

Monday, August 31, 2026

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Scripture: Joel 1:1-4

1 The word of the Lord that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel:

An Invasion of Locusts

2 Hear this, you elders;

give ear, all inhabitants of the land!

Has such a thing happened in your days,
or in the days of your fathers?

3 Tell your children of it,

and let your children tell their children,
and their children to another generation.

4 What the cutting locust left,

the swarming locust has eaten.

What the swarming locust left,

the hopping locust has eaten,

and what the hopping locust left,

the destroying locust has eaten.

Essential Truth:

God sometimes uses disruption to get His people's attention.

Observations:

- Joel is calling out to the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to listen to his warning.
- What Joel is warning people about is so great that people will tell the next generation that they survived the disruption.
- The destruction of the locusts was overwhelming. The four swarms destroyed everything of sustenance for God's people.
- God used the disruption to get His people's attention.

Application: While I've never experienced a swarm of locusts, there have been times in my life where God has used disruption to get my attention. Sometimes disruption comes in the form of a broken appliance, an issue at work, or a medical diagnosis. Sometimes it comes through the words of a friend. God uses disruption to draw our eyes and our hearts back to him.

When Joel described a land stripped bare by locusts, he wasn't reporting a natural disaster, he was delivering a message from God to his people whose focus had drifted from him. The swarm of locusts that caused the famine was so great that the people who survived told the story to many generations. So the question for us all today is this: How is God using disruption to get our attention today?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, Creator of the heavens and the earth. Lord, your majesty is evident in all that you have created. You have created all things to glorify you, to honor you, and to give you praise. However, our sin nature causes us to put ourselves at the center of creation and take your place on the throne of our life. Give me eyes and ears to see and hear when you are trying to get my attention. May my gaze be always be focused on you. Amen.*

