at His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming 2<sup>nd</sup> when He returns to earth to set up His kingdom and rule the nations.

Israel is God's timepiece for the nations. The clock is now stopped and is known as the time of the Gentiles. This is the Church Age! Prophetically we are in the age after Pentecost and before Fall on the Jewish calendar. This is the time of working and plowing the ground getting the land ready for the next harvest. Why does the 1st rain (Latter rain) comes then stop, and the 2nd rain comes (The former rain) and is stronger than the first rain. The rains parallel the God's sovereign pouring out of His Spirit; first in Acts when so many Jews were saved to begin His Church and again why so many Jews will be saved in the end as **Romans 11** says. The **Book of Revelation** emphasizes the End Time Harvest is the Nation of Israel. The 144,000 are Jews, the 2 Mighty Witnesses are Jews, the City of Jerusalem is under attack by the armies of the Anti-christ (**The Book of Joel** corroborates this). The Tribulation is a Yom Kippur Service to redeem Israel as a nation.

**Joel then prophesies in v. 28**, that God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh. What flesh? Specifically Israel's for their salvation. **Zech.12:10**: "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of

Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son,"

**In Acts 2:17** The words 'your sons, your daughters, your old men, and your young men' again refers to God primarily speaking to Israel then and also in the future. When Peter quoted this, it was to the Jews who were there in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. The future fulfillment also refers to the Jews in Israel. This prophecy can apply to the Holy Spirit move during the Church Age, but God's primary target in the End Times is Israel. **Romans 11:25-26** "For I would not, brethren that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits: that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And So all Israel shall be saved, when I shall take away their sins." **Joel 2:31** times this events with the tribulation v.31" before the great and awesome day of the Lord." In **Rev.6:12 parallels Joel 2:31** in the 6th Seal of the Tribulation. **Joel 2:32** prophesies "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in Mt Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, and in the remnant which the Lord shall call. That remnant is Israel!

**In Joel 2:2-11** God's Army but this does not mean they are His people. This is the Locust army that comes to destroy Israel. In the same way Cyrus was called Gods shepherd **Isa.44:28** he was given all the kingdoms of the earth **Ezra 1:2 and 2 Chron.36:23** He was called God's anointed **Isa. 45:1**"Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, Nebuchadnezzar was also called Gods servant **Jer. 43:10**: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will send and bring Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant."

If we go back to **Joel 2:20** it refers to the defeat of the Northern Army, God himself removes it. "His stench will come up and his foul odor will rise because he has done monstrous things." They will be judged and destroyed in the tribulation (Many refer this passage to Joel's Army as an army doing God's will through signs and wonders from the Latter Rain being poured out on them). However, we read that Joel's Army clearly is destructive to Israel (vs. 3, 5, 6), and God will destroy it So why would the Church want to be part of this army. V.25 This army is described as locusts that have brought ruin. In v.28 we find it is after this army marches and is destroyed, that God will pour out his Spirit. This all occurs just before the end of the tribulation. Peter inserts "in the last days." Why? Because The Holy Spirit stops him before **Joel 2:32** "And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls." So the ultimate fulfillment for this prophecy happens in Jerusalem to the Jewish people who are saved by Jesus in person from this destructive army which marches through their land. It is God's perfect way of humbling them and bringing them to repentance.

**Joel 3:1** "In those days" and "at that time." This is Armageddon, as He gathers all the nations into the valley of Megiddo for judgment. **Joel 3:12-15** Messiah enters into judgment (**Rev.14:18**). In **Joel 3:13** "put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe; come, get you down, for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great." The exact parallel passage is found in **Rev14:15 -20** when Jesus puts in the sickle for the harvest. **Joel 3:15** "The sun and moon grow dark and the stars withdraw their shining." (**Mt.24:29, Rev.6:12**). these days that the complete fulfillment will occur. The judgment of the nations begins after the Tribulation ends, just before the Lord sets up His millennial reign (**Mt.24 continues into Mt.25** where He separates the sheep from the goats). Only at this time will peace between the nations occur. We can not use types and shadows like the Latter Rain theology does to interpret doctrine unless doctrine consistently points to these patterns. The only way the false Latter Rain group can get around this solid truth is to spiritualize or allegorize this passage and rip it out of context Sadly, the teachers Latter Rain do exactly this. They deny hundreds of verses claiming Jesus Christ will return in power to make war and to subdue His enemies: they claim all of this power for themselves.

## "The Latter Rain Movement - Themes & Names"

**Neo-Pentecostalism** "God is doing a New Thing" Misuses Isaiah 43:18-19 "Behold I do a new thing, now it shall spring forth, shall you not know it." Karl Strader, Rodney Howard Browne "For those of you who are religious (Bible followers) it is going to get worse, but for those of us that are under the anointing it is going to get better." Anointings to transfer Impartations "under this anointing the words I speak cannot fall to the ground, under this anointing everything I say happens." Benny Hinn-"Birthing in the Spirit Conference"

**The Charismatic Movement**- Renewal of Spiritual gifts, Tongues with little Bible Doctrine  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wave (1<sup>st</sup> Wave - Azusa Street (Pentecostal Fire) 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave (Charismatic Revival)

**The Toronto Blessing**

**New Apostolic Reformation** - modern day Apostles govern Pastors, Churches, Networks

**Kingdom Now/Dominion Theology**

**Progressive Revelation** - God speaks personally to apostles, prophets, extra-Biblical

**Revival/Harvest**- The Great End Time World Wide Revival - no Great Apostasy

**7 Mountain Mandate** (Gov't, Religion, Family, Entertainment, Business, Education, Media)

**Joel's Army** - Joel 2:11 "The Lord shall utter his voice before His army" (Locusts)

**Replacement Theology**- The Church rules and reigns before Jesus returns, No Israel

**Post-Millennial or Amillennial Eschatology**- Book of Revelation/Bible Prophecy shunned

**Greater Works Signs and Wonders** -John 4:12 "Verily, verily I say to you, He that believes

on Me the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do because I go to My Father." (Elevates man above the Son of God)

**Territorial Warfare** - Strategic Spiritual Warfare - Spiritual Mapping, Prayer Walking, War in the Heavens, Identification Repentance (Identify Demonic Principalities, Go to Mountaintops to make decrees to Cast Down Principalities, Warfare Music

**Ecumenism** - Unity at any Cost to Bring End Time Revival - Promise Keepers - Catholic Church

**Restoration of Apostles and Prophets** - Governmental Authority of Super Apostles & Prophets  
Ephesians 4:11-13 "And He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

Acts 3:21 "Whom heaven must receive until the restitution of all things (they claim this is the 5 fold ministry gifts) which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."

**Manifested Sons of God**- Romans 8:19 "For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the Manifestation of the sons of God." William Branham teaching - an elite group of modern Christians set apart for great signs and miracles; who hear the Word of the Lord for the Church today. This verse is clearly talking about getting our glorified bodies in heaven which has not happened yet. Misuses Rev. 5 "And He has made us priests and kings unto God." **Jim Jones** of Peoples Temple death cult was a firm believer of William Branham's Manifest Sons of God doctrine.

**Order of Melchizedek** (Misuses Ps 110:4 - The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 7:17 tells us this is speaking of Christ. They believe we can become perfect and immortal as gods in this life. "Ye are little gods"



"Jesus will come back to earth and be given the Kingdom that has been won for Him by this man Child Company. The manifested sons of God" doctrine teaches that these sons will be equal to Jesus Christ: immortal, sinless, perfected sons who have partaken of the divine nature. They have every right to be called gods and will be called gods." (Prophet Bill Hamon)

**The New Breed** "The Lord has planted this seed of the New Bride and the New Breed. He's about to open the womb, and give birth to this New thing...When the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, we beheld the glory of the only begotten of the Father, and you being to become that Word. I want you to know that the world will behold the glory of the Father, that's what we are waiting to see. I want you to know we're going to have some channeling out of these days, channeled right out of the throne room of heaven" Vineyard Prophetic Conference 1989  
Rick Joyner "There will surely be saying of us, He saved the best for last" Rod Parsley said "1999 was the year of supernatural birthing year 2,000 we are coming out of the spiritual womb a new creation, a new church of Jesus Christ with new power, new vision, new victory, new vigor. I'm looking forward to marching victorious into this new millennium with you - God's revolutionary army is on the move."

**"Birthing in the Spirit"** at conferences, revivals; both men and women hunch over in birth positions, suffer contractions, groan and moan in labor... "spiritual midwives"

**The Man Child** - "The church has become pregnant ready to give birth! Sarah is a type of the church, withered and the womb is dried up in many places, BUT God is sending a revival of joy to awaken and renew the Church so that she can bring forth the Man Child of joy, even the Army of overcomers who will go forth in the likeness and image of the Lord in these last days." 1994 Gwen Shaw - End Time Handmaidens. Misuse of Rev.12:1-5 "And she brought forth a man child ( Jesus not the Church) who was to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne."

**Feast of Tabernacles** - George Warnock's Book - Latter Rain doctrines in practice

**The Elijah List** - Modern day list of false Prophets and their false prophecies - Steve Shultz

**Prophetic Seers** - James Goll, Jane Hamon, Cindy Jacobs, Chuck Pierce: Prophets hear, seers see

**Kansas City Prophets** - Mike Bickle, Bob Jones, Paul Cain, Bill Hamon, Larry Randolph, James Goll, Jill Austin, John Paul Jackson, "The Elijah Company"

**End Time Transfer of Wealth** - Proverbs 13:22 "A good man leaves an inheritance for his children, and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just." (for NAR Apostles & Prophets)

"Money Cometh" (Leroy Thompson - Prophetic Wealth Transfer Anointing) "You Can Write Your Own Ticket with God" "Gain is Godliness" "Jesus was Rich" The Prosperity Gospel

**Shepherding/Discipleship Movement** (70's-80's) "The Fort Lauderdale 5" (Don Basham, Bob Mumford, Derek Prince, Charles Simpson, Ern Baxter in 1969 start New Wine magazine and (CGM-Christian Growth Ministries) based on 2 Timothy. Grew to major conferences. Became a pyramid of heavily abusive authority as every life decision must be covered by elder or pastor, where to live, who to marry, when to see a doctor, how much money and tithes were to be given. Derek Prince repented and wrote about false shepherding and false revivals.

Fire Tunnels, Gold Teeth, Gold Dust, Glory Clouds, Violent Shaking, Animal Manifestations, Laughter, Frozen in the Spirit, School of the Prophets, Heavenly Portals, Prophetic Alignments, Personal Angels

## "Sound the Trumpet!" - Joel chapter 2:1-11

Some years ago there was a popular song called "Blow the Trumpet in Zion." The people promoting this song believed in kingdom dominion and saw it referring to the End-Time Church taking possession of the nations resulting in a Christianized world. They saw Joel's Army as a picture of a triumphant Church taking over the nations at every level of society. They actually taught (and still do) that whole nations would be converted and governments around the world subjected to the kingdom of God on earth. Of course they see this entire scenario happening before the return of our Lord Jesus.

However, the whole context of Joel's army has nothing to do with a triumphant Church in the way expressed by the kingdom dominion advocates. In fact the army was God's Army alright but an army sent to judge the backslidden and rebellious nation of Israel. In its context it was referring to the Babylonians but as we have already seen in previous studies this army also refers to an End-Time demonic army devastating Israel, the Church and the nations. Ultimately this army would manifest itself in the armies of the Antichrist. Indeed it will see 200 million soldiers under the command of the Kings of the East!

The whole picture created by Joel's prophecy is one of darkness, despair and gloom as God's divine judgments are poured out on a Messiah hating Messiah rejecting world at the end of this present age. Indeed there was to be a trumpet blown in Israel to sound the alarm of impending judgment and to call God's people to repent before the Judgment fell. It was a wake-up call to the nation to change their ways or reap the consequences. As we have already said in a previous study God always warns the faithful and the unfaithful before He sends judgment.

God never delights in dealing severely with His people and always tries to find every way possible for them to avoid judgment but if they persist in wickedness and rebellion then He has no choice but to send calamity. The wake-up call to Israel in Joel's time prophetically is a wake-up call to the Church in the last days! In fact the whole emphasis of this prophecy seems to apply to the time of the end more than it does to the time of the Babylonian invasion of Israel in 586 BC. Now let's move into the text itself.

*(Vs. 1) "Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill.*

Usually when you see trumpets sounded in the Bible it is to announce God's warnings and judgments or to announce some advent of huge proportions. When a city was in danger of attack the watchman would sound the alarm to galvanize the people into action! Usually there wasn't much time. They had to rouse themselves up to defend the city. It wasn't a time to be sitting around eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage or conducting business transactions. These days most houses have a smoke alarm don't they. It is there to warn the occupants if a fire breaks out. The purpose of the alarm is to wake up the occupants to move quickly out of the house when it is on fire otherwise they will be consumed in the flames.

When the fire starts the occupants have little or no time to grab anything but have to run for their lives as the flames engulf the house. It is a time of emergency. Imagine someone sleeping through such an alarm! However, Israel did exactly that. Time after time the Lord sent His prophets to warn the people of impending judgement but they refused to listen!

For the people of God in the Old Testament time God's messengers were men like Noah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Isaiah. For the time of the New Testament down to the present day it was men like Peter, James, John, Stephen, Wesley, Whitfield, Spurgeon, Booth, Moody, Finney and Torrey just to name a few. All of these mighty servants of God were His instruments to save souls and sanctify saints and to correct and discipline a backslidden and often-rebellious church. These days you can hardly find men of their caliber in the Church. Today we have moved from a Philadelphian type of Church to a Laodicean type of Church.

These days it is hype, sensation, and Christians seeking for miracles, signs and wonders having little or no regard for the Word of God. In most churches today, especially the mega churches, you will hardly find any pastor or teacher really teaching eschatology. It is mostly hype, marketing strategies, psychology or a watered down humanistic and anemic form of Biblical Christianity. For many the Bible is a prop they have in their pulpits but you never hear any exegesis of scripture from these men. Add to this ecumenism and interfaith dialogue and you have a part of "Mystery Babylon the Mother of harlots."

In many churches today Christians are getting further and further away from the Bible. There is almost little or no exposition of scripture today and no doctrinal teaching. Those who remain faithful to the whole council of God for man as revealed in the Bible are ridiculed and rejected because of their faithfulness to the Word of God. Indeed the western democracies historically associated with Biblical Christianity have long ago parted company with their spiritual roots. Indeed *"the axe is laid to the root."* The "locusts" are on the march again! Whether they come in the form of false prophets and teachers, or false cults or as a mighty Islamic army to challenge the west they are on the march. Yes there is recession, diseases, earthquakes, famines, wars and rumors of wars and COVID-19 but the end is not yet! These are just the beginning of "birth pains!" And so Joel continues...

*"Let all those who live in the land tremble,"*

The land was the land of Israel, specifically the city of Jerusalem. The people were to tremble at what was coming upon the city and the land but they partied on in the circle of the merry-makers refusing to heed the warnings of the prophets. Today in the professing Christian Church in the west people are trembling and shaking but it is not with fear at impending judgment but with levity, laughing and having a good time! Indeed they party around the golden calf of prosperity oblivious to the axe that is about to fall. The house is beginning to burn but they will not heed the alarm! Instead of seeking the Lord and delving deeper into His Word they are chasing after illusive signs, miracles, wonders, false visions and dreams, prosperity and kingdom dominion in this world! Let's move on...

"For the day of the Lord is coming. It is close at hand- a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. "

Most people these days do not realize what is happening. Nations are in anxiety and perplexity at what is happening globally as people are fainting and apprehensive of what is coming on the world. Multitudes do not know what is really going on today in our world. People have no idea that current events, especially in the Middle East, are fulfilling Bible Prophecy. People's hearts are weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life not knowing the way out and that the Day of the Lord will close on them like a trap so that they will not escape. Others are eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage and conducting business without realizing the deluge soon to engulf the whole world. Many are now dying of COVID-19 around the world and yet for the most part the unsaved are continuing in their sinful and rebellious ways.

In the Church there are those who are living no differently than those living in the world and in many cases they are even scoffing and saying, *"Where is this coming He promised? Everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."* Yet they forget that the ancient world was destroyed by water and do not realize that the present heavens and the earth are reserved for the judgment of fire and for the destruction of ungodly men and rebels! Indeed the Day of the Lord is at hand because a thousand years is as a day to the Lord and He is not slack in fulfilling the promises He has made in His Word!

The Bible's description of the Day of the Lord diametrically opposes the proponents of kingdom dominion theology. Just before Jesus comes back things are not going to get better but worse. All of the prophets and the Lord Jesus Himself clearly spoke about this. Those who love the Lord Jesus, love His Word and love His appearing will be looking up into the heavens knowing full well that their redemption and rescue is drawing near despite what is happening around them in the world. On the other hand all those who do not love the Lord Jesus or His Word will be in fear and anxiety at what is coming on the world. In the end there will only be one of two choices left for everyone, Christ? or the Antichrist? Indeed the conditions in the whole world leading up to Jesus Second Coming will be *"a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness."*

What happened to Egypt in the time of Moses with plagues and judgments according to the book of Exodus will happen again to the "Egypt" of this world according to the book of Revelation. The final judgment of Pharaoh and his army at the Red Sea foreshadows the final destruction of the Antichrist and his armies at the Second coming of Christ. Now Joel begins to describe this army. It is foreshadowed in the Babylonian army but the primary vision concerns the armies of the Antichrist attacking Israel and devastating the world at the end of this present age. During the Great Tribulation this army will be empowered by Satan himself and indeed it will be said of them, *"Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"* And so Joel continues to prophesy...

"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."

Historically the Babylonian army was probably the most powerful army that has ever existed on this earth. While there have been other mighty armies there has never been anything quite like the Babylonians. However, history will have never seen an army like this one Joel sees in his vision of the last days. We know from the Bible that there was a "prince" or "principality" over the kingdoms of Persia and Greece and that these demonic spirits were behind the thrones of these ancient kingdoms. However, a demonic principality will not drive this army Joel describes, but Satan himself will drive it being manifested in the man called the Antichrist.

This army will sweep down from the region of Turkey and spread throughout the whole Middle-East and destroy everything that stands opposed to its agenda for the world. It is a supernaturally empowered army. It is described in Revelation as having Satan as its commander. *"They had as their king over them the angel of the Abyss whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek Destroyer."* The great distinguishing mark of this army is that it denies the Father and Son relationship in the Godhead. It will be inspired and empowered by the spirit of the Antichrist. Its real fight will be against the Lord Jesus Christ. *"They (The 10 kings whose armies are part of this great army) have one purpose and will give their power and authority to the beast (empire). They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because He is Lord of Lords and King of kings-and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers."* It is only after this army is destroyed that the saints will inherit the kingdom and not before.

(Joel2: 3) "Before them fire devours, behind them a flame blazes."

Today with the world's stockpile of weapons of mass destruction it is quite clear that this army will have massive firepower at its disposal. With this firepower a third of mankind will be destroyed. The apostle John writes; *"A third of mankind was killed by the 3 plagues of fire, smoke and sulphur that came out of their mouths."* (Revelation 9:18) The number of these troops was two hundred million. John heard their number.

Today it is nothing for an Islamic terrorist to put his finger on the button of a nuclear weapon because if he dies in Jihad fighting the infidel (unbelievers) he will be rewarded in the afterlife with 72 virgins in paradise. What does he really care about those whom he will kill? The stage is now being set for the war to end all wars that will culminate in the gathering of this army at the place called Armageddon. John tells us this in Revelation. *"Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon."* (Revelation 16:16)

All of the kingdoms in this world opposed to the Lord Jesus the Messiah and the establishment of His kingdom on earth will suffer a severe earthquake of global proportions and be inundated by 100lb hailstones. The biggest earthquake and hailstorm in history will occur.



*"Then there came flashes of lightening, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since man has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of His wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. From the sky huge hailstones of about a hundred pounds each fell upon men. And they cursed God on account of the plague of hail, because the plague was so terrible." (Revelation 16:18-21)*

Can you imagine the great skyscrapers around the globe collapsing and a hailstorm so great that it kills men and animals alike? Isaiah the prophet also alluded to the collapse of the great skyscrapers when he said, *"In the day of great slaughter when the towers fall."* When you look at the devastation wrought on the twin towers in the 9/11 tragedy (In their case by terrorists in planes) you have a miniscule glimpse of what will happen when the world's greatest earthquakes occurs! Who has not seen pictures of the devastation caused by earthquakes in countries like Indonesia, India and Japan? All of these are but the beginning of the "birth pains" that will precede the establishment of the Messiah's earthly kingdom when He comes back to reign over the nations that have survived these judgements of God.

*(Vs. 3) "Before them the land is like the Garden of Eden, behind them a desert waste-nothing escapes them."*

Here we have a reference to the fall of man in the garden. Before Adam and Eve fell under Satan's power everything was good and perfect and death and sickness and disaster did not exist on the earth. However, when Adam and Eve betrayed the Lord and gave in to the power of Satan they actually invited him to have rule over the race of men. From the moment they fell to his spiritual seduction every human being to be born into this world would be infected with sin and rebellion. This was the original source of all of the sickness, disease, death, suffering and sorrow we see in our world today.

Like the locusts this army will destroy life on a scale unprecedented in history. The locust plague takes every bit of greenery in the countryside. Before the locust swarm comes trees and flowers and crops bloom and flourish. After the locusts have come there is nothing left but tree trunks stripped white and aridness spread over the land like a blanket. All signs of life virtually gone and a panorama of destruction on a vast scale is all that remains.

In such a way the army of the Antichrist will devastate the Land of Israel and the whole world. In that day scarcity will be a global reality. John described this in the book of Revelation. *"When the Lamb (Jesus) opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come." I looked and there before me was a black horse. Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.*

*Then I heard what sounded like a voice among the four living creatures, saying," A quart (about 1 litre) of wheat for a day's wages and three quarts (about 3 litres) of barley for a day's wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!"(Revelation 6:5-6)*

*(Joel 2.:4) "They have the appearance of horses, they gallop along like cavalry." (Vs. 5) "With the noise like that of chariots they leap over the mountain tops, like a crackling fire consuming stubble, like a mighty army drawn up for battle."*

*"They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails and stings like scorpions and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek Destroyer." (Revelation 9:9-11)*

We must always keep in mind that demons operate through men and women. Scripture confirms this fact. This army no doubt is a demonic one.

*(Joel 2: 6) "At the sight of them nations are in anguish; every face turns pale."*

Indeed for Israel it will be, *"The time of Jacob's trouble"* when every face will turn pale and strong men will be gripping their stomachs in fear of what is coming upon them. For Israel it will mean the sacking of Jerusalem as half of the city is ransacked, the women raped and the people taken into exile. The other half of the city will be spared. However, Jeremiah says, *"But he (Jacob meaning Israel) will be saved out of it."* In the book of Exodus when it looked like Israel would perish at the hands of Pharaoh and his army at the Red Sea the Lord delivered them by the hand of Moses and destroyed the Egyptians. In like manner when it looks as if Israel and Jerusalem is finished Jesus will come back and destroy the Antichrist and his army! For the sake of His chosen people Jesus will rescue Israel after He raptures and resurrect the faithful Church. (Jeremiah 30: 1-11) (Zechariah 12-14) (Matthew 24:30-31).

*(Back to Joel 2:7-8) "They charge like warriors; they scale walls like soldiers. They all march in line, not swerving from their course. They do not jostle each other, each marches straight ahead. They plunge through defences without breaking ranks."*

This army is a committed army, a dedicated army who have one agenda only and that is world domination. There is an army of "Babylonians" today and it is the power of Islam. Their agenda is global domination and to enforce Sharia law. They are not like the western armies. They have the capacity to break down defences and infiltrate the cities of their enemies. Islam is entrenching itself in Europe, England, America, Australia, and in many other third world nations.

Muslims sound peaceful now but when the Antichrist comes they will become militant as the Koran instructs them to be. Their leaders will not compromise as the leaders of the western nations do. They feign friendship through economic ties with the west but only until they have the upper hand and then they will strike like the serpent! They all march in line not swerving from their course. They are united against a common enemy. Of course the real source of their power is Satan himself. Even though Ishmael's seed is divided under the power of Satan and when they have a common enemy such as Israel, they will join forces.

*(Joel 2: 9) "They rush upon the city; they run along the wall. They climb into the houses; like thieves they enter through the windows."*

This army will invade every level of society. No one will be able to escape them. It is so powerful because it is a Satan led and demonically inspired army that they can't be stopped by human power. To suggest this army is a picture of the triumphant end time Church taking possession of the nations as the Kingdom Now people advocate is ludicrous! Both the text and the context of the prophecy teach otherwise. There is also a spiritual aspect to this army as it also describes the myriads of false prophets and teachers spreading spiritually seducing the Church.

Just look at how many Christian living rooms are being invaded with the TV preachers peddling another gospel with their emphasis on money and prosperity. Look at the religious sects gaining a foothold in the world. New Age concepts are coming into the Church: many are moving down the path of interfaith and ecumenical associations.

*(Vs. 10) "Before them the earth shakes, the sky trembles, the sun and moon are darkened and the stars no longer shine."*

Matthew 24 *"Immediately after the distress of these days (depicted in Joel) 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."* The same scenario is mentioned in Revelation 6 *"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, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place."* All of these events are part of the Day of the Lord when God's wrath is poured out on a Christ hating, Christ rejecting world.

Isaiah speaks about this time, *"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. 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. 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. I will make man scarcer than pure gold, more rare than the gold of Ophir. Therefore I will make the heavens tremble; and the earth will shake from its place at the wrath of the Lord Almighty, in the day of His burning anger."*

"Both the heavens and the earth will be reeling under the judgments of God. This great army is God's army sent to judge sin and rebellion. It is a godless pagan army that God will destroy when its purpose has been fulfilled. Again it needs to be said that Joel is not describing the end-time Church! This is a ridiculous interpretation!

*(Vs. 11) "The Lord thunders at the head of His army; His forces are beyond number, and His mighty are those who obey His command."*



While the devil is the god of this world he still does not have ultimate control. The Bible clearly teaches that God is still in control of all things. He raises up kings and puts them down and that nothing or no one can overthrow His purposes and plans. God Himself orchestrated the Babylonian invasion of Jerusalem and Judah and He will orchestrate the final invasion of Israel and Jerusalem. However, He will not let Jerusalem or Israel perish but right at the last minute Jesus Messiah will come to their defence and destroy that great Northern army (Joel 2:18-20).

The Lord used the Assyrians to judge Samaria and the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722BC and then destroyed the Assyrians. Likewise He used the Babylonians to judge Jerusalem and Judah in 596BC and then destroyed the Babylonians. In the last days He will use the armies of the Antichrist to judge Israel and the nations and then destroy them on the mountains of Israel in the Valley of Jehoshaphat all the way down into Saudi Arabia and Egypt (Joel 3:1-3). When the Lord Jesus comes back He will rapture the Church, rescue Israel, and judge the nations and usher in His Millennial kingdom. And so Joel continues...

*"The day of the Lord is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?"*

The Day when the wrath of God is poured out will be like nothing the world has ever experienced before. In the days of Noah the flood was something that the people of his time had never experienced before and it will be the same for the people of this world at the end of the age when the judgment will be by fire! On the day of God's wrath the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty and every slave and every free man will hide in caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the rocks and the mountains to fall on them to hide them from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?