

## Rend Your Hearts (Joel 2:1-17)

### Lesson 6

Joel builds on the imagery of locusts from chapter one to describe a human army coming to ravage the land. But it's not too late! The situation is not hopeless. True heartfelt repentance can potentially turn away this disaster.

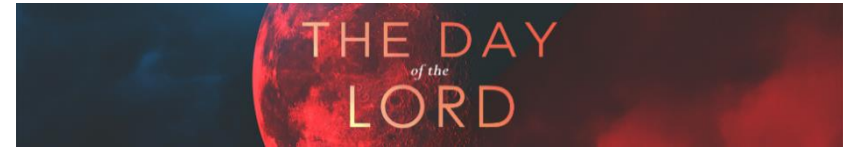
#### God warns of the coming army (2:1-11).

- A. **The call to \_\_\_\_\_ the coming Day of the Lord (2:1-2a).**  
Even those this is likely a reference to Assyria or Babylon, Joel sees such forces as ultimately carrying out God's will.
- B. **The description of the coming \_\_\_\_\_ (2:2b-9).**  
This army will bring ruin just like the locusts did – only this time, it will be far worse.
- C. **The description of the coming Day of the Lord (10-11).**  
“Who can [endure] it [the Day of the Lord]?” After the terrifying descriptions, the answer is obvious: no one.

#### God gives the opportunity to repent (2:12-17).

A severe punishment was coming the way of God's people. But with God's warnings of judgment come appeals for repentance. In the end, however, the real question is not “Did they repent?” The question is – *Will we?*

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God wanted repentance that went deeper than an impressive display of emotion.



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God wanted repentance that went deeper than an impressive display of emotion.

**B. The basis for repentance – the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (2:13b-14).**

Embedded in this call to repentance is a reminder of the kind of God the people were repenting to. Joel is reminding us that when we draw near to God, he draws near to us (James 4:8).

The end result of this blessing is that the proper worship can resume. God takes the initiative to restore the relationship that has been broken because of the people's sins.

**C. The urgency of repentance – the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (2:15-16).**

When is the best time to repent? Right now!

**D. The purpose of repentance – the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (2:17).**

God wants his people to be driven by a desire to avoid the disastrous consequences of their sin. God wanted his people to realize that they bore his name and that when they were punished it would lead to the nations having wrong and low views of God.

God wanted true, heartfelt repentance that was immediate and was focused on a restored relationship with him. God's justice never shrinks back from addressing evil, but his mercy compels him to offer the chance to repent.

Even as believers, we must remember that while we will never face God's the full penalty of our sins, we still face the discipline [chastening] of a displeased Father (Hebrews 12:3-11) and the consequences of our own sinful actions (Galatians 6:7-8). We too should realize that God will not ignore our sins, but that he is today giving us the opportunity to repent immediately and completely. We serve a God who loves to restore. Who wouldn't want to repent to a God like that?

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