

What Is the Great Army of Joel?

The first chapter of the ancient hebrew Book of Joel prophecies a disastrous time for the people of ancient Israel, resulting from severe drought and drunkenness. The beginning of the second chapter warns of an invasion by an unstoppable army which devastates the land.

Some of the few people who realise this is a prophecy have assigned an identification to this army. However the book itself contains the identification, which is not what some claim. Read on.

Joel Chapter 2

- 1 Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of YHWH comes, for it is nigh at hand;
YHWH sends his army
- 2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there has not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.
- 3 A fire devours before them; and behind them a flame burns: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yes, and nothing shall escape them.
- 4 The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.
- 5 Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devours the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.
- 6 Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.
- 7 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:
- 8 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.
- 9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.
- 10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:
- 11 And YHWH shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong who executes his word: for the day of YHWH is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

His explanation of His great army

The true identification is given in verse 25:

- 25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust has eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, **my great army** which I sent among you.
- 26 And you shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of YHWH your Elohim, who has dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.
- 27 And you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am YHWH your Elohim, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

The army consists of the locust, the cankerworm, the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, which devoured what was left from the years of drought and fires.