DESOLATION

and



The LOCUST INVASION

The High Call of THE REMNANT

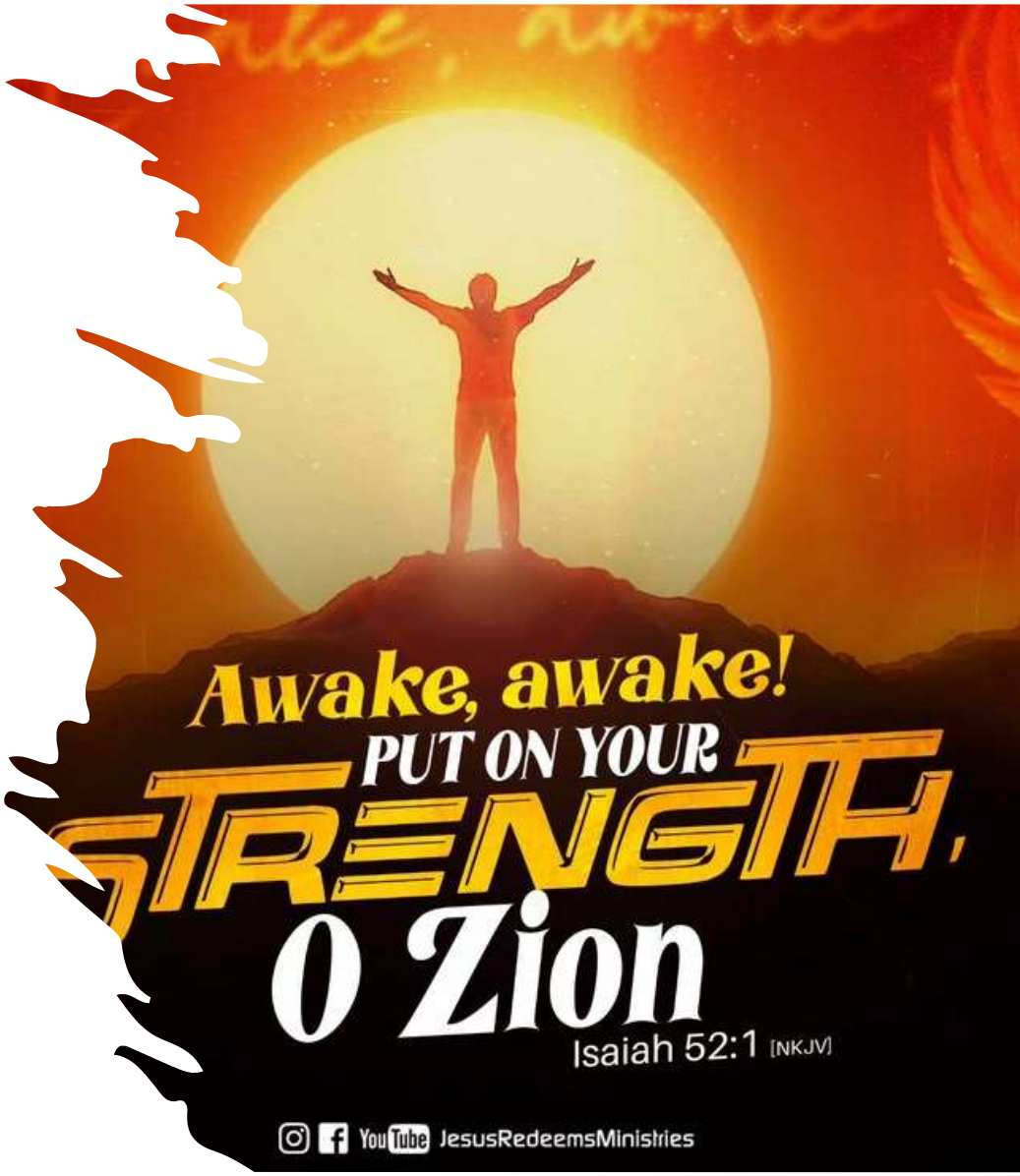


Sound Mind Ministries

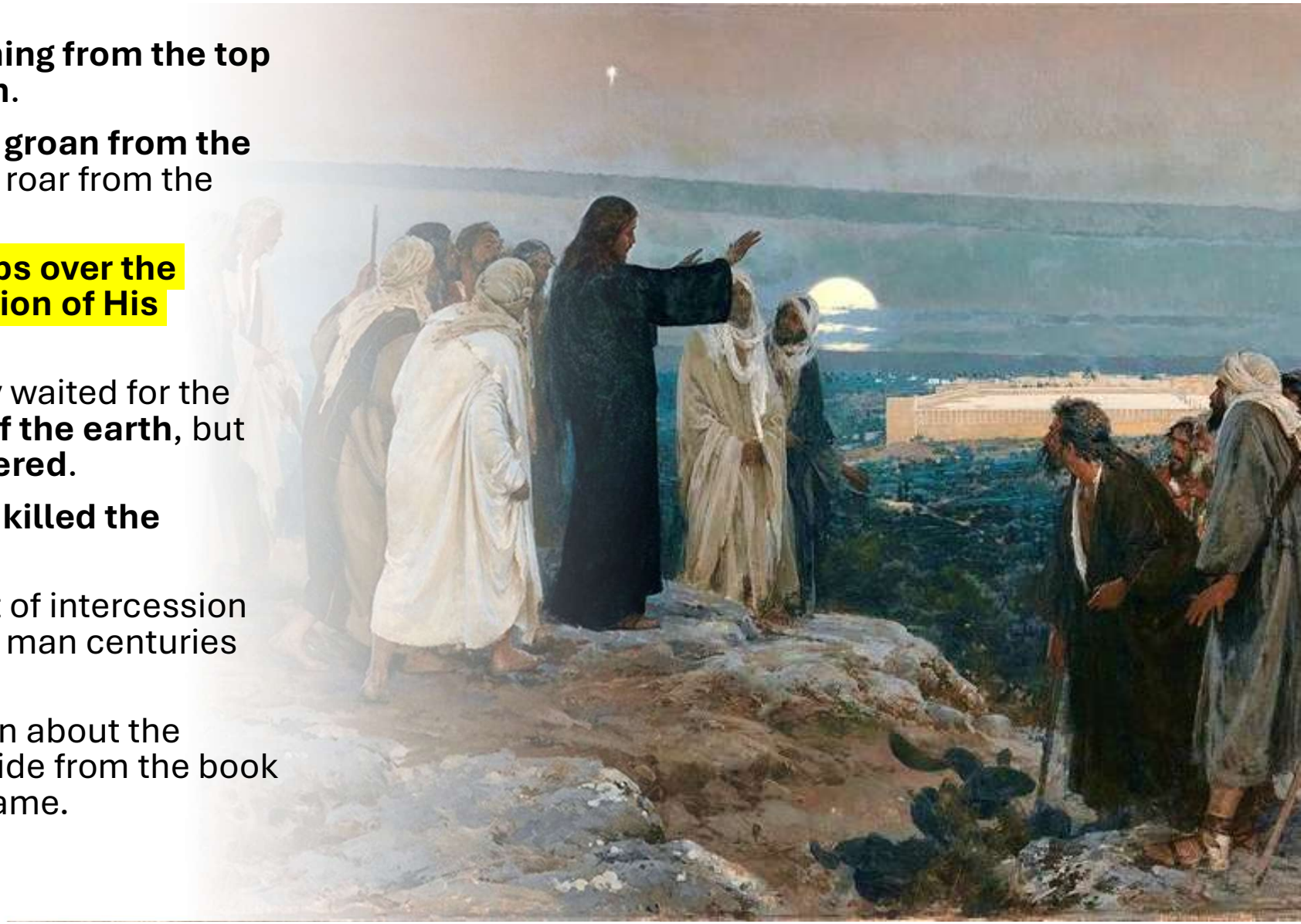
DIANA KETTERMAN

Message #3

- **Awake, awake**; put on thy **strength**, O Zion; put on thy beautiful **garments**, **O Jerusalem, the holy city**: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee **the uncircumcised** and **the unclean**.
- **Shake thyself from the dust**; arise, *and* sit down, O Jerusalem: loose thyself from the bands of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.
- For thus saith the LORD, **Ye have sold yourselves for nought**; and **ye shall be redeemed without money**. Isaiah 52:1-3
- Wherefore he saith, **Awake** thou that **sleepest**, and **arise** from the **dead**, and **Christ shall give thee light**. Ephesians 5:14



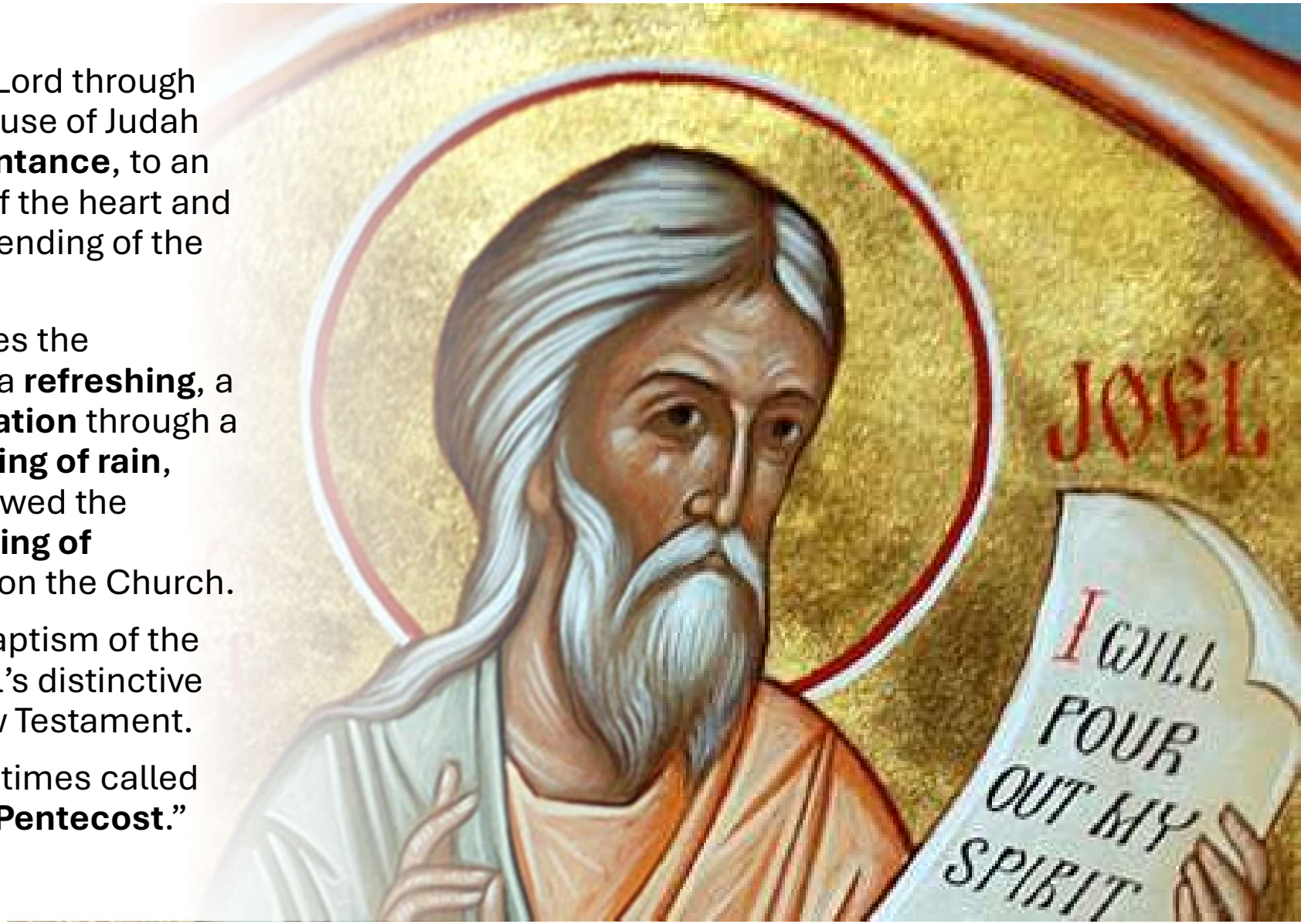
- I hear **a cry coming from the top of the mountain**.
- It's a **lamenting groan from the throne**, a lonely roar from the heights of Zion.
- King **Jesus weeps over the spiritual condition of His people**.
- He has patiently waited for the **precious fruit of the earth**, but the crop is **withered**.
- **Something has killed the harvest**.
- That same Spirit of intercession gripped another man centuries ago.
- Nothing is known about the **prophet Joel** aside from the book that bears his name.



- **Joel** appeared during **a locust plague** of unprecedented severity, accompanied by a season of **drought** and consequent **famine**.
- With passionate **earnestness** he **called upon the people** to **turn** wholeheartedly to the Lord.
- His **anointed cry gathered them**, one and all, into the sanctuary for **united prayer to avert**, if possible, further judgement.
- They **obeyed** the prophet's entreaty, and **the Lord heard their plea**.
- **Joel** the person is the Pentecostal Trumpeteer.
- He was a citizen of Jerusalem, and perhaps a Temple prophet.



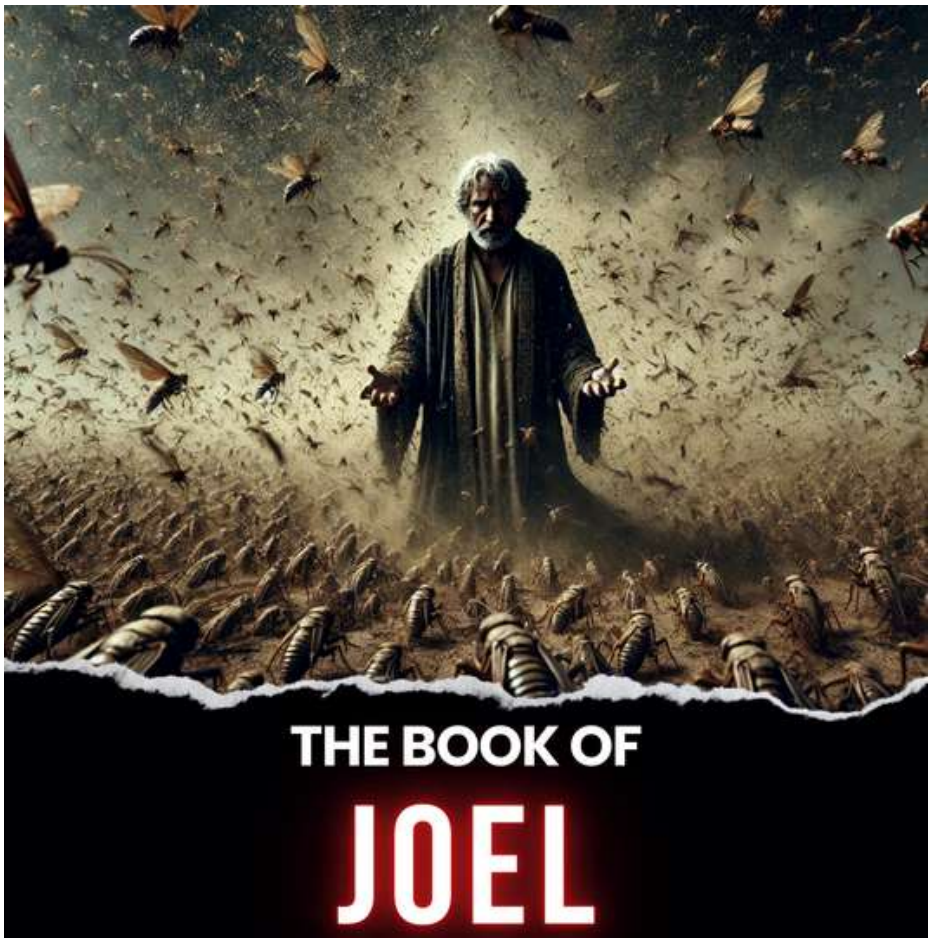
- The Word of the Lord through **Joel** calls the House of Judah to **genuine repentance**, to an inward rending of the heart and not an outward rending of the garments.
- The Lord promises the southern nation a **refreshing**, a **revival**, a **restoration** through a **natural outpouring of rain**, which foreshadowed the present **outpouring of spiritual rain** upon the Church.
- This promised baptism of the Holy Spirit is Joel's distinctive link with the New Testament.
- Thus, he is sometimes called the "**Prophet of Pentecost**."



YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHESY

- **Book of Joel**
  - 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;
  - And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.
  - And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.
  - The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.
  - And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call. Joel 2:28-32
- **Book of Acts**
  - But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all *ye* that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:
  - For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day.
  - But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;
  - And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:
  - And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:
  - And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:
  - The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:
  - And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:14-21

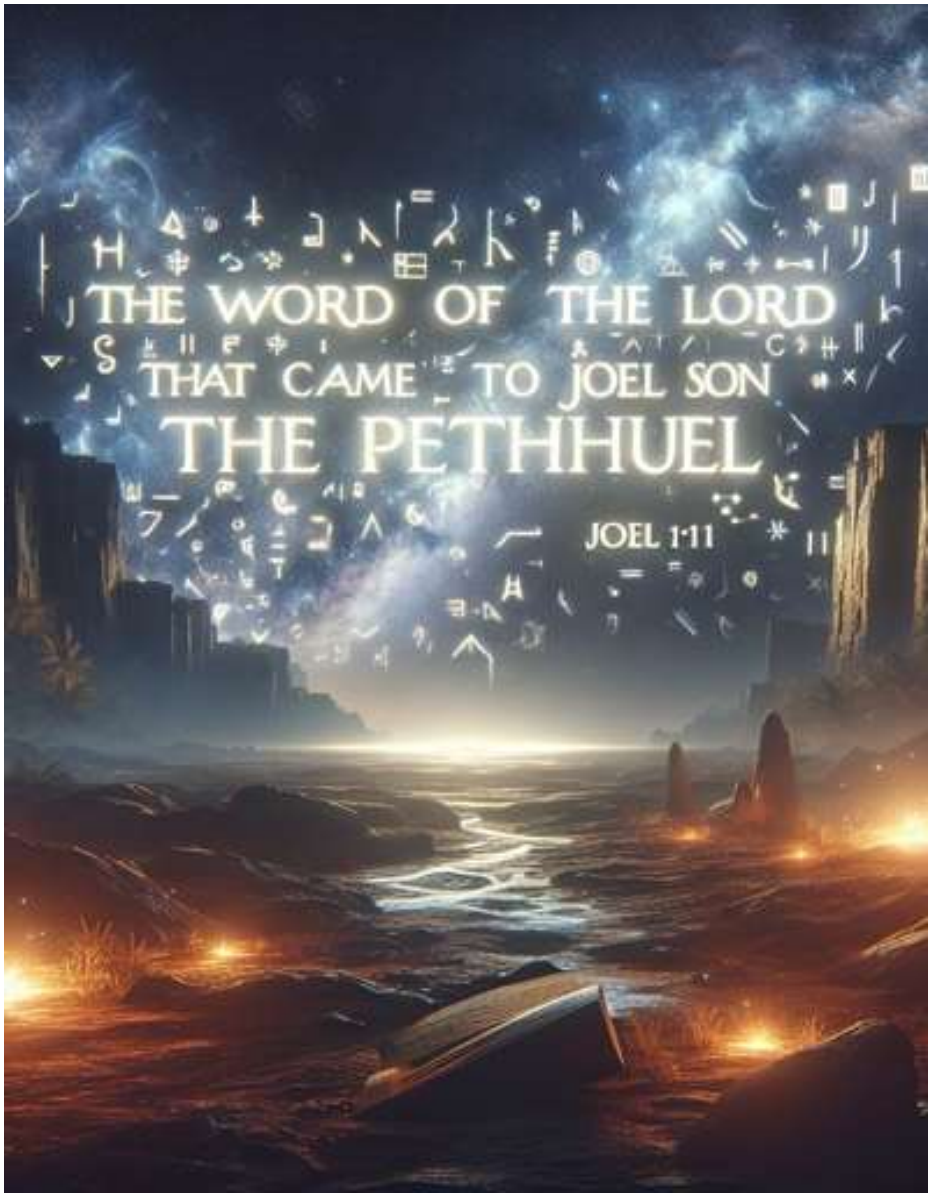
- Both Joel and his father Pethuel were men of ***EL*** (strong and mighty) men of God.
- The name, "**Joel**", means, "**Jehovah is (his) God**", and is a compound of "***Jehovah***" and ***El***.
- His name conveys a **confession of faith.**
- Joel was one of the **twelve Minor Prophets**.
- The book of **Joel** is the **Book of the Day of the Lord**, and was written by Joel, who ministered to the city of Jerusalem and the House of Judah.
- Its date is debatable and only can be discerned from the evidence of its three short chapters.
- The ministry of Joel probably covered a period of about 30 years (810-780 BC).



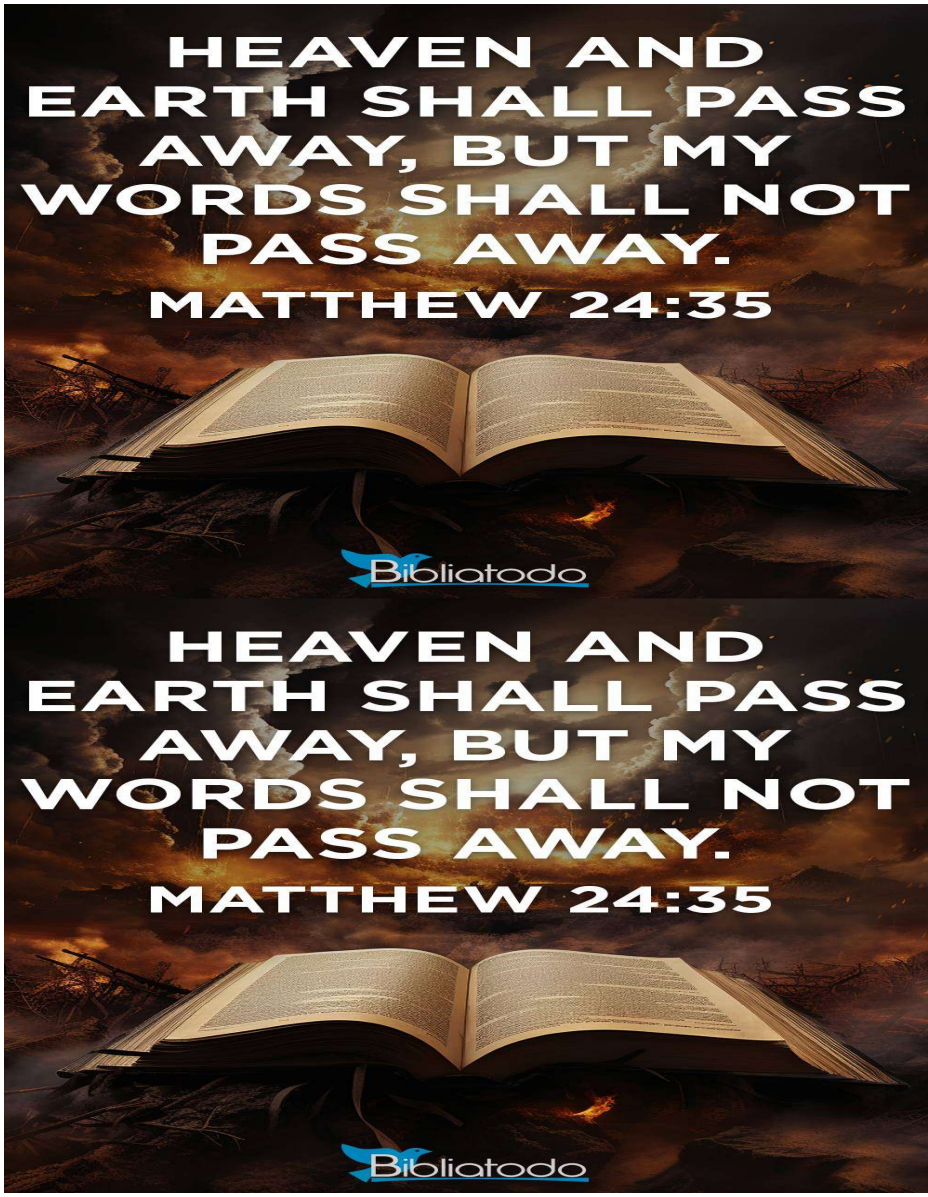
- The first chapter of Joel is a stark picture of **complete desolation and devastation.**
- No area of Jewish life and society lay untouched by these calamities.
- Everything was **withered** and **dying**: the **new wine** and **the vine**; the **meat** and **drink** offerings; the **corn**, the **wheat**, the **barley**, and the **harvest** of the field; the **pomegranate**, **palm**, and **apple trees**; the **joy** and **gladness** of the Lord; the **meat** (food) and the **seed**; the **garners** (treasure-houses or store-houses) and the **barns** (granaries); the **pasture** (feeding-place) and the flocks of **sheep**; the rivers of **waters – all were destroyed!**



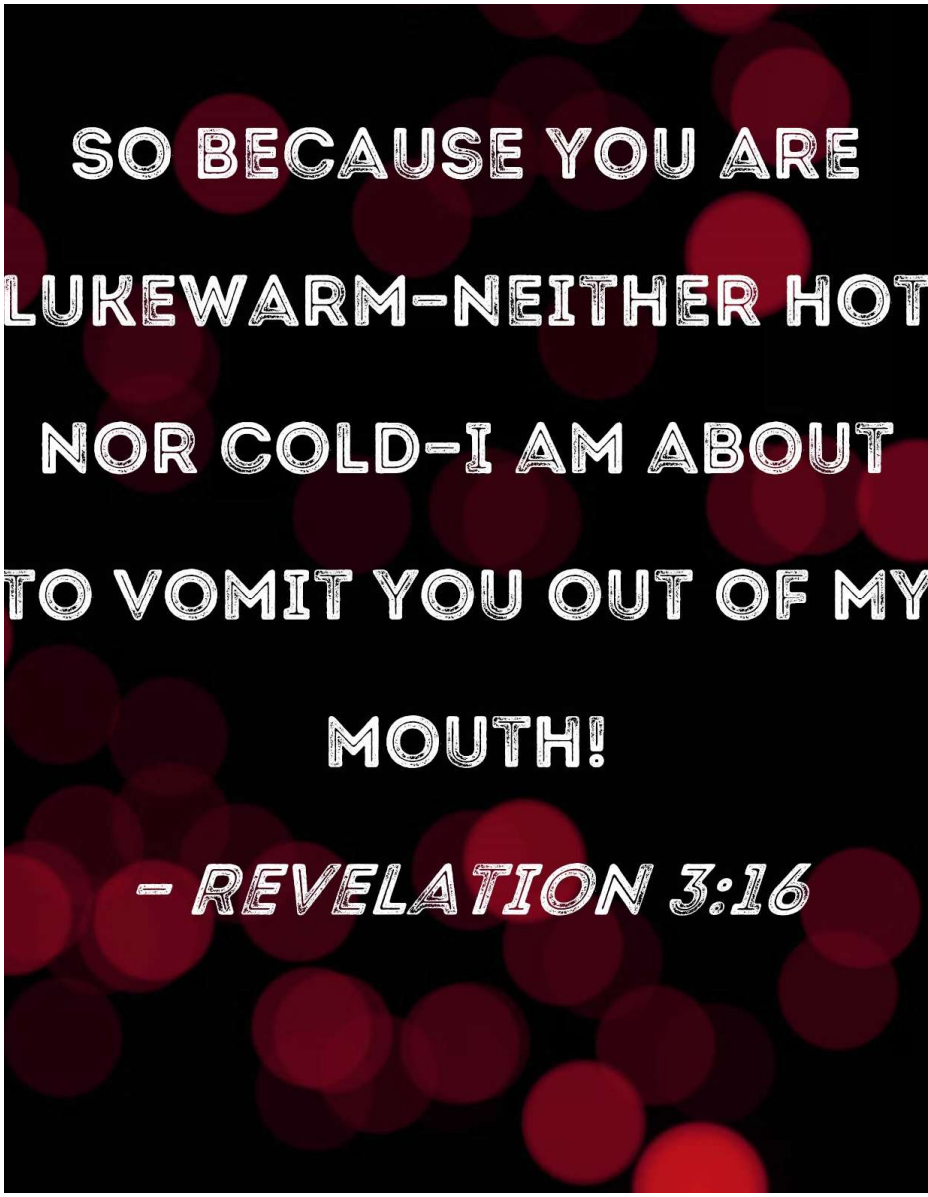
- The picture of this **vast devastation** in chapter one could be applied **present-day to the individual, the home, the local church, the community, the nation, or even the planet**.
- The **blowing of the trumpet** and the **sounding of the alarm** in Chapter two calls us back to Zion, the place of the **high calling**, which is consequently restored in Chapter Three.
    - **The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel**. Joel 1:1
- God's "**Word**" **through Joel** was addressed to Judah, which means, "praise".
- Judah is always prominent in Scripture and was **the first tribe** to march forward toward Canaan.
    - **In the first *place*** went the standard of the camp of the **children of Judah** according to their armies. Numbers 10:14



- **Jesus** came from the **chosen tribe** of **Judah**.
  - **For *it is* evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda**. Hebrews 7:14
- Judah points to the **Firstfruits Company**, to those apprehended for **Zion**.
  - These were **redeemed** from among men, ***being* the firstfruits** unto God and to the Lamb. Revelation 14:4
- Joel's message was straightforward and clear: "**Awake, O Zion**!"
  - For ever, O LORD, **thy word is settled in heaven**. Psalms 119:89
- While all else is consumed and wasted in this first chapter, **His Word remains constant and sure, steadfast!**
- **Heaven and earth shall pass away, but not His Word.** (Matthew 24:35)



- To the average Christian, who is accustomed to living in the **lower realms** of the Spirit, the Church today (especially in America) seems to be **prospering**.
- But from the **perspective of the third heaven** (**the Most Holy Place**), **her real spiritual condition parallels the widespread desolation described in Joel 1.**
- Similarly, the apostolic view of John on the Isle of Patmos describes the **Church of Laodicea**.
    - And unto the angel of the church of the **Laodiceans** write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;
    - **I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.**
    - **So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth**.
    - Because thou sayest, **I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:**
    - I counsel thee to **buy of me gold tried in the fire**, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and **anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.**
    - As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and **repent**.
    - **Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**
    - **To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne,** even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.
    - **He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches**. Revelation 3:14-22
- In that context, **John invites the corporate Overcomer to return to the high calling of sitting with Christ in His throne**.
- **The natural condition of the nations and the spiritual state of the Church throughout the nations is one of dire need.**



- **Natural** and **spiritual famine** are rampant.
  - Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that **I will send a famine in the land**, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, **but of hearing the words of the LORD**. Amos 8:11
- We may ask the elderly people, “Have you ever seen such days as these?”
- The prophet calls to “all” the inhabitants of the land.
- Jehovah speaks to the old men, the children, the children’s children, another generation, the married and the unmarried, the drunkards, the vinedressers, the husbandmen (farmers), the priests and the people of the “land”.
  - **Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?** Joel 1;2
- His judgements touch **everyone and everything**!
- The fathers are to tell the sons, the “children” of these things.
  - **Tell ye your children of it, and *let* your children *tell* their children, and their children another generation**. Joel 1:3







- **NATURAL FAMINE** versus **SPIRITUAL FAMINE OF HEARING**
- One of the nations that is in my heart is **Africa**!
- The "**street children**", the "**slum children**", the "**poor children**" are everywhere.
- Another nation in my heart is **Pakistan**.
- The children are **slaves of the brick kilns**, with many **born into slavery**.
- In **America**, church pews are filled with those who come from **dysfunctional homes and families**.
- The **marginalized** and **disenfranchised** are all around us.
- The land is **perplexed**.
- **Parents and children are confused**.
- **Often the TRUTH is not TAUGHT NOR HEARD!**

- **Preachers**, pressured by their popular game of "**nickles, noses, and names**" have sacrificed their families on the altar of a "**successful**" ministry.
- Many have fled from the **hypocrisy of the "church**".
- **Musicians** and **singers** have turned to the **world** to express their gifts, as well as the many who are **bringing the world into the "church".**
- The ***cry*** **of Joel's first chapter is everywhere because it expresses the cry of the "whole creation."**
    - For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. Romans 8:22



- It is noteworthy that Joel 1:2-3 reveals **four generations**.
- God's purposes are always **generational**.
  - And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, This shall be an holy anointing oil unto me **throughout your generations**. Exodus 30:31
  - Thy holy cities are a wilderness, **Zion is a wilderness**, **Jerusalem a desolation**.
  - Our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee, is **burned up with fire: and all our pleasant things are laid waste**. Isaiah 64:10-11
- **Zion is laid waste**.
- **But what has caused this crisis?**
- In **Joel's** day, **a horde of locusts**, along with **drought** and **famine**, had destroyed the land.
- **What has devasted the Church?**





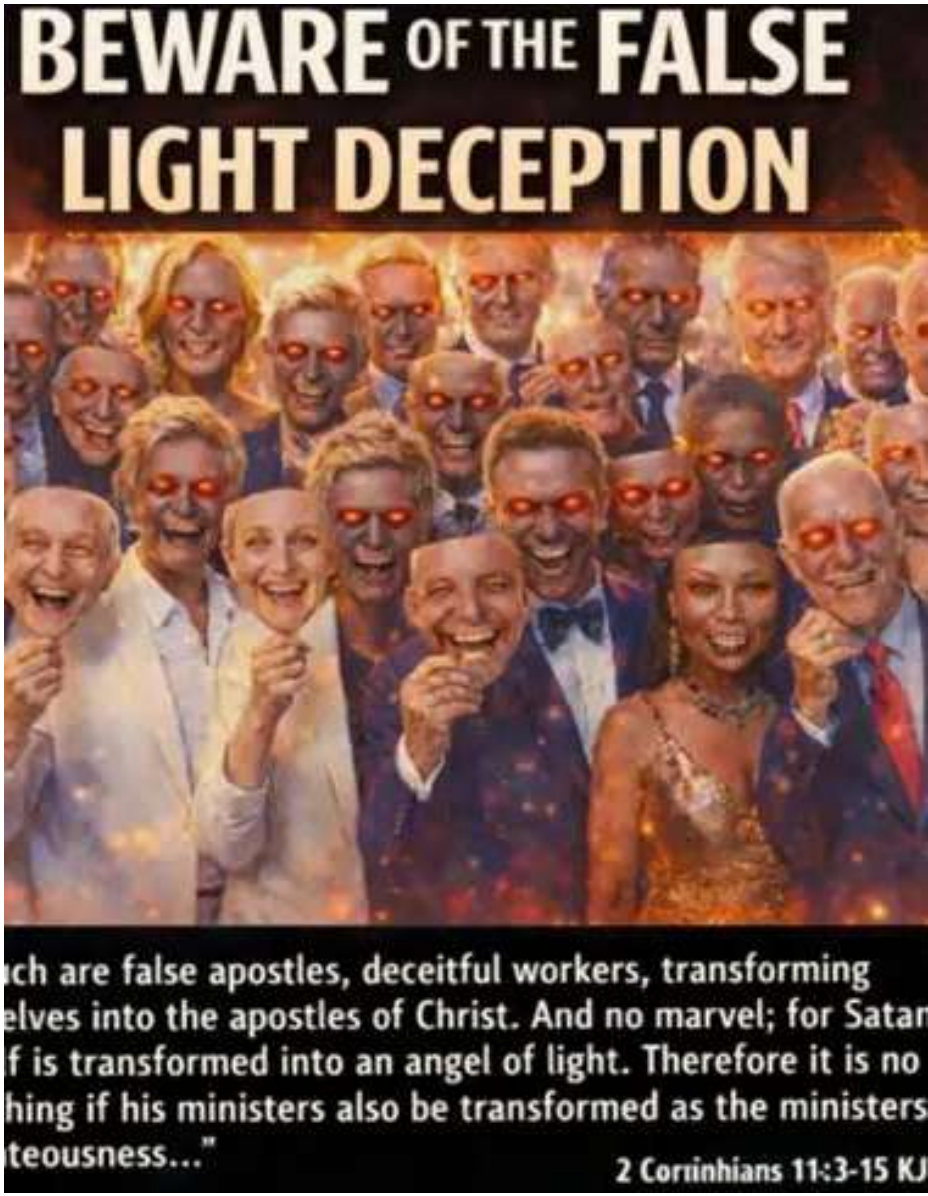
- The prophetic **cry of Joel** pierced the apathy of the **nation of Judah 800 years** before **Jesus the Messiah preached in the same streets of Jerusalem.**
- **Zion laid desolate, its land and its people were ruined.**
- What caused this **national calamity** in Joel's day?
- What **devasted** the Early Church and carried her into the **Babylonian captivity** of the Dark Ages?
- **How does Joel's message address the present condition of the House of the Lord?**

- That which the **palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten**; and that which the **locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten**; and that which the **cankerworm hath left hath the caterpiller eaten**. Joel 1:4

- A horrific **plague of locusts** had **consumed** the **land**, compounded by **drought** and **famine**.
- **This invading army was part of the curse of the law against disobedience and idolatry.**
- **Locusts** are mentioned several times in both Testaments.
  - Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather *but* little in; for **the locust shall consume it**…All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall **the locust consume**. Deuteronomy 28:38, 42
  - Be sober, be vigilant; because **your adversary the devil**, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8



- The terms **grasshopper** and **locust** are often used **interchangeably**.
- The **locust** has a brown-colored body two to three inches long, the thickness and length of a finger.
- This insect has powerful jaws and teeth like a saw.
- Their red legs and wings can give a **beautiful, fiery appearance** in the sunlight, they **sound like rain** when approaching.
- The **watchman** on the walls of the city or in the tower of the vineyard had to be discerning, not a "novice."
  - **Not a novice**, **lest being lifted up with pride** he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 1 Timothy 3:6
- **That which may look or sound like a blessing from God may actually be devastation from the enemy, masqueraded as an angel of light.**
  - For such *are* **false apostles**, **deceitful workers**, **transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ**.
  - And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light**.
  - Therefore ***it is*** **no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works**. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15



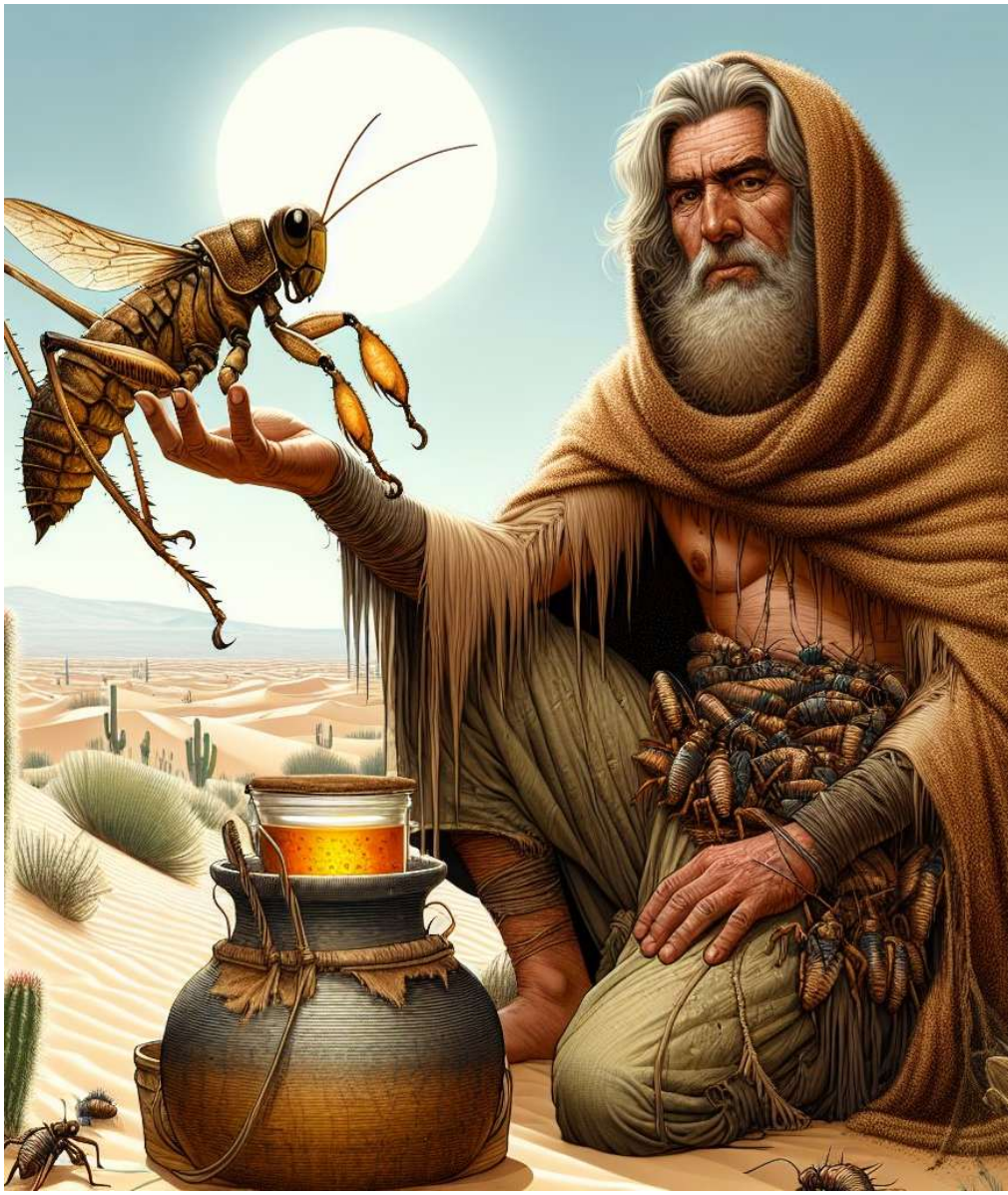
- When **airborne**, with two sets of wings, **the locust was dreaded** in the ancient world because of its **destructive power** as a foliage-eating insect.
- Their **massive numbers** could fill the air and **take away the brightness of the sun.**
  - The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining… **The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining**. Joel 2:10; 3:15
- The **eighth plague** that God sent upon the Egyptians in the days of Moses **was an invasion of locusts**. (Exodus 10)
- **Millions of these insects** may be included in one of these swarms, which usually occur in the spring.



- Locusts in such numbers speedily **eat every plant in sight**, **totally destroying the crops.**
- A **locust plague** is practically **unstoppable**, **totally destroying the crops**.
- Water does not work; for **when enough locusts drown, the survivors use their bodies as a bridge.**
- They have also been known to **smother fires** that had been set to destroy them.



- Many Eastern people eat locusts. They may be boiled, fried, or dried.
- Locusts were part of the wilderness diet of John the Baptist.
- **Real prophets have the courage to swallow up the things that come against the people of God!**
  - ***Even* these of them ye may eat**; the locust after his kind, and the bald locust after his kind, and the beetle after his kind, and the grasshopper after his kind. Leviticus 11:22
  - And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and **his meat was locusts and wild honey.** Matthew 3:4
- True prophets carry a **birth certificate** in one hand and a **death certificate** in the other.
- Every time they speak, they raise those things that need to be resurrected, and tear down and destroy those things that need to die a much-needed death.
- Trumpets are blowing in Zion!
- **Prophets are sounding an alarm to the nations.**



- We consume **religious tradition** with the **fire of His Word**.
  - *Is* not my word like as a **fire**? saith the LORD; and like a **hammer** *that* breaketh the rock in pieces? Jeremiah 23:29
  - **For our God *is* a consuming fire**. Hebrews 12:29
  - That which the 1) **palmerworm** hath left hath the **locust** eaten; and that which the 2) **locust** hath left hath the **cankerworm** eaten; and that which the 3) **cankerworm** hath left hath the 4) **caterpiller** eaten. Joel 1:4
- This verse depicts the **four types of devouring insects and stages or levels of the locust's growth** and desolation.
- The Hebrew interpretation of Joel 1:4 is the "1) **gnawer's** remnant, 2) **swarmer** eats, swarmer's remnant, 3) **devourer** eats, devourer's 4) **remnant**, consumer eats."



- The **first stage** is the "**palmerworm**".
  - I have smitten you with **blasting** and **mildew**: when your **gardens** and your **vineyards** and your **fig trees** and your **olive trees** increased, the **palmerworm devoured *them***: **yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.** Amos 4:9
- The word "**palmerworm**" means, "to **devour**".
- This wingless hopping creature is called the **gnawing** or **chewing** locust, sometimes called the shearer.
- The **second stage** is the "**locust**."
- The word, "locust" means "a locust (from its rapid increase); a locust **swarm** (collective)." This is also rendered as "**grasshopper**", meaning "to increase, multiply".
- This is the **pupa**, still in its first skin. At this juncture it puts forth **little wings**, and so is called the **swarming locust**.
- Locusts are a specific grasshopper species that undergo a **dramatic transformation in behavior** and physiology when crowded.
- While all locusts are grasshoppers, **only a small minority of grasshopper species** have the ability to transition into this swarming phase.

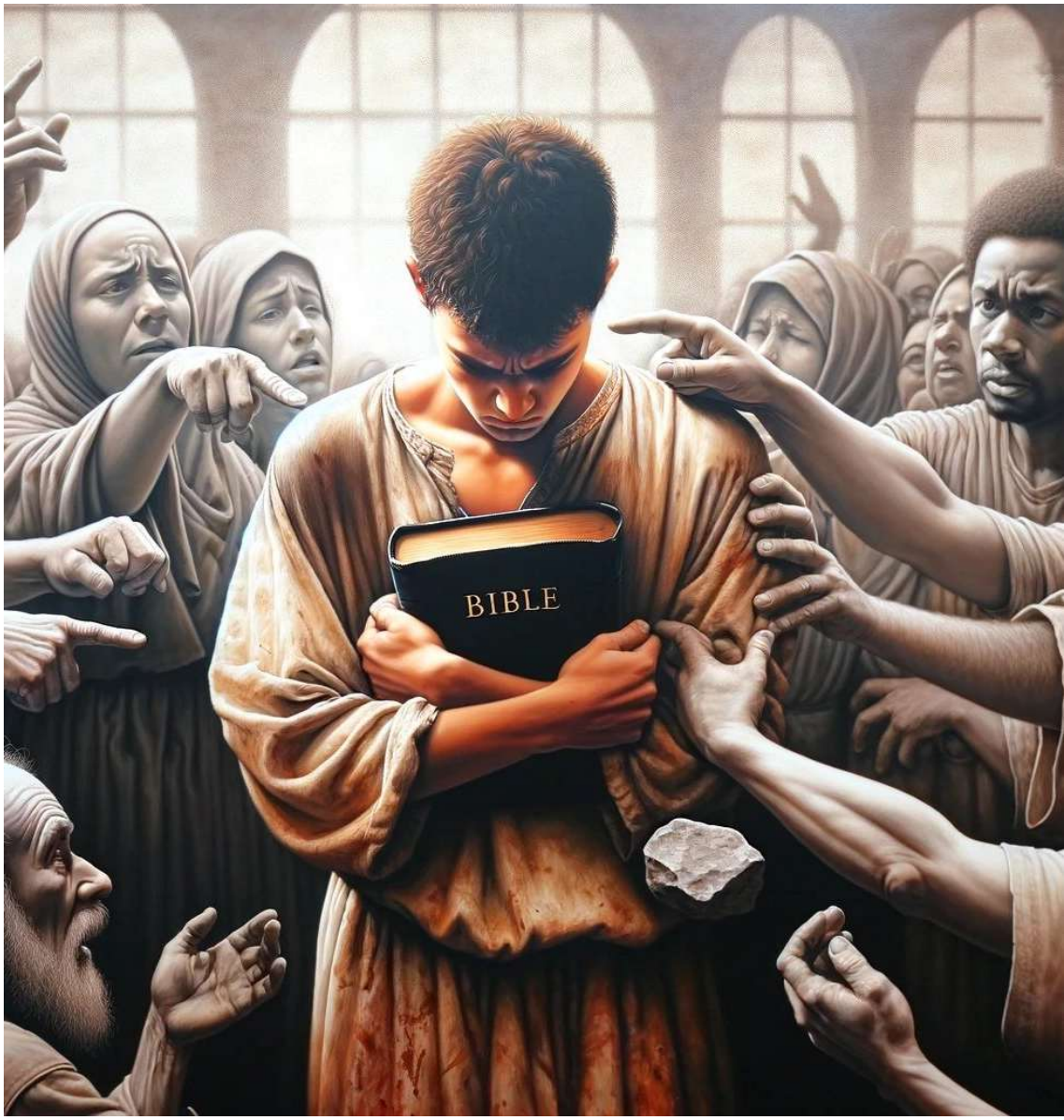


- The **third phase** is the "**cankerworm**" which means, "to lick up; a **devourer**."
- This is also rendered as a "**caterpillar**."
- At this stage the **locust** develops small wings that enable it to **leap better, but not to fly.**
- The wings are **hidden internally** beneath their skin and are not visible.
- It does a great deal of **devouring** and is known as the **devourer** or the **licking locust** (the lapper).
- The **fourth level** is the full-grown "**caterpillar**", "the ravager, a **locust**."
- It means, "to eat off; **consume**, to finish off, to bring to an end."
    - **He gave also their increase unto the caterpiller, and their labour unto the locust. Psalms 78:46**
- This **final stage** is the full-grown creature with its full wings, about three inches long with two antennae an inch long.
- It has six legs, the two back legs being longer, thus enabling the locust to leap.
- The completely mature locust is known as the **consuming locust, or the finisher.**





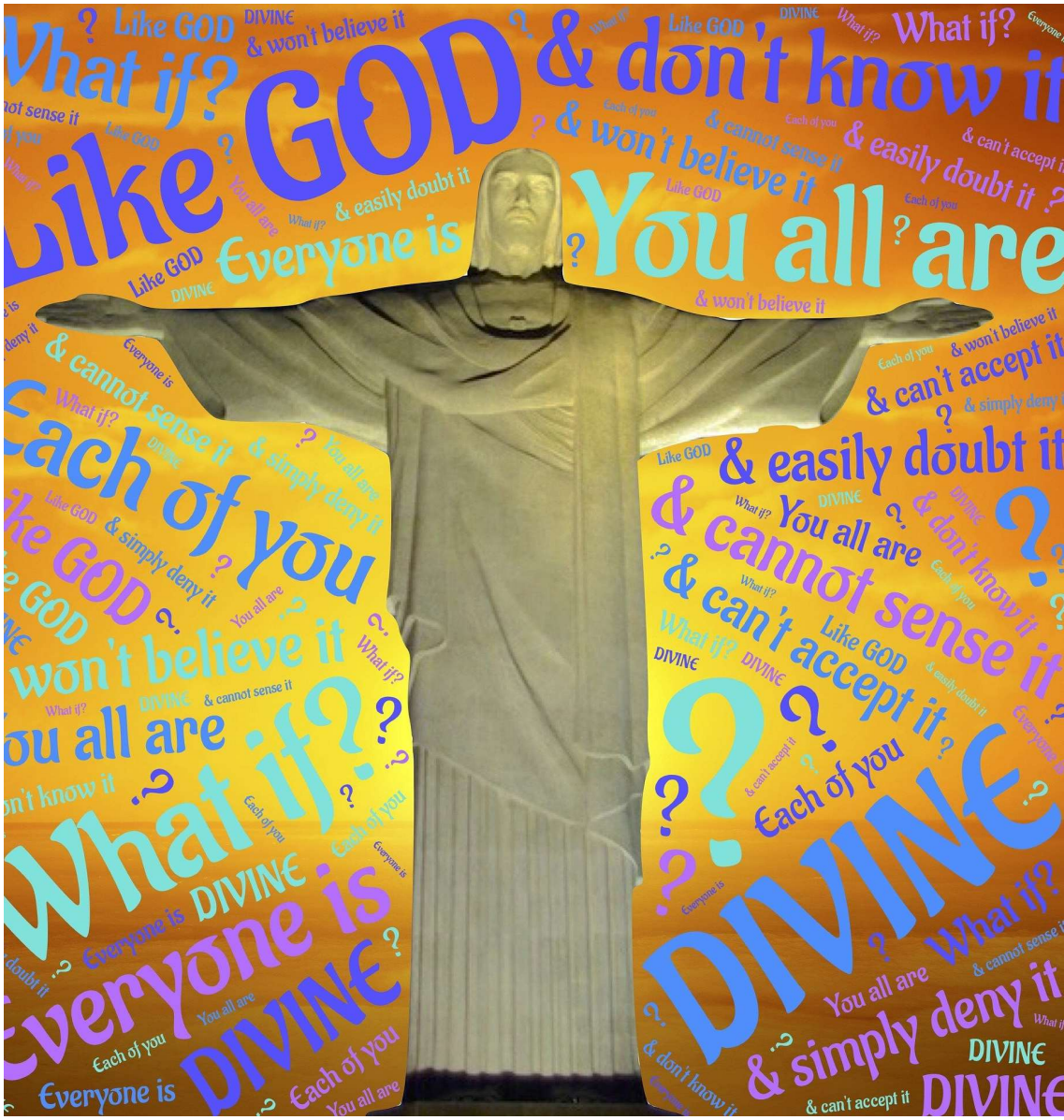
- Historically, a plague of **swarming locusts**, accompanied by **drought** and **famine**, **desolated the land** of Judah in the days of Joel.
- What **devasted** the Early **Church** and carried her into the **Babylonian captivity**?
- What has **consumed biblical truth** and **laid waste to the "apostles' doctrine"?**
  - And they **continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine** and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42
  - For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure **I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it.** Galatians 1:13



- The **arch-enemies of the Gospel of the Kingdom are the "locusts" of religious traditions, the commandments and doctrines of men.**
  - **But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men**. Matthew 15:9
  - (Touch not; taste not; handle not; **Which all are to perish** with the using;) **after the commandments and doctrines of men?** Colossians 2:21-22
- **These hordes of LIES have swallowed up the life of God's people**
- Sadder still, the Church in America has **ravaged** and **raped** the nations of the earth **with this same kind of CORRUPT SEED.**
- The old order, with all its **man-made teachings**, follows after **antichrist** instead of **Christ**, arrogantly **exalting itself above the knowledge of God**.
  - Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and **that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition**;
  - **Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God,** or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

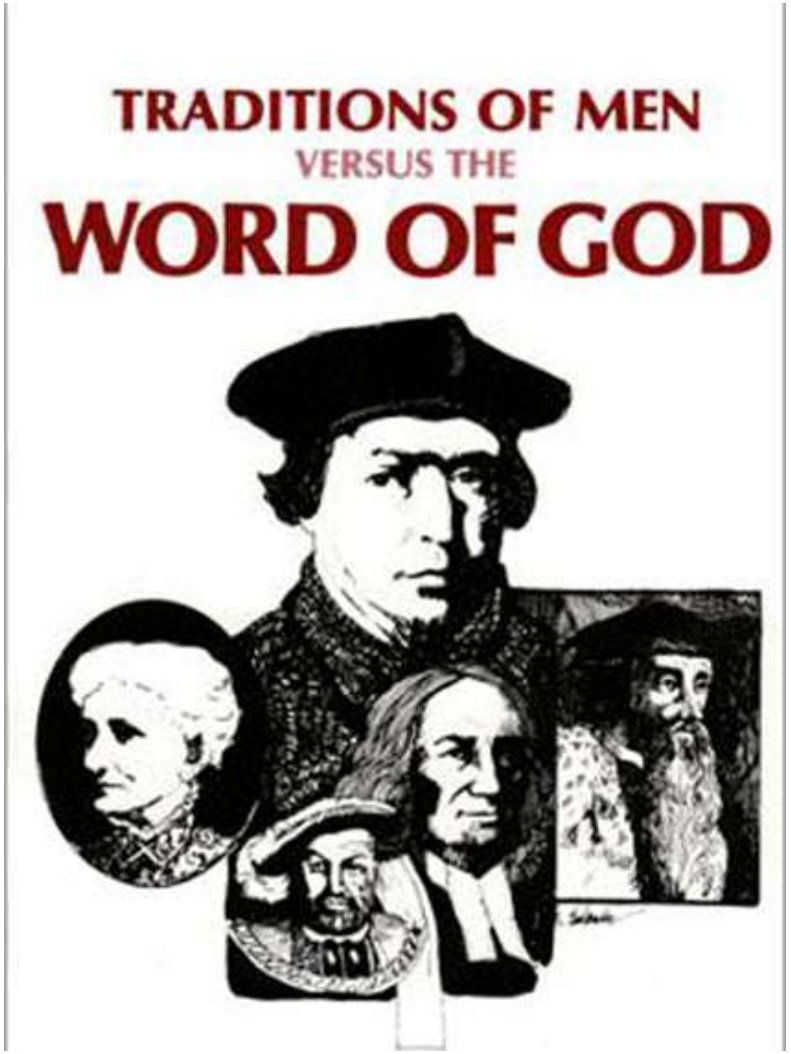


- **Spiritual Babylon** has “sodden” (**watered down**) the **Lamb**, **settling for “another gospel” that is man-centered and not Christ-centered.**
  - Eat not of it raw, **nor sodden at all with water**. Exodus 12:9
  - But I fear, lest by any means, **as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted** from the simplicity that is in Christ.
  - For **if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received**, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*. 2 Corinthians 11:3-4



- **Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition**, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye. Mark 7:13
- **Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ**. Colossians 2:8

- The word, "**tradition**" means "**transmission**, a **handing down** or on; giving up, **a giving over which is done by word of mouth** or in writing, that is, **tradition by instruction**, narrative or precept."
- What spiritual truths do we see here?
- **How do these "locusts" come against the high calling?**
- The **four developmental stages of the locust reveal four great sins**.







- **First**, the "**palmerworm**" is like **self-indulgence**.
  - And the LORD God said unto the **serpent**, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; **upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life**. Genesis 3:14
- The **palmerworm creeps with all its body on the ground**.
- **Unbridled lust** has consumed the **hearts** of men and women so that they, **like the serpent on its belly, cannot lift their heads from the dust.**
- **Second**, the "**locust**" is like **self-direction**.
  - **There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.** Proverbs 14:12
- The **locust** (grasshopper) flies by **leaping**.
- **Vain glory exalts itself** with empty presumption.
  - **If anyone things he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself**. (Galatians 6:3)









- **Third**, the "cankerworm" is like **self-government**.
  - (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, ***that they are*** **the enemies of the cross of Christ:**
  - **Whose end *is* destruction**, whose **God *is their*** **belly**, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, **who mind earthly things**.) Philippians 3:18-19
- The cankerworm has almost all of its body gathered into its **belly**.
- **Gluttony** and **self-absorption** have **no care for anything** or anyone **outside of its own appetites.**
- **Fourth**, the full-grown "caterpillar" is like **self-destruction.**
  - Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; **lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled**. Hebrews 12:15
- The caterpillar leaves a mildew that **burns what it touches**, turning the **green tips of the grain into the pale of death**.
  - **I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured *them*: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.** Amos 4:9
- **Anger and bitterness that spring from the toxic waste of unforgiveness defiles everything in its path.**





The four phases of the locust's growth reveal four progressive levels and layers of **RELIGIOUS TRADITION**!



Self-Indulgence



Self-Governance



Self-Destruction



Self-Direction

- Going deeper into this subject, we will now compare the four steps of the locust's growth with the **four parts of Daniel's famous image**.
  - **And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.** Daniel 2:44
- The historical interpretation of Daniel 2:31-35 was that this image represented **our successive "kingdoms"**.
- In this view, Daniel saw the head of gold (**Babylon**), the breast and arms of silver (**Medo-Persia**), the belly and thighs of brass (**Greece**), and the feet of iron and clay (**Rome**).
- **God's Kingdom shatters these kingdoms of men.**

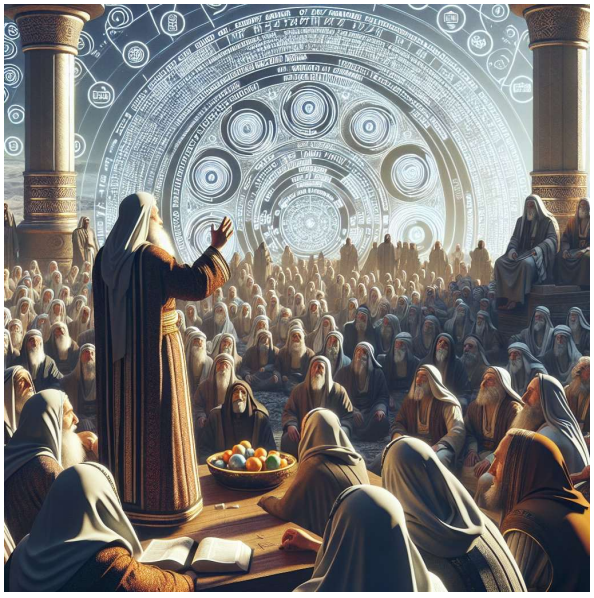


- **Spiritually speaking, Daniel's image is an awesome picture of the full-grown, corporate "man of sin" that has evolved throughout the ages (growing in four stages like the locust).**
- Consider all its **humanistic trappings of tradition**, along with all its "strange" **ideologies** and **philosophies**, **both religious and political**.
- This is the **mindset** and **mark of the beast nature.**
  - And **he doeth great wonders**, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,
  - **And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles** which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, **that they should make an image to the beast,** which had the wound by a sword, and did live.
  - And **he had power to give life unto the image of the beas**t, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.
  - And he **causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:**
  - And **that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.**
  - **Here is wisdom**. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. Revelation 13:13-18



- **Christ** is the "**image of God**".
  - In whom **the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not**, lest the light of **the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God**, should shine unto them. 2 Corinthians 4:4
- **Antichrist is any other image!**
- **Daniel saw the mature, corporate son of hell!**
- Additionally, there are four levels of **man-made teaching** that operate throughout the contemporary Church world.
- **Tradition abounds at every level.**
- These **four stages stretch** all the way across the three Feasts of the Lord – **Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles** – finding application among those who are **born-again, Spirit-filled**, and **mature**.
  - **But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.** Matthew 15:9





- **First**, the "**palmerworm**" emerges from its egg in the springtime.
- The larva is a **wingless hopping creature** called the **gnawing locust** or the **shearer**.
- The **baby locust** is a picture of the **religious traditions** found in the **Outer Court**, the **Feast** of **Passover**, the evangelical realm.
- **These baby Christians can only hop in the earth.**
- They have yet to experience **the wings of Spirit-filled prayer and praise**, **to soar up on the wind of the Spirit**.
- Like the Sadducees of Paul's day that refused the idea of resurrection, **the besetting sin** of this order is their **adamant determination** to preach and teach their doctrine of "**cessationism**."
    - For the Sadducees say that **there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit**: but the Pharisees confess both. Acts 23:8

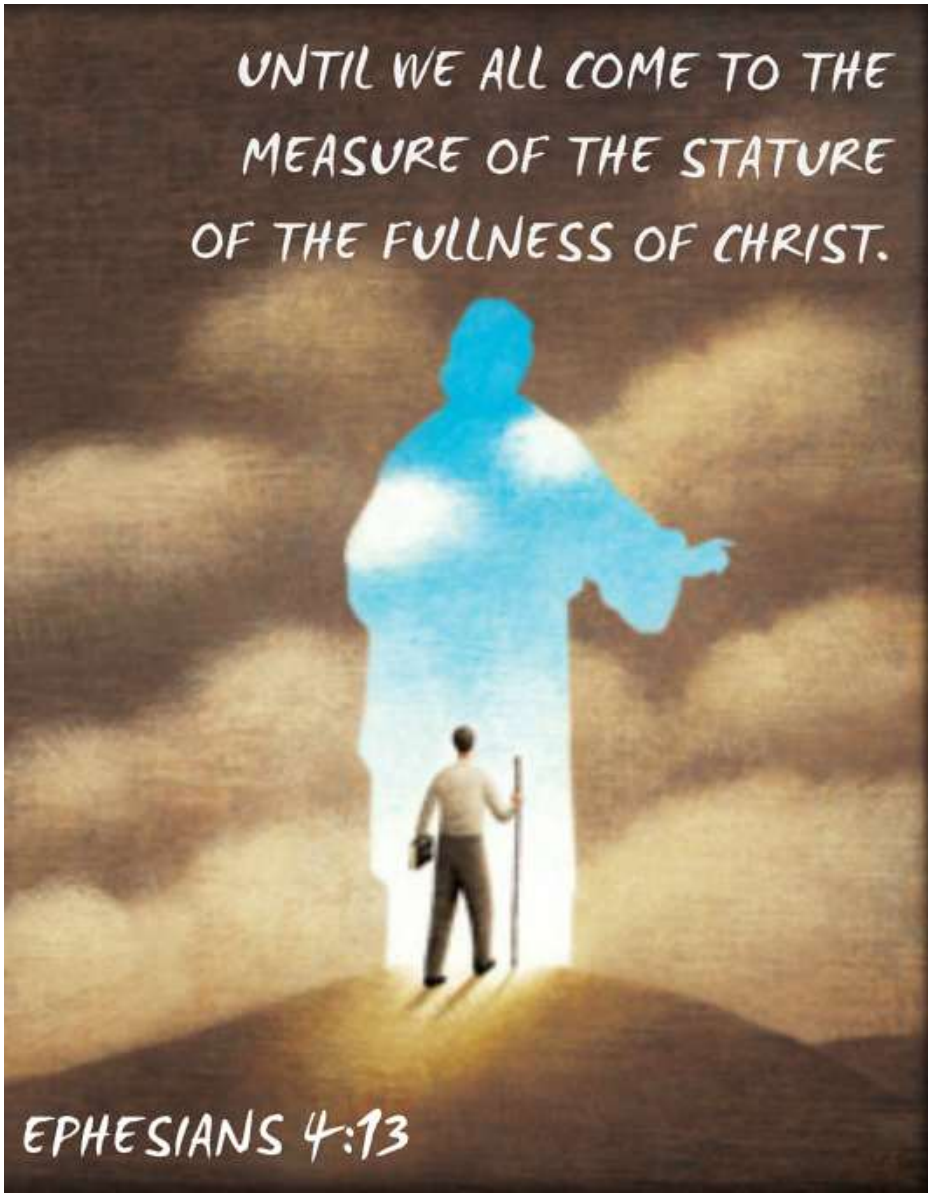


Baby Christians

- **Cessationism** insists **that signs, wonders, miracles, tongues, the gifts of the Spirit**, and the **apostles** and **prophets ended** with the Early Church.
- These who believe this need to understand that **the Book of Acts happened the day before yesterday!**
  - But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that **one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years**, and **a thousand years as one day**. 2 Peter 3:8
- **The high calling is no where in the vocabulary of these who are in this group.**
  - **So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief**. Hebrews 3:19



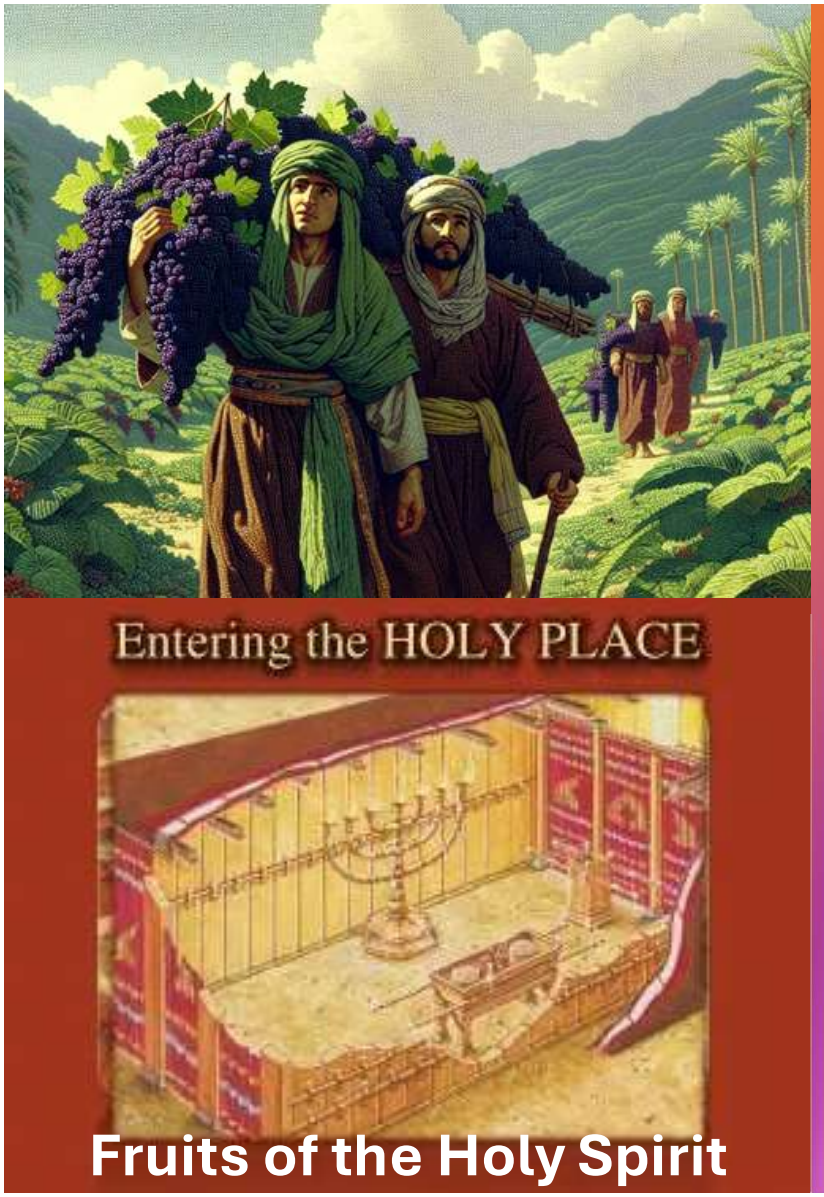
- **Second**, the root word for “locust” (grasshopper) means “to **increase, multiply**”.
- This is the **pupa**, **still in its first skin**.
- At this juncture the insect puts **forth little wings**, and so is called the **swarming locust**.
- The “**grasshopper” mindset** of the **ten spies** kept them out of the Promised Land; they were overwhelmed by this realm of “great stature”
  - 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.** Ephesians 4:13



- The "**grasshopper mindset**".
  - And they (a representative from every tribe) returned from searching of the land after forty days.
  - And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and **shewed them the fruit of the land**.
  - And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and **this *is* the fruit of it.**
  - **Nevertheless the people *be* strong that dwell in the land**, and **the cities *are* walled**, *and* **very great**: and moreover we saw **the children of Anak there**.
  - The **Amalekites** dwell in the land of the south: and the **Hittites**, and the **Jebusites**, and the **Amorites**, dwell in the mountains: and the **Canaanites** dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.
  - **And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it**.
  - **But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we.**
  - And **they brought up an evil report of the land** which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* **men of a great stature.**
  - **And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight**. Numbers 13:25-33



- Their tasting the "**firstripe grapes**" typifies the **Holy Ghost Baptism**, the "**first-fruits" of the spirit**, and the "**earnest**" of our inheritance.
  - Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan…And what the land *is*, whether it *be* fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and **bring of the fruit of the land.** Now the time *was* the time of the **firstripe grapes**. Numbers 13:20
  - And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the **firstfruits** of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, *to wit*, the redemption of our body. Romans 8:23
  - In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,**
  - **Which is the earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13-14
- On this Spirit-filled level we find the early traditions of the **Holy Place, the Feast of Pentecost, the Charismatic realm.**



- The ugly **tradition of staunch legalism**, prevalent in classical Pentecostalism, **stunts spiritual growth – a dwarf could not be a priest.**
  - For whatsoever man *he is*... **a dwarf**, or that hath a blemish in his eye, or be scurvy, or scabbed, or hath his stones broken; **No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire**. Leviticus 21:18-20
- **Double-minded, dualistic preaching** is a horrible mixture, bouncing between **Jesus** and the **devil**, between the sweat of **Adam** (the old man, the flesh) and the savor of **Christ** (the new man, the Spirit).
- **The war is over!**
  - Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that **her warfare is accomplished**, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. Isaiah 40:2
- **Jesus' death on the Cross is a finished work!**
  - When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. John 19:30



- Those who are **Charismatic** like to **swarm** from conference to conference.
- "**Revival groupies**" and b**lessing-seekers** only want to have a "**good time**".
- Faddish and fickle, they are like the **loaves and fishes crowd** that **followed Jesus just to see the miracles**. They couldn't understand the **true meaning of the bread of life**.
    - **For they considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: for their heart was hardened**. Mark 6:52
- This type of people **will walk away the moment they are challenged with the high calling**, to **eat His flesh and to drink His blood**, to **participate fully** in the life of His flesh, His Body. (John 6:35-60)



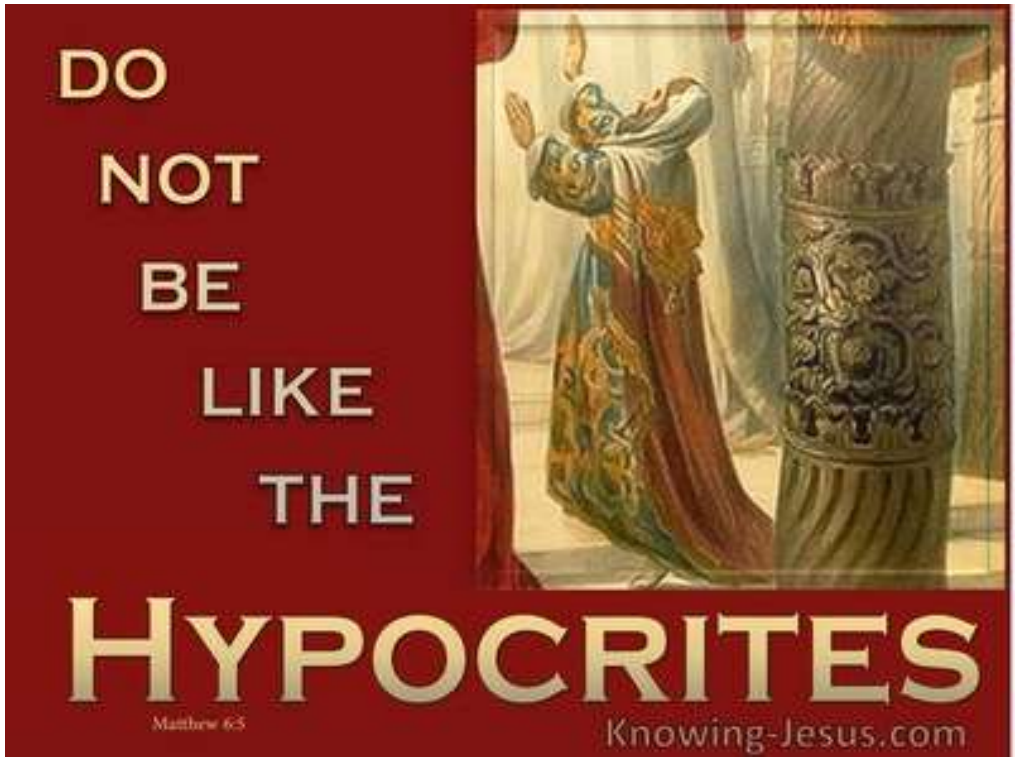
- **Third**, the "**cankerworm** is the stage when the locust develops small wings that enable it to **leap better, but not to fly**.
- At this level, the **adolescent** pest does a great deal of **devouring** and is known as the **devourer** or the **licking locust** (the lapper).
    - **But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another**. Galatians 5:15
- This reveals a further development of the **traditions** found in the second dimension.
- "**Cankerworm**" preachers move in the gifts of the Spirit, but **without character and integrity.**
- This is often seen in the **hyper-faith fast lane of the "boys' club"**, where lapping up **big contributions** is expected.
- The "**love of money and the love of titles** has blinded many of these men and women to the obvious lack of real glory and anointing in their lives, their marriages, and their homes.
    - **For the love of money is the root of all evil**: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 1 Timothy 6:10



- At this stage, they are too busy **devouring widows**' houses, always competing with other egos as fragile as their own.
- They think nothing of tearing down other ministries, trying to make a **small man taller by cutting a tall man's legs off**.
- **Biting and devouring others is a way of life on this level**.
- But these **great egos only have "little wings**."
- They **scream** and **jump** about, **working the crowd for multiple offerings**, but have yet to learn to mount up in real worship.
- Some on this level unashamedly parrot "present truth", preaching just enough of the Kingdom for their message to be appetizing.
    - Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know *them*, and **be established in the present truth**. 2 Peter 1:12
- This type are dualistic with a Kingdom face.
- They are "neo-Kingdom", trying to preach the Kingdom with **a heart that is not of worship.**



- **Finally**, the most dangerous level is the "**caterpillar**", **the mature locust**.
- This final stage is the **matured creature** with its full wings.
- The completely mature locust is known as the **consuming locust**, or the **finisher**.
- Far too many have been caught up in the contemporary "**bishop**" epidemic, wanting to be "**seen of men**".
    - And **when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men.** Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. Matthew 6:5
- They preach **reconciliation as a doctrine**. It is true that all men have been reconciled, but not all men have been automatically saved. The blood, as in the Passover, must be applied!
- The doctrine of "**inclusion**", as presently taught, **is dangerous**!
- These do not have the Spirit of Christ. **They profess themselves to be wise, but have become fools,** exchanging the glory of the incorruptible God for an image made like to corruptible man, worshiping the creature more than the Creator. (Romans 1:22-23).
- Many are proud of their "**holiness**" standards, **arrogantly flaunting** their latest "**revelation**".
- **But the knowledge of a thing is not the possession of it.**



- Committing **a strange form of idolatry**, these men and women **worship the process** of becoming like Christ, **rather than bowing at the feet of the one who is changing them.**
- Many have **stopped holding Jesus as the Head**.
  - Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, **vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,**
  - **And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God**. Colossians 2:18-19
- **They have lost connection with the HEAD!**
- God has purposed to unveil the Son Jesus Christ, **in and through His brethren, a corporate Man**, created in His image and likeness!
- We are **PARTAKERS** of the "**divine nature**", but **we will never be partakers of the Deity**!
  - Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter 1:4
- **Our high calling is to be LIKE Him, but we will never BE Him!**



- **Finally**, the **four levels** of the locust's development can also be compared with the four "horns" which "scattered" (to toss about, diffuse, cast away, disperse, turn aside) Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.
  - Then lifted I up mine eyes, and saw, **and behold four horns.**
  - And I said unto the angel that talked with me, What *be* these? And he answered me, **These *are* the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.**
  - And the LORD shewed me **four carpenters**.
  - Then said I, What come these to do? And he spake, saying, **These *are* the horns which have scattered Judah**, so that no man did lift up his head: but these are come to fray them, to cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up *their* horn over the land of Judah to scatter it. Zechariah 1:18-21



- This message shows **the effects of God's judgment upon the land and the people**.
- **Every level of society was impacted by this widespread desolation.**
- **National worship** had waned. The **economy** was ruined. Their **joy** had withered.
- **Three major crops** had failed – the **corn, wine, and the oil.**
    - **Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth** for the husband of her youth.
    - The **meat offering** and the **drink offering** is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD'S ministers, **mourn**.
    - **The field is wasted**, the **land** mourneth; for the **corn** is wasted: the **new wine** is dried up, the **oil** languisheth.
    - Be ye **ashamed**, O ye husbandmen; **howl**, O ye vinedressers, for the **wheat** and for the **barley**; because **the harvest of the field is perished**.
    - The **vine** is dried up, and the **fig tree** languisheth; the **pomegranate tree**, the **palm tree** also, and the **apple tree**, *even* all the **trees of the field**, are withered: because **joy** is withered awa from the sons of men. Joel 1:8-12
- We cry with Isaiah, "**Awake, O Zion"! It's a new Day!**



- A fresh **Feast of Trumpets** for the **true Church** has begun to sound.
- **True prophets are calling us to repent and be cleansed** in the Day of Atonement.
- It is time to **afflict our souls**, and **return to Zion**, the **PLACE** of the **HIGH CALLING**.
- Joel calls out first to the "**drunkards**", those who had abused the wine and who were usually known for **their ungodly song**.
  - **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. Joel 1:5
  - **Woe to the crown of pride**, to **the drunkards of Ephraim**, whose glorious **beauty *is* a fading flower**, which *are* on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine! Isaiah 28:1



- Joel challenges these “drinkers of wine” to “**weep**” (moan, cry) and to “**howl**” (wail), along with the **vinedressers** and **priests**.
- There is a “**time to weep**”. (Ecclesiastes 3:4)
- The “**new wine**”, the **fresh flow of the joy and gladness of the Holy Ghost, has been “cut off”** (destroyed, consumed, eliminated, removed), along with the **meat** (meal) and **drink offerings.**
  - **The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD'S ministers, mourn.**
  - **Is not the meat cut off before our eyes**, *yea*, **joy and gladness from the house of our God**? Joel 1:9, 16
- **Woe to them who are at ease (careless) in Zion**. (Amos 6:1)

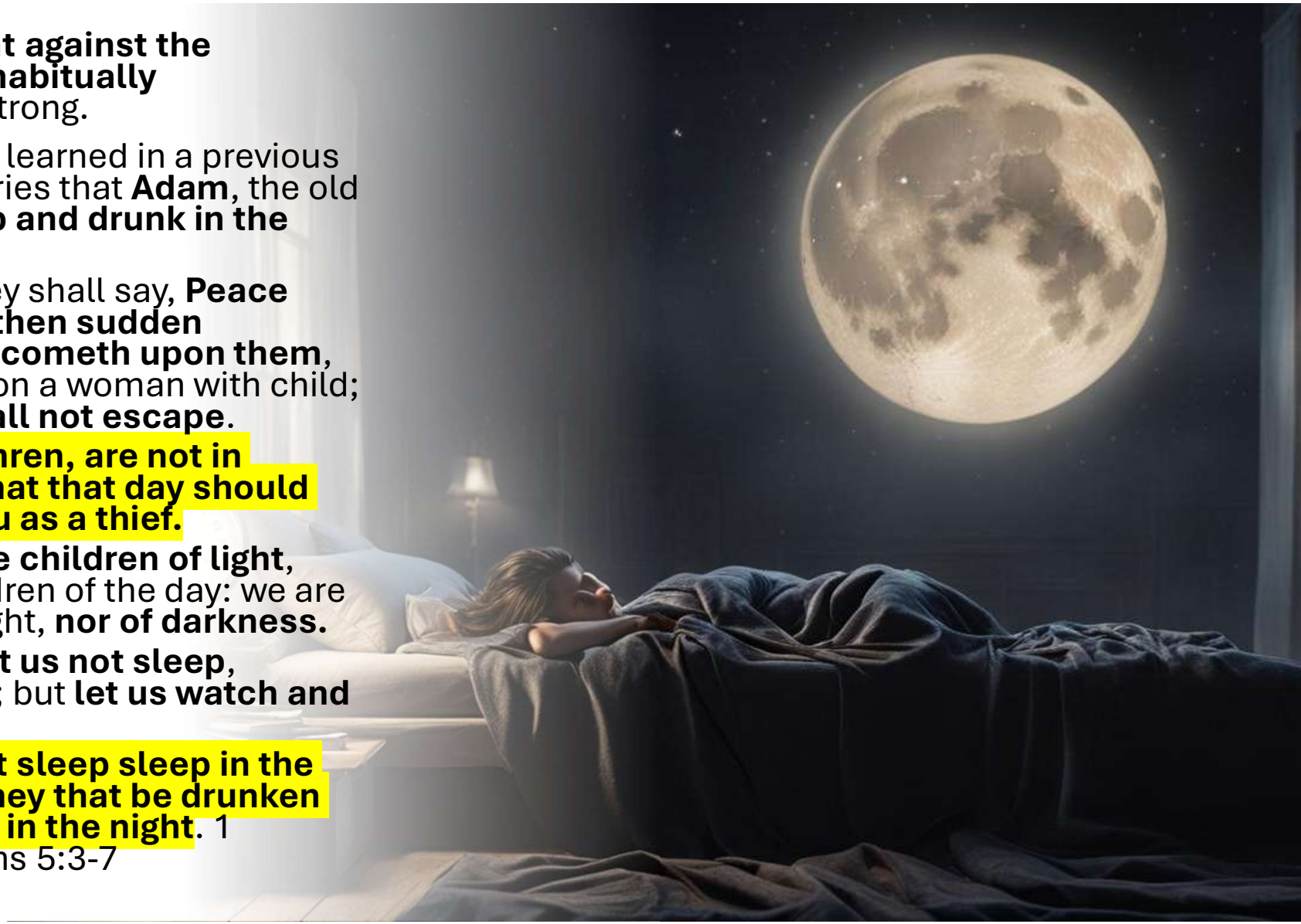


- **The fear of the Lord is clean** (pure), **but we are not clean**. (Psalms 19:9)
- **We have forsaken the high calling for a mess of pottage, the allurements of lesser things.**
- **Sinners in Zion** are startled by this sudden prophetic alarm.
- **Fearfulness** and **trembling** has surprised every **hypocrite**.
  - **The sinners in Zion are afraid**; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. **Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire**? **who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings**? Isaiah 33:14
- God has come to deal with the **kingdoms of our hearts**, with **everything that we have held back from him** up until now.

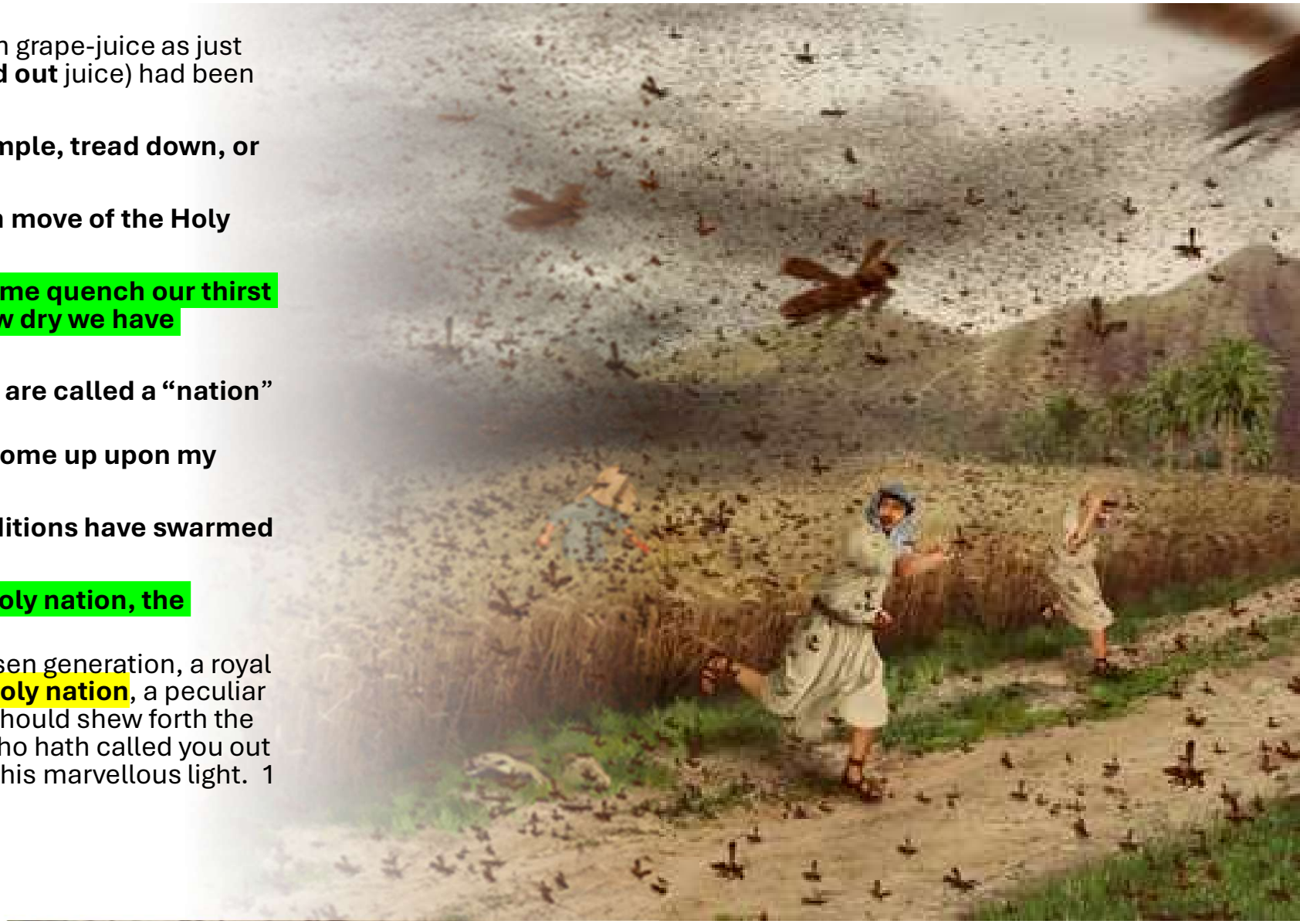




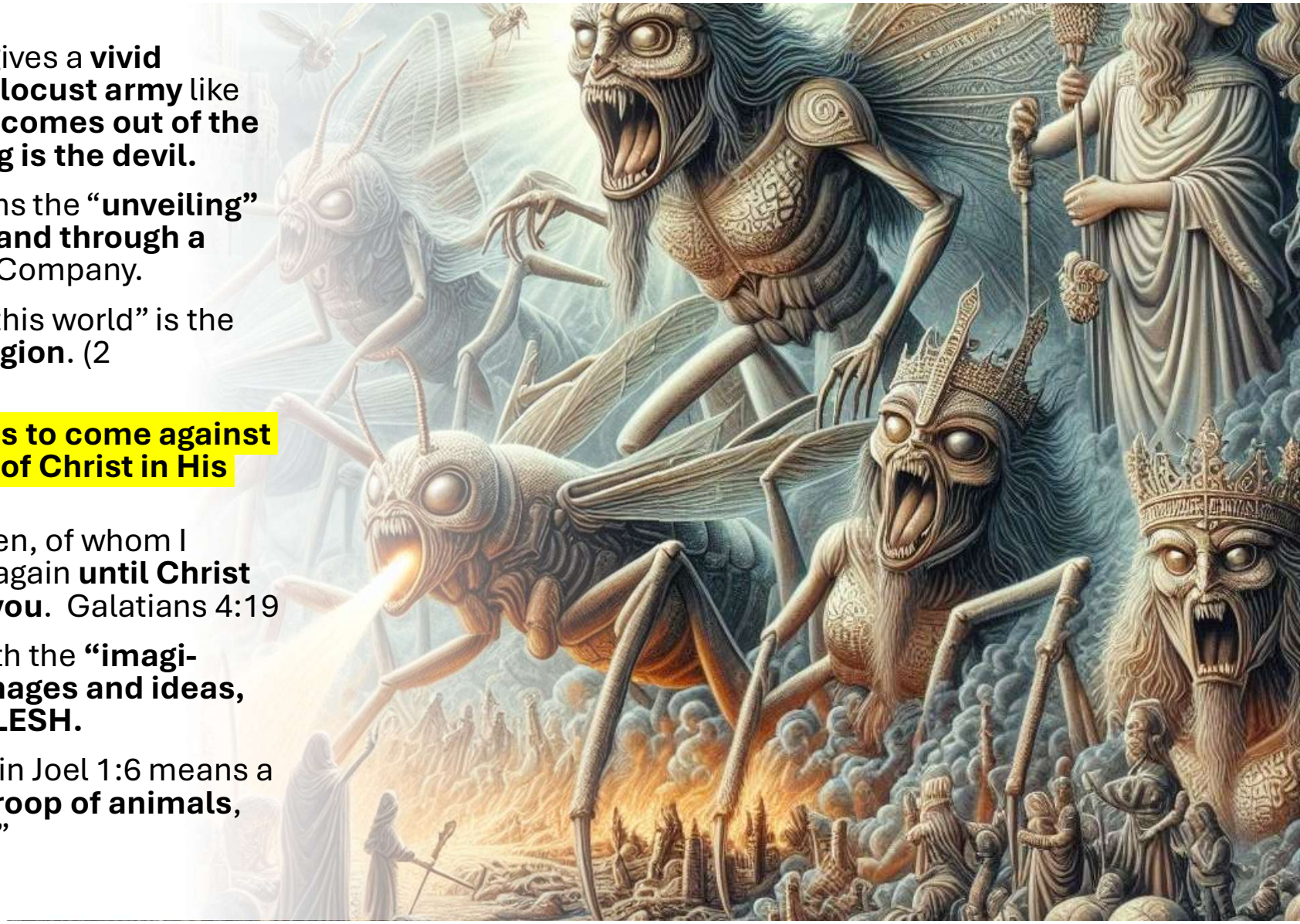
- Joel's **indictment against the drunkards**, the **habitually intoxicated**, is strong.
- We have already learned in a previous lesson in this series that **Adam**, the old nature, **is asleep and drunk in the night.**
  - For when they shall say, **Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them**, as travail upon a woman with child; and **they shall not escape**.
  - **But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.**
  - **Ye are all the children of light**, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, **nor of darkness.**
  - **Therefore let us not sleep**, as *do* others; but **let us watch and be sober**.
  - **For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night**. 1 Thessalonians 5:3-7



- The "**new wine**" (fresh grape-juice as just **trodden out; pressed out** juice) had been cut off.
- This is means "**to trample, tread down, or crush**".
- This speaks of a **fresh move of the Holy Ghost**.
- **Help us, oh Lord. Come quench our thirst and show us just how dry we have become.**
- The **invading locusts are called a "nation"** by the prophet Joel.
  - **For a nation is come up upon my land**… Joel 1:6
- Today's **religious traditions have swarmed over God's "land".**
- **God's "land" is his holy nation, the Church.**
  - But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **an holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. 1 Peter 2:9



- Revelation 9:1-12 gives a **vivid description** of the **locust army** like unto horses which **comes out of the pit**, and whose **king is the devil.**
- "**Revelation**" means the "**unveiling" of Jesus Christ in and through a people**, the Lamb Company.
- Satan, the "god of this world" is the **"king" over all religion**. (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- **His sole purpose is to come against the full formation of Christ in His Body**.
    - My little children, of whom I travail in birth again **until Christ be formed in you**. Galatians 4:19
- He attacks Zion with the **"imagi-nation" of false images and ideas, the MIND of the FLESH.**
- The word "**nation**" in Joel 1:6 means a "**people, nation, troop of animals, swarm of locusts**."



- **Spiritual drunkards are intoxicated with the wine of the adulteries of religion**.
  - And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; **I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore** that sitteth upon many waters:
  - With whom the kings of the earth have committed **fornication**, and the inhabitants of the earth have been m**ade drunk with the wine of her fornication**. Revelation 17:1-2
- The "**nation**" or **swarm of locusts** can represent, first of all, the many **"denomi-nations" and non-denominational sects** that proliferate the earth today.
- The Bible mentions the "**Mother of Harlots**" with all her **daughters** and **granddaughters**, along with all **their unholy mixture of man-made traditions.**



- But there are other kinds of “**nations**”.
- Paul warned against the “**imagi-nations**”, and admonished us to **cast down every high thing and manmade idea that exalts itself against the knowledge of God**. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)
- Every **denomi-nation** and **religion** is marked by its own particular package of i**magi-nations**!
- These traditional belief systems have become **strange gods, idols.**
- Denominational **schools** and **colleges** have enshrined their particular **brands of falsehood**.
    - For a nation is come up upon my land, **strong, and without number**…Joel 1:6
- This nation is **STRONG** and **WITHOUT NUMBER**.
- Man-made **denominations** and **religions** are “**strong in number**, **might**, vast, numerous, countless.”



- These will always flaunt their numbers in our faces.
- But take courage, you "**sons of promise**".
  - Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, **are the children of promise**. Galatians 4:28
- It does not matter **how many** of us there are, but rather **how big a sound we are making!**
- There is a **HIGH CALLING** to Zion, and "**FEW**" there be that find the upward pathway to **light** and **life**.
- The army of **invading locusts** in the days of Joel had lion's "**teeth**" that were "**sharp and pointed**".
- Compare to the locusts in **Revelation**.
  - For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, **whose teeth *are* the teeth of a lion**... Joel 1:6
  - And they had hair as the hair of women, and **their teeth were as *the teeth* of lions**. Revelation 9:8



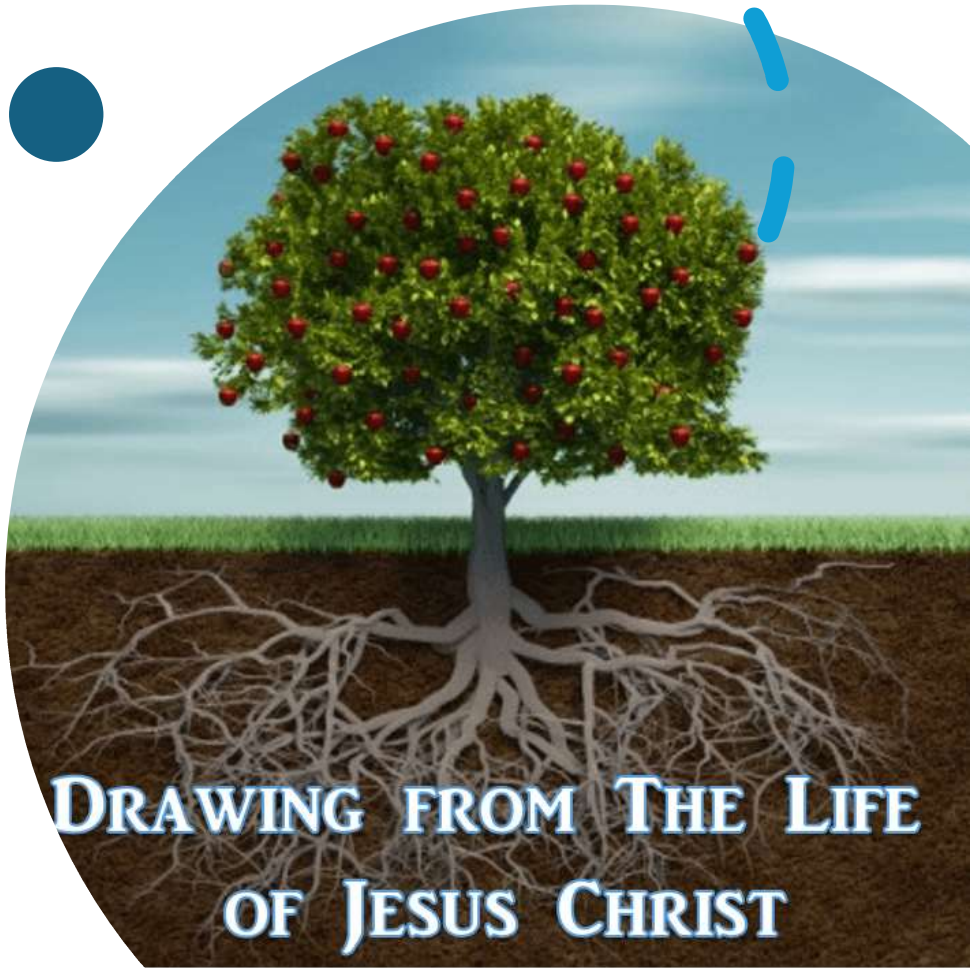


- The **denominations bite and devour** with **jealousy** and **envy**.
- **Legalism**, with all its **rules** and **regulations**, breeds **frustration**, **shame**, **confusion**, and **condemnation**.
  - **But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.** Galatians 5:15
- The "**lion**" of Joel 1:6 reminds us of the **devil**, the **accuser of the brethren**, the **god of this world**, and the **fabricator of all religion**. (1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:10; 2 Corinthians 4:4)
- He has the "**cheek teeth**" (jaw teeth, fangs, incisors) of a "**great lion**".
  - For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth *are* the teeth of a lion, and **he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion**. Joel 1:6
- This lion in the Hebrew denotes a "**female lion**" which is **fiercer** than the **male**.
- It points to the "**strange woman**" of Proverbs 7, and the **religious harlot** of Revelation 17-18.



Trees of Righteousness

- Isaiah 61:3 says we are "**trees" of righteousness**, the "**planting" of the Lord**.
- **Green** is the color of **resurrection life.**
- Interestingly, **John saw that the throne room is the "green room".**
  - And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, **a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.**
  - And he that sat was to look upon like a **jasper** and a sardine stone: and *there was* a rainbow round about the throne, **in sight like unto an emerald**. Revelation 4:2-3
- The **Zion Company** has been called to **life** and **immorality**.
- In the first chapter of Joel, we see a **progressive track of these locusts** upon all that is **green** and **succulent**.
- **Trees** are targeted, **leaves** and **bark**; all **vegetation**, young **shoots**, **saplings** and their **bark**; **herbs** and **grasses**; **fruit**; **flowers**; even the thatched **roofs** of houses!



- The devil has given orders to his minions: **kill everything green.**
- **Kill LIFE! Kill the Vine. Kill the Seed. Kill Christ. Kill anything that has to do with the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of His resurrection life**.
  - **He** hath laid **my vine** waste, and **barked my fig tree**: he hath made it **clean bare**, and cast *it* away; the **branches thereof are made white**. Joel 1:7
- The word, "**he**" in this verse represents the **corporate** "**man of sin**". (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4)
- Note that it is "**My vine**" and "**My fig tree**". **This is the LORD speaking.**
- **Religion has "laid waste" (ruined) His "vine".**
- The "**vine**" speaks of **the life of the Church.**



- The traditions of men have also "**barked**" (fragmented, splintered) **His fig tree.**
- "Barked" means to "**snap or crack off**; to burst out in rage and anger."
- This intensely describes **all the division and offshoots of religious Babylon** (Babylon is a **SPIRIT**).
- **All of satan's ministers are men and women of WAR.**
- **Broken lives, broken homes and families, broken churches—broken wineskins—lay strewn upon the pathway of death**. (Proverbs 2:18)
- The "**fig**" was symbolic of the **fruit of Israel.**
- The **fig tree**, generally speaking points to the **fruit of the Spirit**, which is the **nature of Jesus**.



- **Religious tradition has stripped the Church of real fruit, making it "clean bare".**
  - **He** hath laid **my vine** waste, and **barked my fig tree**: he hath made it **clean bare**, and **cast** *it* away; the **branches thereof are made white**. Joel 1:7
- This means to "strip off, make naked in **disgrace** and **shame**."
- The enemy wants us to "**cast**" (throw) **out the idea that we can be partakers of the "divine nature"**. (2 Peter 1:4)
- The **locusts had so devasted the land that the branches of the fig tree were made "white" like the leper.**
- The **beauty of the House of the Lord has been replaced with the ghostly whiteness of another gospel.**
- The word for "branches" means "entwining".
- **There is no channel for the life of the Vine.**



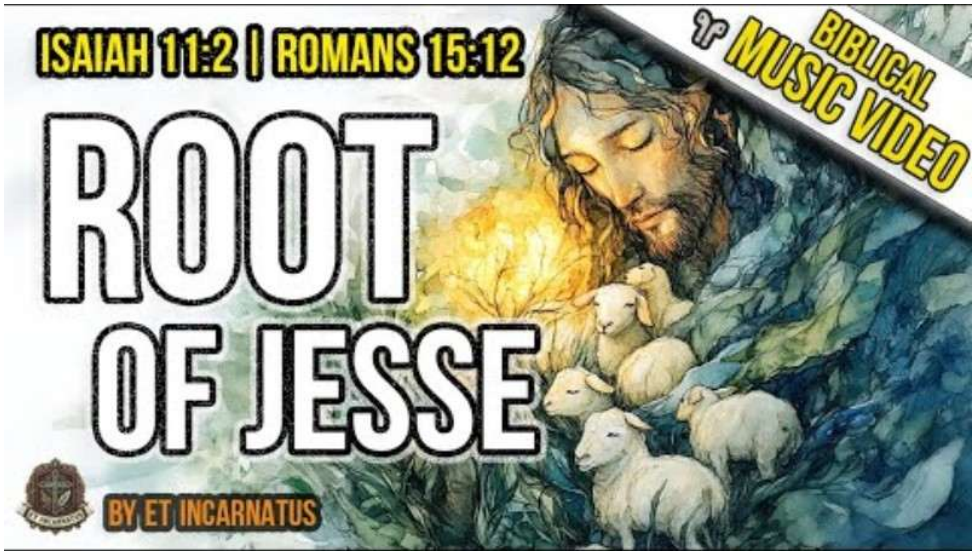
- Jesus said this in Matthew 23:27, “**Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within (in the heart) full of dead *men's* bones, and of all uncleanness.”**
- **The Man whose name is the Branch is the many-membered Body of Christ.**
- **Jesus is the true Vine and we are the “branches”.** (John 15:5)
- There is a **call to the corporate Branch to come to the top of Mount Zion, a call to walk in the same sevenfold anointing as the Messiah.**
  - And there shall come forth **a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots**:
  - And **the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him**, the spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the spirit of **counsel** and **might**, the spirit of **knowledge** and of the **fear** of the LORD;
  - And shall make him of quick **understanding** in the **fear** of the LORD: and **he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.** Isaiah 11:1-3



Life Comes Out of Death!



Praise God for Resurrection LIFE!





- Our next message will cover the rest of Joel, chapter one where the prophecy shows **the full effects of the judgment** upon the **land** and the **people – the full, widespread CALAMITY of desolation.**