Jehovah's March Among the Locusts (Joel 1:4)

Tony Mauck · Joel 1

INTRODUCTION

- The severity of the plague, spoken of both literally and then figuratively, proved to the prophet that the pesky critters of destruction were actually God's agents of judgment upon a disobedient people.
- In the midst of the doom, as we saw with Jeremiah, there are words of hope in regard to what God is doing.
- What we have going on with the story of the locusts is a day of visitation of the Lord.

1 A Day of Visitation of the Lord

Joel 1:1–6; Deuteronomy 28:38; 1 Peter 4:17

- What the swarming locust has left, the creeping locusts has eaten. And what the creeping locust has left, the stripping locust has eaten.
- For a nation has invaded my land, mighty and without number. Its teeth are the teeth of a lion, and it has the fangs of a lioness.
- You shall bring out much seed to the field, but you shall gather in little, for the locust shall consume it.
- One of the things that God would do would be to send locusts to wake the people up.
- For it is time for judgment to begin, and to begin with the household of God.
- This day of visitation is a wake-up call to a spiritually sluggish and misdirected people.

2 Our Response to Adversity in Our Lives

James 1:2–4

- Did Harvey mean something in regard to the activity of God? Again, we don't have a prophet to sort all that out for us.
- There are righteous people in Joel's times. Joel himself is one. And so he gets to deal with the adversity just like those who are disobedient.
- Consider it all joy, my brethren. When you encounter various trials. Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
- When the devil targets you, expect some adversity to be dropped on your doorstep.

3 Look Within at the Condition of Our Hearts

1 Peter 4:18; 1 Peter 1:7

- When you meet trouble, in whatever form it comes, the first thing we probably need to do is look within at the condition of our hearts.

- Rend your heart and not your garments. Joel's call, the call of all the prophets, the call of the New Testament is to heart examination.
- There is a refining process according to 1 Peter chapter 1 and verse 7 in regard to our faith by the trials that come our way.
- Instead of having a big pity party for yourself, first we might need to assess where am I spiritually?

4 Four Things We Should Seek from God

James 1:12

- His guidance, his vision, his help, plead to the one who can help like no one else, and the strength that he can supply.
- Assess your trust and confidence in him and in his word.
- Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial. For once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love him.
- Those who persevere in the midst of adversity, with their faith intact, they receive the crown of life.

5 Salvation, Sobriety, and Sanctification

Joel 1:14; Joel 1:19; 1 Peter 3:21

- Salvation, sobriety, and then my sanctification being set apart for God's will and his purposes as his vessel, all of those will result from an appeal to the right place.
- Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.
- Ultimately there is no getting around God's day of reckoning.
- What is baptism? It's a cry to God, to plea to God for salvation and for a clean conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

THE CHALLENGE

He tries to convince that a great happiness is available to you in something other than this. Whatever thrill he can offer, rest assured. It is temporary and inferior to what God promises to give us and to reward us with.

MY NOTES