

The Day of The LORD Joel 1-2:27

for the **Growing** Christian:

God used Joel to speak to the people of Israel so that they would see the locust plague was a warning of a worse catastrophe to come, The Day of The Lord. That Day was going to see the destruction of the land of Israel by the Assyrians & Babylonians. They would lay the land bare because of the sin of the people. God, however, hoped they would repent before that Day.

In 2 Peter 3 Christians are warned of the final Day of The Lord - Christ's Second Coming. We are told to live holy lives in expectation of that Day! Read the following scriptures on the holiness that Christians are called to: Ephesians 4:30-32; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Peter 1:13-16. And always remember that holy lives are possible by God's power, not our own.

Weekly Affirmation:
Jesus Is Coming Back for Me!

for the **Mature** Christian:

Read through Joel one more time. Play a drinking game if you'd like, and take a sip of coffee or tea each time you come across the words "weep, wail, mourn, or cry."

Tears can have a godly function in our lives. Tears can express our repentance. They can drive us to the Lord, and can evoke sympathy from Him

(2 Kings 20:1-6). Tears, on the other hand, may be the only way to express our grief and frustration over things we cannot change. In this way they can have a therapeutic effect and turn us back toward the omniscient God, in whose sovereignty & wisdom we can trust. Tears may be a sign that we share in God's grieving heart over sin in the world. And finally, it's good to remember that tears are something that we can & should share as a community (Rom. 12:15).

for **Children:**

Use your imagination to create a new kind of insect. It can have special powers, or it can look like a mixture of animals... it can be anything you want! Make a drawing of it, or tell a story about it. Then read Joel 2:4-10. Joel described the movement & destruction of ordinary locusts with military imagery. This was because an actual human army would come in the future and hurt the people of Israel. God would have protected them, and He tried to warn them, but they had decided they didn't want God's help. Read Psalm 145:18-20. If we truly love God and want a relationship with Him, He will always be ready to help!

October 2024 Growth Goals

- ♡ Read the Books of Hosea & Joel.
- ♡ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ♡ Watch the Bible Project videos on the Books of Hosea & Joel (available on the website).
- ♡ Try a fast of any duration (8-24 hours). Replace your meal time with prayer and Bible reading (see Daniel with any questions).

Weekly Memory Verse:
"...Now return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and compassionate, Slow to anger, abounding in mercy..."
 Joel 2:13