

**#971 The Whore's Latter Rain – Joel chapters 1 and 2: The destructive Army of Locusts, symbolic of the Army of the Babylonians, as the Lord's Army of judgment**

In Joel chapter 1, there is seen a great invasion of locusts and a severe drought, as part of the Lord's judgment upon Judah. [Perhaps Joel chapters 1 and 2 should be read at this time.] In Joel chapter 2, the invasion of locusts is described more in the terms of being an *army*, for "*the appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run*" (Joel 2:4).

**The army of locusts as armies of men.** It seems clear, especially with the evidence that shall be presented, that the locust plague indeed represents the army (or armies) of an adversary (or the adversaries) of the southern kingdom of Judah, after the fall of the northern kingdom of Israel (722 B.C.). Of course, the Lord describes the locust army – the army of Judah's adversary – as *his* army, because he ordained the locust army for the purposes of judgment upon Judah and Jerusalem.

*Joel 1:4 (KJV) 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 caterpillar eaten,*



The locusts are in modern day Israel, with the picture in the midst being an artist's impression of Sennacherib's (locust) army battling in Lachish against Judea.

Because there are four different categories of devouring insects seen in Joel 1:4 – the palmerworm, the locust, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar – many have historically allegorized the four to represent Babylon (or the combination of Assyria-Babylon), Media-Persia, Greece, and Rome, overrunning Judah during the course of their respective empires. Others discount that concept, but, as to the identity of the locust army that devastates Judah, commentaries focus on (i) the army of Sennacherib, the Assyrian king from 705-681 B.C., who is known for his military

campaigns against the southern kingdom of Judah, or (ii) the much later army of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, or (iii) the two are mentioned together in the same breath, as in the armies of 'Assyria and Babylon,' though the occurrence of each of them was several generations apart. Actually, the answer is that, yes, both the army of Sennacherib of Assyria and the army of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon are to be seen in Joel as locust armies, with the final focus situated on the army of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. The key to the prophetic picture of the locust armies is the year that Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon first conquered Judah – 605 B.C. Why is that the key? In the next Unsealing, we will begin the remarkable explanation. But first things first. Let's reread Joel 2:23-25 to see the Lord's "great army" that has opposed Judah.

*Joel 2:23-25 (KJV) Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the FORMER RAIN moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the FORMER RAIN, and the LATTER RAIN in the first month.*

*24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.*

*25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, MY GREAT ARMY which I sent among you.*

**Key Understanding:** The army of locusts against Judah – which represents an army of men – is *an army of the Lord*, in that the Lord ordained the army to judge Judah. Therefore, the Lord's "great army" in Joel 2:25 that is composed of the locust, cankerworm, caterpillar, and palmerworm – but is symbolic of an army of men, such as the army of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon – is an army that is essentially in opposition to, and certainly not in harmony with, the bringing forth of the *former rain* and the *latter rain* seen in Joel 2:23, for the *former rain* and the *latter rain* are sent by the Lord to restore what the Lord's "great army" has destroyed.



The locusts are in modern day Israel, with the picture in the midst being an artist's impression of Nebuchadnezzar's army attacking Jerusalem (though the illustration is of the attack on Jerusalem in 587-586 B.C., not 605 B.C.)



**2 Chronicles 36:19. Destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.**

And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem,  
and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

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