

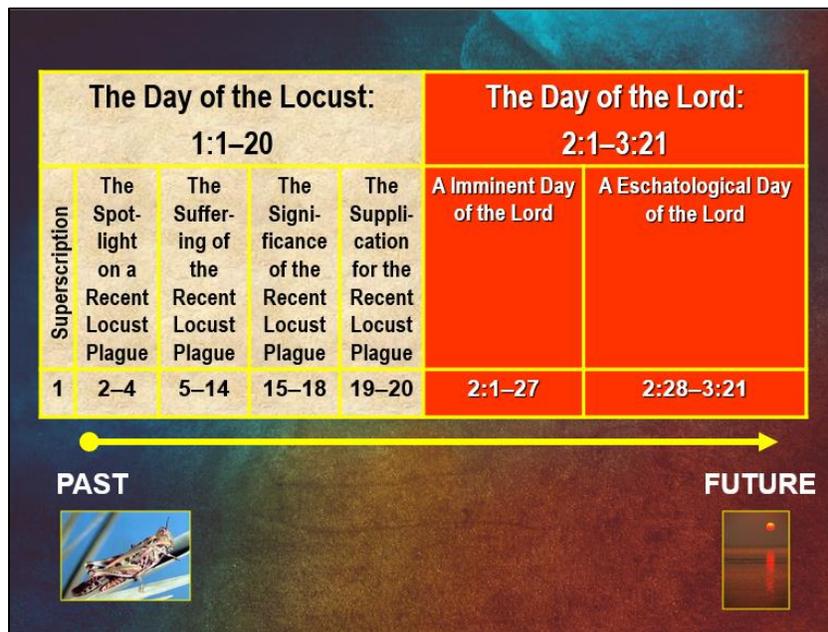
Major Truths from the Minor Prophets

Joel 1:1–20: Learning from a Disaster

Learning from a Disaster:

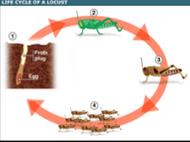
1. I can learn about God.
2. I can learn about others.
3. I can learn about myself.

Introduction and Overview	
Who	Joel (YHWH is God) son of Pethuel
To whom	Pre-exilic Judah
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A debated and difficult issue • I would suggest a date around 830 BC during the early part of the reign of King Joash (835–796)
Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage Judah to return to the Lord with repentant hearts • To give hope that God would deliver and restore
What about Jesus and the NT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several passages point to Jesus (2:27, 28; 3:2, 12). • Joel is quoted twice in the New Testament (Acts 2:17-21; Rom 10:13)
What the book is about	Former days of the Lord point to a greater Day of the Lord in which God will both judge His people but also restore them afterwards.



A. The *Superscription* (v. 1)

B. The *Spotlight* on a Recent Locust Plague (vv. 2–4)

Options for Interpreting the Locusts in 1:4		
The wording represents different kinds of locusts	The wording represents different stages of locust development	The wording is solely for rhetorical effect
Literal	Literal	Semi-Literal
		

Locust Facts

- Desert locusts can consume the approximate equivalent of their body mass each day in green vegetation
- A single swarm can cover about 466 square miles and can contain between 25 and 50 million locusts per square mile
- The locust can live between three to six months, and there is a tenfold increase in locust numbers from one generation to the next
- During the twentieth century, Desert Locust plagues occurred in 1926-1934, 1940-1948, 1949-1963, 1967-1969 and 1986-1989

Locusts in the Bible

- Locusts were the 8th plague unleashed against Pharaoh and the Egyptians (Exodus 10:1–20).
- **Locusts were part of the curses for disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:38, 42)**
- Second Chronicles 7:13–14 details the proper response to the locust plague
- Locusts are mentioned in the 5th Trumpet judgment in Revelation 9:3, 7

C. The *Suffering* of the Recent Locust Plague (vv. 5–14)

D. The *Significance* of the Recent Locust Plague (vv. 15–18)

Overview of the Day of the Lord

- A specific period of time in which God personally and decisively intervenes in the affairs of the world to accomplish a specific aspect of His purpose or will.
- The phrase “Day of the LORD” is used *about* 20x in the OT (Isa 13:6, 9; Ezek 13:5, 30:3; [Joel 1:15](#), 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14; Amos 5:18, 20; Obad 15; Zeph 1:7, 14; Zech 14:1; Mal 4:5) and *about* 6x in the NT (Acts 2:20; 1 Cor 5:5; 2 Cor 1:14; 1 Thess 5:2; 2 Thess 2:2; 2 Pet 3:10)
- It is usually used in the negative sense of judgment but it can be used in the positive sense of regathering, restoration, and redemption (e.g. Zech 14; Isa 10:27; Jer 30:19–31, 40; Mic 4)

E. The *Supplication* for the Recent Locust Plague (vv. 19–20)

Think and Do

- Consider what disasters in your life might teach you about yourself and about God.
- Use disasters as an opportunity to reorient yourself to God and challenge others to do likewise.