

## **A Study of Joel 1:15-20**

### **What is R.E.A.P.?**

R.E.A.P. is a method of studying the Bible together to prepare for a group discussion. We highly encourage everyone to keep an ongoing journal and bring it to Monday nights, Wednesday nights, Sunday mornings, and any Bible study to engage well in our discussions together.

#### **R.E.A.P.**

1. Through **Reading**, people can circle and journal what they found noteworthy in each day's reading.
2. Through **Examining**, people can answer three major questions to prepare for discussion (What does this text teach us about God? What does this text teach us about humanity? What does this text teach us about Jesus?).
3. Through **Asking**, people can journal one or more significant questions they have about the text (Questions about events, people, places, situations, etc.) The goal is not to find answers to these questions themselves. Rather, the goal of asking significant questions is to think critically about the text and to bring thoughtful questions to pastors and teachers.
4. Through **Prayer**, people can take a moment to pray to God concerning things they read, examined, and asked.

### **Why do we REAP?**

We believe that this method is helpful in reading God's Word at every level. From beginners to advanced readers, we know that the Bible is infallible (error-free) and God's revelation of Himself. We REAP to learn more about God, who He is and what He's done; and to know Him personally as Savior.

### **How do I use REAP?**

1. Goal: Our purpose is not to collect information, trivia, or self-help tips, but to know and love God.
2. REAP the passage before Sunday's worship service, before the Wednesday night Bible Study, or before your Sunday School class. Don't allow the sermon or the Bible study to be the first time you face the text. Marinate in the text before we gather.
3. What do I do with my questions in the Ask section?
  - a. The big/main questions of interpretation should be answered by the sermon and preceding Bible study. If there are significant questions about how to understand the text after the sermon, we would encourage you to email me or Pastor Matt.
  - b. Join a growth group so that you can discuss the questions and how we should live out the applications of the text.

## Joel 1:15-20

<sup>15</sup> Alas for the day!  
For the day of the LORD is near,  
and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.

<sup>16</sup> Is not the food cut off  
before our eyes,  
joy and gladness  
from the house of our God?

<sup>17</sup> The seed shrivels under the clods;  
the storehouses are desolate;  
the granaries are torn down  
because the grain has dried up.

<sup>18</sup> How the beasts groan!  
The herds of cattle are perplexed  
because there is no pasture for them;  
even the flocks of sheep suffer.

<sup>19</sup> To you, O LORD, I call.  
For fire has devoured  
the pastures of the wilderness,  
and flame has burned  
all the trees of the field.

<sup>20</sup> Even the beasts of the field pant for you  
because the water brooks are dried up,  
and fire has devoured  
the pastures of the wilderness.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Joel 1:15-20. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.



2. How did the people of Judah in Joel's day understand this phrase historically?
  
3. How does the phrase that precedes it help us understand Joel's usage of "the day of the Lord"?
  
4. Why do most English translations use the word "Almighty" to refer to God?

#### 5. Locusts Vs. Human Army

Verse	Literal Locusts	Army of Human Invaders
1:15	The destruction refers to the plague of locusts and the devastation it has brought to their crops.	The destruction refers either to the Assyrians (close to 701 B.C.) or the Babylonians (either 597 B.C. or 586-587 B.C.)
1:16	The food has been eaten by the swarming locusts and because the fields have been pilfered, they are cut off	The food has been ransacked by the foreign army
1:17	The granaries naturally fell apart because there was no reason for them to keep them standing.	The granaries were ruined by soldiers, and because their food has been taken, there is no reason to rebuild them.
1:19	The fire figuratively refers to the heat of the sun, which adds a literal drought on top of the locust devastation.	This fire is a literal fire, in that the invaders would have likely lit their crops on fire to bring more devastation to the people of Judah.
1:20	The water sources being dried up literally speaks of a drought that has hit the land.	The water sources being dried up refers to the invaders who have sabotaged their water supplies.

6. Do these differences of interpretation affect the outcome of the overall passage? Why?