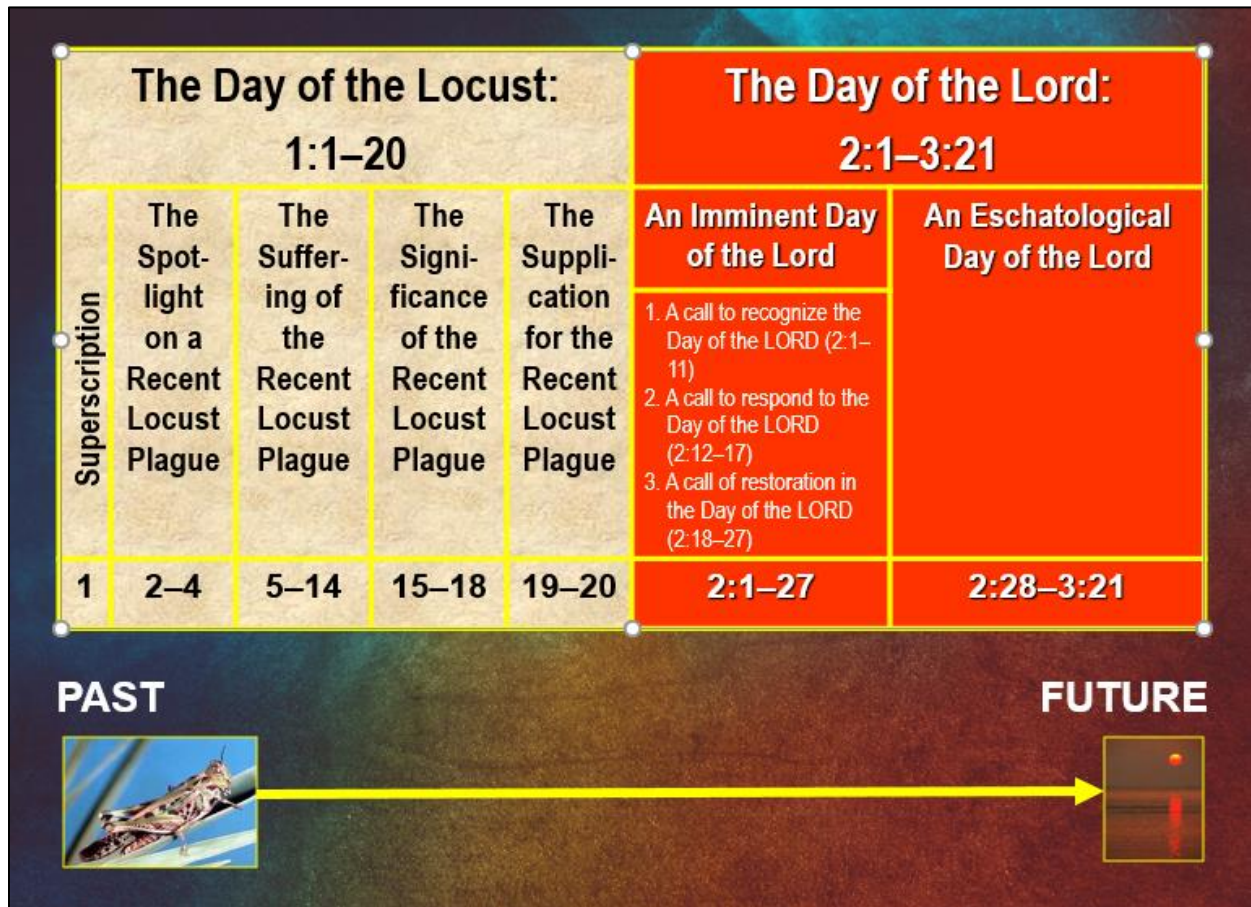


Major Truths from the Minor Prophets

Joel 2:1–27: Learning to Avoid a Disaster



The Identity of the Army		
Locusts (near or far)	Human (Assyrians, Babylonians, Other?)	Blend of Both
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A locust plague has already been noted The term “like” seems to support locusts (vv. 4, 5, 7) Locusts are called an army (v. 25) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trumpet warnings were used to warn against invading armies (v. 1) The reference to weapons seems to support a human army (v. 8) While locusts could enter houses, doing so makes more sense of a human army (v. 9) The invaders are “northerners” and locusts usually come from the south, whereas Israel is usually attacked out of the north (v. 20) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Symbols and referents can be challenging to distinguish “Like” would support a blending idea Locusts were previously described in human terms so humans can be described in locust terms
Three observations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The prophesied invasion was future at least from Joel’s time 2. The coming invasion is apparently an act of judgment (vv. 12-13) 3. The LORD will lead the invasion (v. 11) 		

1. A call to recognize the Day of the LORD (2:1–11)

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 is used about 20x in the OT and about 6x in the NT
- It is usually used in the negative sense of judgment but is occasionally used in a positive way (e.g. Zech 14; Isa 10:27; Jer 30:19–31, 40; Mic 4)
- It can be used in reference to chronologically near and far events

2. A call to respond to the Day of the LORD (2:12–17)

3. A call of restoration in the Day of the LORD (2:18–27)

Think and Do

- Realize that judgment is coming (heed the Word of the Lord).
- Respond before judgment comes (take the escape hatch).
- Rejoice that the Lord is a merciful God (cling to his promises).