

## The Invasion of Our Hearts · The book of Joel

*"Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life."* Proverbs 4:23

### Wreaking havoc and the battleground for our hearts Joel 1:4-13; 2:1-11

- The invasion that comes from armies of "locusts" (Joel 1:4-13)  
*"What the gnawing locust has left, the swarming locust has eaten; and what the swarming locust has left, the creeping locust has eaten; and what the creeping locust has left, the stripping locust has eaten."* (1:4)
- The mayhem that comes from armies of "mighty people" (Joel 2:1-11)  
*"A day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness. As the dawn is spread over the mountains, so there is a great and mighty people; there has never been anything like it, nor will there be again after it to the years of many generations."* (2:2)

### God will fight against us to bring us to repentance Joel 1:14-20; 2:12-17

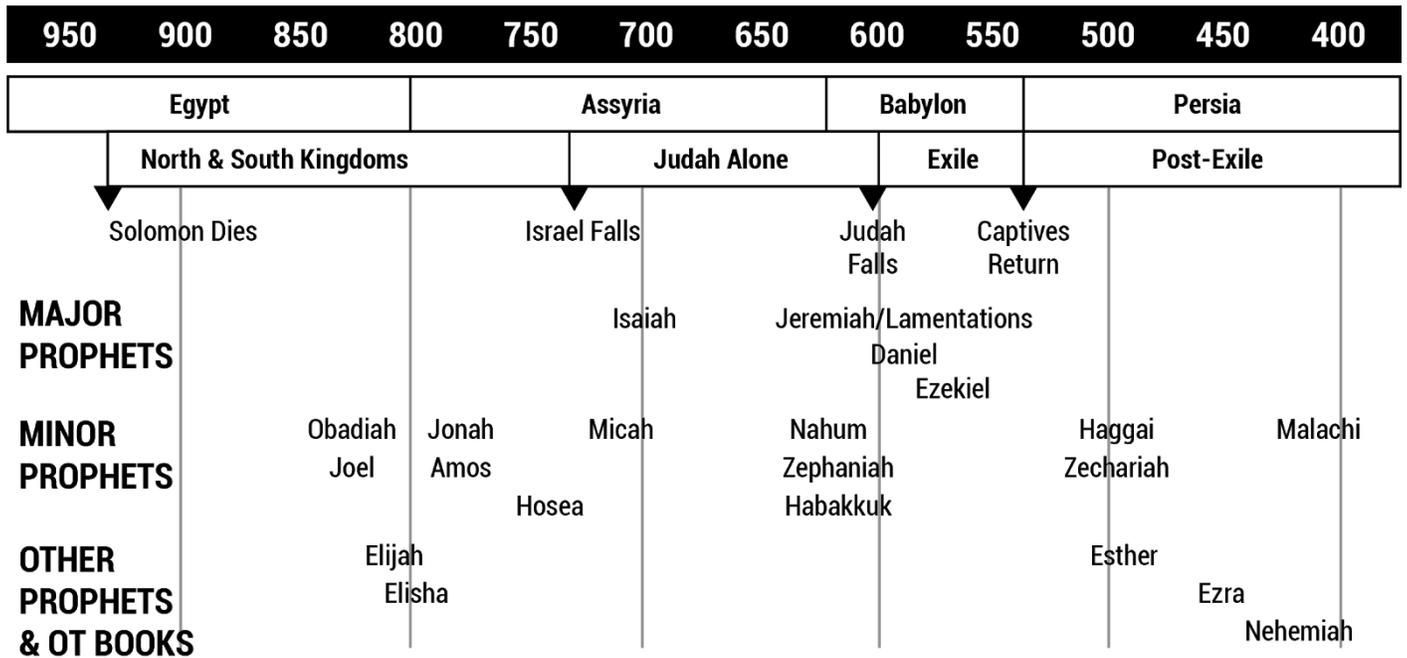
- This is a call to return with **ALL** our hearts (Joel 2:12)  
*"Return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping and mourning..."* (2:12)
- This is a call to go beyond mere external actions (Joel 2:13-17)  
*"...and rend your heart and not your garments.' Now return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness and relenting of evil."* (2:13)

### God will restore what has been made desolate Joel 2:18 - 3:21

Their Immediate Future	Our Immediate Future
Removal of those who wreak havoc (2:20-21)	The defeat of evil among <b>ALL</b> the nations (3:1-16) [cf: Isaiah 13; Zephaniah 3; Ezekiel 38-39]
Restoration of devastated land (2:22-26)	Restoration of <b>ALL</b> creation (3:17-21) [cf: Isaiah 35; Ezekiel 47; Zechariah 14]
Return of God's Spirit among His people (2:27) [cf: Acts 2:17-21]	God's Spirit poured out on <b>ALL</b> mankind (2:28-32) [cf: Isaiah 32:15, 44:3; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:23-28]

### What has sin made desolate in your life, and where has it wreaked havoc? What does God need to restore in you?

*"The Lord roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth tremble. But the Lord is a refuge for His people and a stronghold to the sons of Israel. **Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, and strangers will pass through it no more.**" Joel 3:16-17*



## Next Steps:

**JOIN A LIFEGROUP:** LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. To get involved or for more information, contact Connections + LifeGroups Pastor, Robert Carter, at [rcarter@calvarylife.org](mailto:rcarter@calvarylife.org), or indicate "LifeGroups" on The Card (located in the chair rack in the seat in front of you). [calvarylife.org/lifegroups](http://calvarylife.org/lifegroups)

## In Response:

**COMMUNION:** Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

**GIVING:** The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or [calvarylife.org/give](http://calvarylife.org/give)

**PRAYER POINTS:** These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

**PRAYER ROOM:** The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.