

## What about locusts?

Four options: (from the ESV Study Bible)

If chapter 1 ...	then chapter 2 ...
1. describes an actual locust infestation ...	presents a heightened description of the same invasion.
2. describes an actual locust infestation ...	issues a warning about a coming military offensive.
3. describes an actual locust infestation functioning as a prophetic forerunner ...	uses that imagery to portray a human army in terms of a decisive conflict on the day of the Lord.
4. describes a military attack in terms of the metaphor of a locust invasion ...	represents the coming of an enemy usually viewed as the Assyrians or Babylonians.

Arguing for position 3:

### An outline of Joel (ESV Study Bible):

- I. The Judgment against Judah and the Day of the Lord (1:1–2:17)
  - A. Locust invasion: forerunner of the day of the Lord (1:1–20)
  - B. Army invasion: the arrival of the day of the Lord (2:1–17)
- II. The Mercy of the Lord and Judgment against the Nations (2:18–3:21)
  - A. Mercy: the Lord responds by restoring his people (2:18–32)
  - B. Judgment: the Lord's judgment against the nations and his dwelling with his people (3:1–21)



**ST JOHN'S**  
DOWNSHIRE HILL

Small Groups Autumn 2021  
Introduction to the Book of Joel

### When was Joel written?

1:1 What do we know about Joel? (Trick question)

1:13-14; 2:17 What institution is present in Israel according to these verses? How might that fit with the history of Israel?

2:1, 9, 15, 32; 3:1, 6, 8, 16-21 What is the geographical focus of Joel's prophecy? How might that fit with the history of Israel?

### The Day of the Lord

What does the Day of the Lord refer to in the following passages?  
Isaiah 13:1,6-9

Amos 5:18-20

Zephaniah 1:7,14

1 Corinthians 1:8

2 Peter 3:10



### Joel's perspective:

1:1-20 The day of the locusts

2:1-17 The day of the Lord to come

2:18-27 The day delayed: restoration and judgment promised

2:28-32 The presence of the Lord in that day (by his Spirit among his people in the midst of war)

3:1-21 The day of the Lord to come, finally



### The New Testament perspective:

Days of locusts come often

The Day of the Lord came at the cross

The Day of the Lord is still to come

In between we have the presence of the Lord by his Spirit among his people in the midst of war.



(From the ESV Study Bible)