



## Has God Lost Control of Our World?

***Joel 2:2: (NASB) 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.***

History does repeat itself. Sometimes in its repetition we can see the heartbreak of the transgressions of the past repeated in the present with an even deeper and more insidious result. Look around you and what do you see? Shootings, stabbings, bombings, race riots, gangs, rape, murder, genocide; Black lives matter, police lives matter, all lives matter but what does it matter? Politicians lie, people lie and so many lie unnecessarily in early graves. Save the whales, save the schools, save the planet, save the children, save them for what future? Muslims against Christians, Christians against other Christians, and seemingly the world against Judaism and the Atheists say, "I told you so." Women's rights, animal rights, civil rights, gun rights, LGBT rights - so many rights, but everything still seems so wrong. The world has become dangerous and angry. Their clamoring for peace is drowned out by the ever-increasing clamor of violence. Where is God? Does He hear? Does He know? Does He care? Has God completely lost control of our world?



The news lately has been so grim with so many bombings, shootings, violence and anger. When we decided on this topic, we were contemplating how we would ever be able to convince someone that everything is okay when obviously everything is NOT okay? Can we really depend on a Creator who stopped talking directly to His human creation thousands of years ago? Can we really rely on a collection of ancient texts to give us any answers at all? But then we recalled the prophecy of Joel 2. This prophecy can overlay right onto today's newspaper because it describes our current day with such accuracy that it can give us great comfort and peace. As they say, "God's got this" because He has already reported on it, and we can read the glorious ending.



Has God lost control of our world? The all-important answer to this pivotal question is a resounding NO!

God *does* hear, He *does* know and He *does* care! In fact, God cares enough to allow the entire human race to learn the lesson about right and wrong, and that lesson is powerful enough to have its effects last through all eternity!

Let us examine the question, "Has God lost control of our world?" through the eyes of Scripture.

The original sin in the Garden may seem trivial but it was in fact the **WORST KIND** of sin - *it was a willful disobedience (by Adam) of a direct command of God.*



Genesis 3:4-7: (NASB) *4The serpent said to the woman, you surely will not die! 5For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. 6When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.*

**DANGER**

**ALTERNATE THINKING:**  
You will NOT die

**ENTICING SUGGESTIONS:**  
Your eyes will be opened

**ACCESSIBLE PATHWAY:**  
You will be like God

**RESULT: FREEDOM IS VIOLATED!**

For more on this, please see the program from July 3, 2016, "Is Freedom and Responsibility Still Important?"



We are no longer free when we violate the responsibilities of our freedom legacy by acting on those things presented to us by those out of harmony with godly principles

Now, the inevitable downward path would not only follow, it would spread like a disease!

Genesis 6:5-6: (KJV) *5And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*

 Popular over true, *Why I Think This World Should End, Prince Ea*

- The people are depressed and angry. We can't live with each other, and we can't live with ourselves, so... everyone's medicated. We pass each other on the streets, and if we do speak, it's meaningless robotic communication. More people want 15 seconds of fame than a lifetime of meaning and purpose, because what's popular is more important than what's right. Ratings are more important than the truth. Our government builds twice as many prisons than schools. It's easier to find a Big Mac than an apple, and when you find the apple it's been genetically processed and modified. Presidents lie, politicians trick us. Race is still an issue and so is religion. Your God doesn't exist. My God does, and He is all loving. If you disagree with me, I'll kill you. ...Or even worse, argue you to death.*







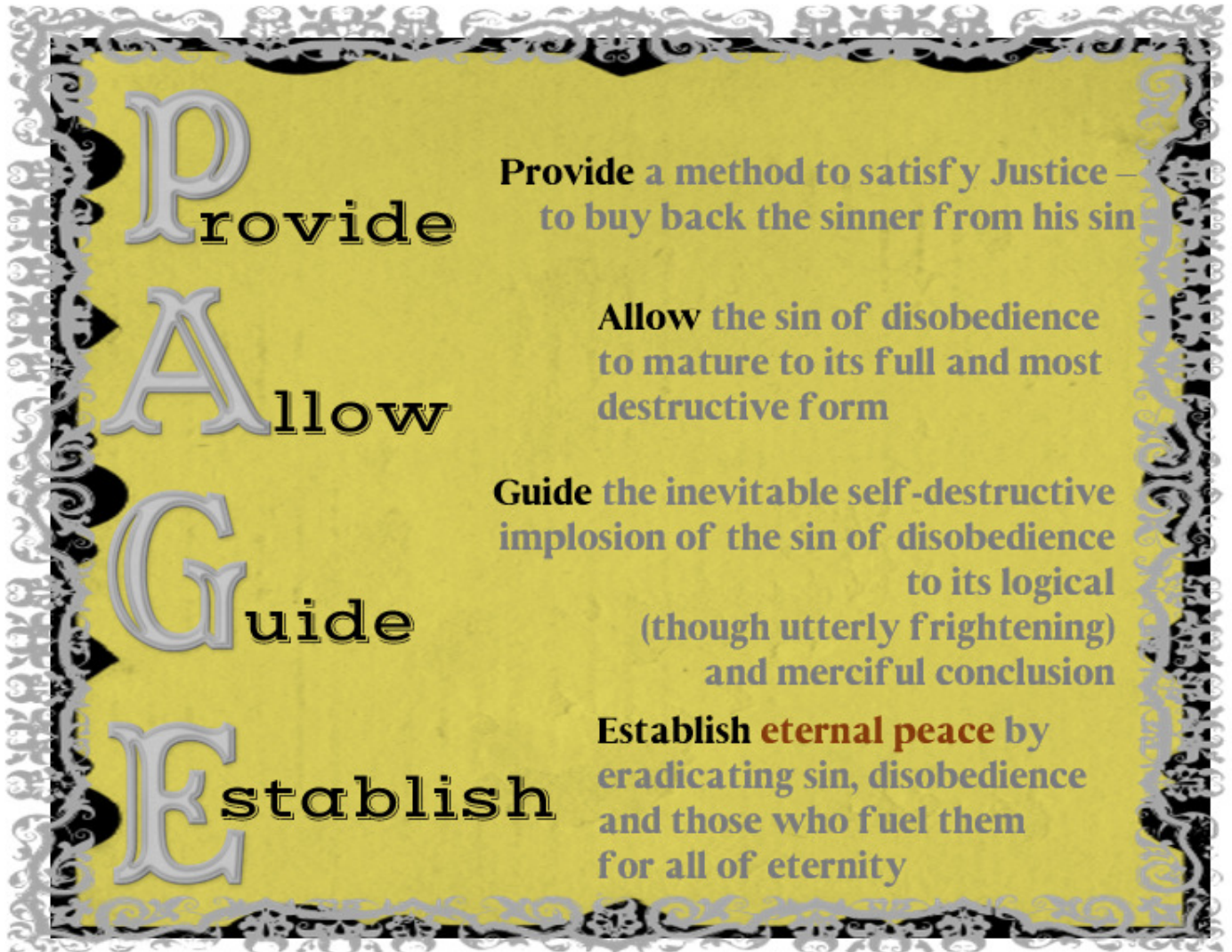
Romans 3:23: (KJV) *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

*All of the best efforts of man still come short of the glory of the God.*

*Mankind is far away from the will and ways of God. Is it recoverable?*

**What is involved in the process to solve the sin  
of disobeying God Almighty?**

*What we see as hopeless God sees as inevitably perfect - how do we get onto  
the same page as God?*



*In the midst of handing down the consequences for man's disobedience and abuse of freedom, he saw fit to provide them protection **and hope** even as he banished them from their freedom:*

Genesis 3:21, 23: (NASB) <sup>21</sup>*The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them...* <sup>23</sup>*therefore the LORD God sent him out from the Garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.*



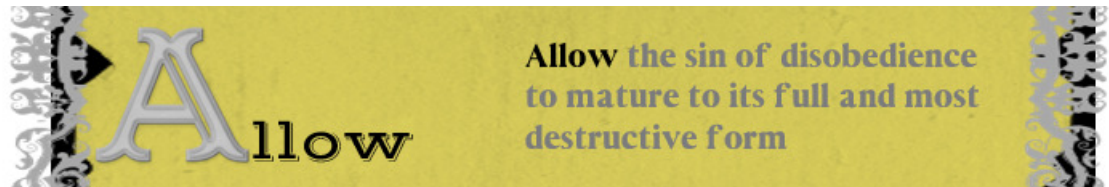
## God unmistakably continues to plant hope for all in Abraham - a reward for obedience:

**Genesis 22:15-18:** (KJV) <sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, <sup>16</sup>And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: <sup>17</sup>That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; <sup>18</sup>And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

## A broad and inclusive promise - How do God's promises work? Slowly, over time so they can deliver eternal results: *Jesus is the promised seed of Abraham* who came to be the fulfillment of those early promises and prophesies:

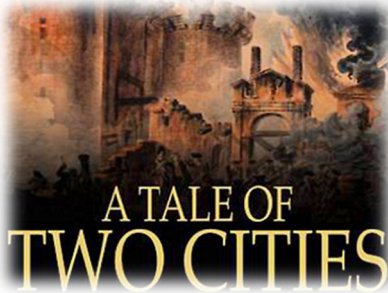
**Romans 5:18-19:** (KJV) <sup>18</sup>Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. <sup>19</sup>For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

God truly did have this under control right from the start!



### Introduction, *A Tale of Two Cities*, Librivox Recording

- *It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness. It was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity. It was the season of light, it was the season of darkness. It was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.*



Although describing the French Revolution, these words are even more applicable in our day. Today does seem like the "best of times" yet the "worst of times." We are at the pinnacle of man's ability in medical and technological breakthroughs. We have been to the moon and yet still nothing is good.

**Genesis 6:5-6:** (KJV) <sup>5</sup>And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup>And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

**Genesis 15:16:** (NASB) Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.

**Daniel 8:23:** (NASB) In the latter period of their rule, when the transgressors have run their course, A king will arise, Insolent and skilled in intrigue.

While the plan of God takes time to develop, sin also takes time to develop. The lesson of sin has value and often develops in stages. What is the worth of sin?



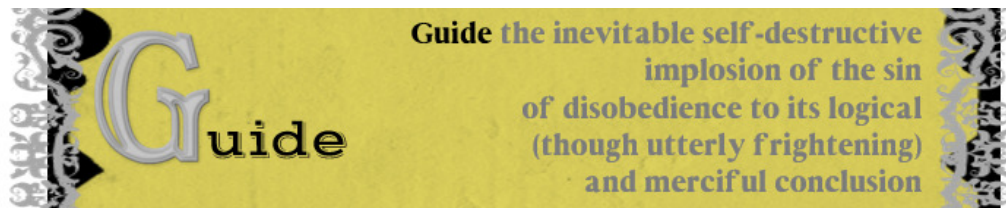
**What happens when sin grows  
to its full, ugly, miserable and destructive maturity?**

**Once mature, sin and disobedience will be recognized by their very nature for they only bring trouble:**

Daniel 12:1: (NASB) *Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.*

**Jesus verifies this recognition of great trouble in his great prophecy of his return:**

Matthew 24:21-24: (NASB) <sup>21</sup>*For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.* <sup>22</sup>*Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*



 **Not many human beings, *Why I Think This World Should End, Prince Ea***

- *Ninety-two percent of songs on the radio are about sex. Kids don't play tag, they play twerk videos. The average person watches five hours of television a day, and there's more violence on the screen than ever before. Technology has given us everything we could ever want and at the same time stolen everything we really need. Pride is at an all-time high, humility an all-time low. Everybody knows everything, everybody's going somewhere, ignoring someone, blaming somebody. Not many human "be"-ings left anymore. A lot of human "doings." Plenty of human "lingerings" in the past. Not many human "be"-ings.*

This is the result of sin; being caught up in the "stuff" and missing the value of life.

God has a "destruction of sin and disobedience guidance system." He guides the destruction of sin and disobedience. He allows it to happen and guides its pathway. To understand how He does it, we need to understand some seriously symbolic prophetic language.

**The prophet Joel walks us through this:**

Joel 1:2-3: (NASB) <sup>2</sup>*Hear this, O elders, and listen, all inhabitants of the land. Has anything like this happened in your days or in your fathers' days?* <sup>3</sup>*Tell your sons about it, and let your sons tell their sons, and their sons the next generation.*

This terrible prophecy of Joel is found nowhere else in Scripture. Joel uses a metaphor of the locust, which fits perfectly with what we see around us. He prophesied about "The Lord's Great Army," which as we will see, is not an army of God's people but is instead made of different discontented groups. The Lord will use their hopes, fear and selfishness according to His divine wisdom to work out His strategy in the overthrow of the present





establishments. This army is only capable of destroying this old order - it has nothing with which to replace it. Only the Lord can establish a new world order - His kingdom of righteousness - but in order to do so, the old and decaying structure must be removed. This is not a renovation of society; but instead is a complete rebuilding from the ground up. This army is used to destroy present society like a bulldozer.

The news today is very scary with everyone clamoring for their rights. Seemingly everyone is demanding change all at once using whatever means necessary, lawful or otherwise. Recruits for this army respond from all over the world.

Joel 1:4-5: (NASB) *<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>Awake, drunkards, and weep; and wail, all you wine drinkers, on account of the sweet wine that is cut off from your mouth.*

*Gnawing, swarming, creeping and stripping locusts* - this suggests to us a destructive process.



**STAGE 1: GNAWING LOCUSTS** - literally a palmerworm that gnaws away vegetation but does not kill it. It does not completely strip away or kill vegetation; but rather, it gnaws away little by little. We see this representing the subtle weakening of that which is good in the sight of God - a challenge to the norm of society. In this destructive army, first come the locusts that weaken those things which are good.

**STAGE 2: SWARMING LOCUSTS** - the overwhelming power and force of changes that break down all that is good in the sight of God. Once things are weakened by the gnawing, the swarm can break them. Through the power of numbers, what was once unheard of now becomes the norm.

**STAGE 3: CREEPING LOCUSTS** - literally these are young locusts. In the wake of the shock of the swarm, the slow and steady destruction of all that is good in the sight of God by the new ways and demands swarmed upon the world. "The next generation" has accepted the changed ways and only knows what the swarm put in place.

**STAGE 4: STRIPPING LOCUSTS** - these are ravagers who totally consume all that was good in the sight of God. We are now left with nothing recognizable that pertains to a godly life.

**The complete destruction caused by locusts is a prophetic symbol - of what?**

Joel 1:6-7: (NASB) *<sup>6</sup>For a nation has invaded my land, mighty and without number; its teeth are the teeth of a lion, and it has the fangs of a lioness. <sup>7</sup>It has made my vine a waste and my fig tree splinters. It has stripped them bare and cast them away; their branches have become white.*

Locusts are symbolizing an invading and destructive people.



Joel 1:12: (KJV) *The vine is dried up and the fig tree is withered; the pomegranate, the palm and the apple tree - all the trees of the field - are dried up. Surely the people's joy is withered away.*

Trees in the Bible symbolically represent nations or countries, such as in Luke 21:29 with the parable of *the fig tree and all the trees* regarding the nation of Israel and other countries being created in the last days. Here in Joel, *all the trees have dried up*, meaning all nations are affected. This is a worldwide problem. We see how technology links all nations today.

**Here we see God's "destruction of sin and disobedience guidance system" in action:**

Joel 2:1: (NASB) *Blow a trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; surely it is near,*

**Now another serious warning for great trouble coming - what does it look like?**

Joel 2:2: (NASB) *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.*

*Darkness, clouds and mountains* - Darkness means the light is not present and thus produces gloom. Clouds are typical of trouble and mountains are governments. Notice here there is *thick darkness* - severe trouble.

The stage is set - by God - for change!

What we see as hopeless, God sees as inevitably perfect - how do we get on the same page as God? Here is what we have reviewed so far:

<b>P</b> rovide	<b>Provide a method to satisfy Justice – to buy back the sinner from his sin</b>
<b>A</b> llow	<b>Allow the sin of disobedience to mature to its full and most destructive form</b>
<b>G</b> uide	<b>Guide the inevitable self-destructive implosion of the sin of disobedience to its logical (though utterly frightening) and merciful conclusion</b>





**"The last of human freedoms - the ability to choose one's attitude in a given set of circumstances."  
- Viktor E. Frankl**

Mr. Frankl was a survivor of the extermination camp, Auschwitz. Several of us from the CQ team were in Poland earlier this month for a church conference and had the privilege of going to Auschwitz. It was quite a moving experience. You know what happened there, but until you hear the stories of the survivors or the liberators of the camps, you really cannot imagine the extent of the horror.



We came across a quote from one of the liberators of a different camp and wanted to read a few lines from his experience:



"As we entered the camp, the living skeletons still able to walk crowded around us and, though we wanted to drive farther into the place, the milling, pressing crowd wouldn't let us. It is not an exaggeration to say that almost every inmate was insane with hunger. Just the sight of an American brought cheers, groans and shrieks. People crowded around to touch an American, to touch the jeep, to kiss our arms - perhaps just to make sure that it was true. The people who couldn't walk crawled out toward our jeep. Those who couldn't even crawl propped themselves up on an elbow, and somehow, through all their pain and suffering, revealed through their eyes the gratitude, the joy they felt at the arrival of Americans." - *Captain J.D. Pletcher, 71st Division at Gunskirchen Lager (concentration camp in Austria)*

The description of the prisoners reminds us of the people today who are sick and tired of this sin-filled world and its death, suffering and injustices. They will be so full of joy when they realize all of this will be over and it will be for the eternal good of all of humanity. Never again will we have to experience such grief and agony.

...But first, we have to get through the bugs....





## Introduction, *A Tale of Two Cities*, Librivox Recording

- We had everything before us, we had nothing before us. We were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way. In short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.*

Implementing God's "destruction of sin and disobedience guidance system" involves two phases: 1<sup>st</sup> phase: We have the timing of the arrival of the time of trouble as was laid out in Joel 2:1-2. God knew how long it would take for sin to mature to its ugliest, most overwhelming state for it to have lasting lessons. 2<sup>nd</sup> phase: God needs the players - the *great and mighty people*.

Joel 2:2: (NASB) *...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.*

### **Who are they? His Army! They are the Lord's Great Army!**

Joel 2:11: (NASB) *The LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, and who can endure it?*

### **How are they pictured?**

Joel 2:3: (NASB) *A fire consumes before them and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the Garden of Eden before them but a desolate wilderness behind them, and nothing at all escapes them.*

Locusts! Wait - how can it be that God's Army is pictured by destructive insects?

### **This is not the first time the Bible likens people to insects:**

Isaiah 40:20: (NASB) *It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.*

The Lord's Great Army is not an army of God's people, but people ultimately under His control for a specific purpose. God often uses the foolishness of man to further His purposes. Pharaoh's own hard heart provided escape for Israel. God used Pharaoh's own propensity to accomplish His plan. Israel wanted and got a king and trouble, as well. Several times in battles the enemies of Israel turned upon themselves. Even in movies, how often does the bad guy's arrogance lead to his own demise? God therefore can and will use humankind's clamoring for their "rights" and space, etc., as the very tool needed for the utter destruction of the present broken and sinful systems. God does not interfere with anyone's free will.

Now let us see how well this locust picture fits!

### **Some locust facts: (Source: Wikipedia)**



- Their mouths have unusual cutting jaws.*
- Fire doesn't stop them as the bodies of the dead locusts put out the fire.*



**Joel 2:4:** (NASB) *Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run.*



- ***They have an oblong head like a horse bending down.***

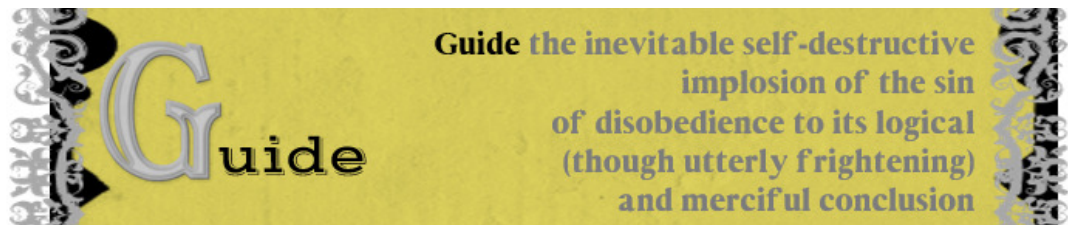
**Revelation 9:7:** (NASB) *The appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads appeared to be crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men.*

**Job 39** describes the war horse as fearless, strong and waiting to fight - just like these groups we see around us, strong and waiting to fight. Here we have people described as locusts described as war horses - a metaphor within a metaphor!

These gnawing, swarming, creeping and stripping locusts are looking for what they can get and not what God has given. That is exactly what Satan did.

**2 Timothy 3:1-5:** (NASB) *<sup>1</sup>But realize this that in the last days difficult times will come. <sup>2</sup>For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, <sup>4</sup>treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; avoid such men as these.*

**So, are we saying that God is IN control BECAUSE it all looks like it is OUT of control?**



**How does God guide this?**

**Joel 2:5:** (NASB) *With a noise as of chariots they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the stubble, like a mighty people arranged for battle.*



- ***They are noisy and can be heard five miles off.***
- ***Their nipping leaves and blades of grass produce a noise like a roaring fire.***

**Mountains** - symbol of governments. Do we see out of control immigration throughout the world? Boundaries no longer exist. We have a global village where everything affects everybody. The battle cry of this army can be heard around the world.

**Joel 2:6:** (NASB) *Before them the people are in anguish; all faces turn pale.*



- ***They appear suddenly.***
- ***They have NO natural enemy that can keep a devastating migration in check.***



It is a scary sight to see the MANY movements that are in gear now and how many more are brought into play with regularity, each with their own agenda, their own demands and their own momentum. We cannot stop this swarm, but there is no man-made, worldwide answer to solve every problem.

**Our role models are not, *Why I Think This World Should End, Prince Ea***

- *Money is still the root of all evil yet we tell our kids, "Don't get that degree - the jobs don't pay enough." Good deeds are only done when there's a profit margin. Videos of the misfortunes of others go viral. We laugh and share them with our friends to laugh with us. Our role models today, 60 years ago would have been examples of what not to be. There are states where people can legally be discriminated against because they were born a certain way. Companies invest millions of dollars hiring specialists to make little girls feel like they need makeup to be beautiful, permanently lowering their self-esteem because they will never be pretty enough to meet those impossible standards. Corporations tell us, "Buy, buy, buy! Get this, get that! You must keep up! You must fit in! This will make you happy." But it never does for long.*

How does God control this enormous swarming mass of humanity with all of their varied agendas? We do not believe He interferes with free will.

Proverbs 30:27: (NASB) *The locusts have no king, Yet all of them go out in ranks;*

There is no leader or captain, but together they form a well-organized, disciplined fighting force. There is no one "Hitler" to fight. A dangerous swarm could even be in the form of a tweet or viral video.



- ***They are always at the mercy of the wind***

Exodus 10:13: (NASB) *So Moses stretched out his staff over the land of Egypt, and the LORD directed an east wind on the land all that day and all that night; and when it was morning, the east wind brought the locusts.*

This army cannot chart its own course. God generates the wind and the army responds to His direction, timing and location.

In Jonah 4:8 the *east wind* is described as *scorching*. In Scripture, generally the east wind is described as dry and blighting.



Joel 2:7-8: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>*They run like mighty men, they climb the wall like soldiers; and they each march in line, nor do they deviate from their paths. <sup>8</sup>They do not crowd each other, they march everyone in his path; when they burst through the defenses, they do not break ranks.*

*They march everyone in his path* - each group has a particular complaint and seeks to solve the problem. In spite of all the various groups' differences, they all come together to destroy the present order.

This amounts to an unstoppable force by way of sheer numbers!





- *Swarming behavior is a response to overcrowding. Increased tactile stimulation of the hind legs causes an increase in levels of serotonin.*
- *When individuals at the front of the swarm settle to feed, others fly past overhead and settle in their turn, the whole swarm, and acting like a rolling unit with an ever-changing leading edge. The locusts spend much time on the ground feeding and resting, moving on when the vegetation is exhausted.*

**Joel 2:9:** (NASB) *They rush on the city, they run on the wall; they climb into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief.*



A locust knows no obstacle. We talked about fire not stopping them because the dead bodies of locusts put the fire out. If they encounter water like a puddle, river or lake, they do not attempt to go around it - they just leap in and are drowned. Their dead bodies float on the surface and form a floating bridge for the rest to pass over.

*They rush on the city* - a city is an organized population, but these locusts are not acting in a civilized way. They do not make change through regular channels like laws or through a nation's constitution.

*They run on the wall* - a wall is a city's defense system. Protection of the city is destroyed by illegal means. The law, such as a police force, cannot stop them and anarchy ensues.

Here again there is an almost eerie sense of our present reality shown in prophecy! Do not all of these movements have the ability to infiltrate all of our houses by way of technology?

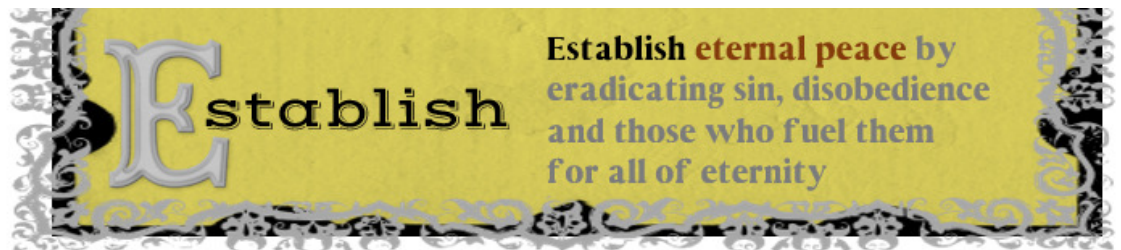


- *The largest flight on record of locusts extended over 500 miles and it darkened the sky like an eclipse.*
- *A large swarm can consist of billions of locusts spread out over an area of thousands of square kilometers, with a population of up to*

*eighty million individuals per square kilometer (two hundred million per square mile).*



God guides the chaos - but to what end?



**The day of trouble summed up - everything that was stable is no longer stable. Nothing is left unshaken:**

Joel 2:10-11: (NASB) <sup>10</sup>*Before them the earthquakes, the heavens tremble, the sun and the moon grow dark and the stars lose their brightness. <sup>11</sup>The LORD utters His voice before His army; Surely His camp is very great, for strong is he who carries out His word. The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, and who can endure it?*

God allows the discontentment and sin to grow to show mankind they cannot do things their way. God's kingdom of righteousness is the only permanent solution.

Why does God guide the shaking and crumbling of what was thought to be the "rights" of people?

**He does so for the sake of truth being able to be heard:**



**Job 38:22-23:** (NASB) <sup>22</sup>*Have you entered the storehouses of the snow, or have you seen the storehouses of the hail,* <sup>23</sup>*Which I have reserved for the time of distress, for the day of war and battle?*

In Scripture, water symbolizes truth. Hail is solidified water, so hail represents truth delivered in such a way as to be destructive to what it comes in contact with.

**Isaiah 28:17:** (KJV) *...the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies and the waters (truth) shall overflow the hiding place.*

All of the errors and lies that have brought harm to the world have to be dealt with. This time of trouble would not be complete without hail - hard, cold truths - that Job told us would be *reserved for the time of distress*, the time of trouble. Think about today and how nothing is hidden anymore - information is instant, corruption is constantly being uncovered. We have WikiLeaks, email scandals, classified information out in the open - nothing is secret, which further fuels the great army's outrage and demands.

This was one of the indications of the End Times:

**Matthew 10:26:** (KJV) *There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed, and hid that shall not be known.*

Nothing is secret anymore, and nothing is sacred either. People feel their agendas are higher than the laws and people around them. But when you lose the sacredness of life, its value is gone. Recklessly pursuing our own agendas is a sign of godlessness. God created us as sacred beings to Him and we have destroyed that.

**Here is the first part of the Scripture we just quoted:**

**Isaiah 28:17:** (NASB) *I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the level; then hail will sweep away the refuge of lies and the waters will overflow the secret place.*

When God takes it all and puts it to judgment, He does it in a clear, fair way. Justice is what is right. Righteousness is the level.

Is there ever a time where we as followers of Christ advocate rebellion against governments for our own personal rights? We do not believe so. We do what we can to preserve life, but it is not our job as Christians to fight the battles of this world, because no matter what side you are on, they will end up broken anyway. We believe God wants us engaged in the new world, something different.



**New beginning starts with you, *Why I Think This World Should End*, Prince Ea**

- *So, what can we do in the face of all this madness and chaos? What is the solution? We can love. Not the love you hear in your favorite song on the radio. I mean real love, true love, boundless love. You can love, love each other from the moment we wake up to the moment we go to bed. Performing acts of kindness because that is contagious. We can be mindful during every interaction, planting seeds of goodness, showing a little more compassion than usual. We can forgive because 300 years from now will that grudge you hold against your friend, your mother, your father have been worth it? Instead of trying to change others we can change ourselves, we can change our hearts.*





*We've been sold lies, brainwashed by our leaders and those we trust to not recognize our brothers and sisters, and to exhibit anger, hatred and cruelty. But once we truly love we will meet anger with sympathy, hatred with compassion, cruelty with kindness. Love is the most powerful weapon on the face of the earth. Robert Kennedy once said that "few will have the greatness to be in history, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events." And in the total of all those acts will be written the history of a generation. So yes, the world is coming to an end, and the path towards a new beginning starts within you.*

What is the role of the true Christian? We have been given the task of *the ministry of reconciliation*. (2 Corinthians 5:18) That is not destructive. To reconcile is to bring together two parties who are at odds and help dissolve the differences. We cannot reconcile the world right now, but we can develop our characters now so that in the Day of Judgment, we will be an integral part of reconciling the world back to God. Sin destroyed it, Jesus saved it and we can teach it. The opportunities are exciting in spite of the darkness we live in!

**The end result of this will be peace, safety, righteousness and godly authority!**

**Joel 2:21-27:** (NASB) <sup>21</sup>*Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad, for the LORD has done great things. <sup>22</sup>Do not fear, beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness have turned green, For the tree has borne its fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full. <sup>23</sup>So rejoice, O sons of Zion, and be glad in the LORD your God; For He has given you the early rain for your vindication. And He has poured down for you the rain, the early and latter rain as before.*

The destroyed earth is renewed and blessings ensue! We hope our listeners will spend some time with Joel chapters 1 and 2. When you read through this, the end is so amazing! *Rejoice and be glad*. The hail is gone and now we can get to the sweet rain! We need to focus on the end of the story - the good news of the Gospel.

<sup>24</sup>*The threshing floors will be full of grain, and the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil. <sup>25</sup>Then I will make up to you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the creeping locust, the stripping locust and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you. <sup>26</sup>You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied and praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; then My people will never be put to shame. <sup>27</sup>Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel, And that I am the LORD your God, and there is no other; and My people will never be put to shame.*

Praise of God will be restored as the harvests of blessing pour out! The first chapter of Joel introduced those four kinds of locusts: gnawing, swarming, creeping and stripping - the process of destruction that would come upon the world. But now God will take that "cleared out" society and build something new!

**Finally, God's Spirit will permeate all humanity!**

**Joel 2:28-29:** (NASB) <sup>28</sup>*It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. <sup>29</sup>Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.*

What is our advice to people during the coming days and years?



With information comes comfort. It is like a doctor describing a medical procedure in detail before you go through it. If you know what to expect and why it is being done, it is easier to accept and to deal with it. If you know to expect pain for a limited period of time with a positive end result, you can better deal with the pain. This is why this prophecy gives us hope.

If we were going to choose one word to describe this whole "bug-era" it would be: TEMPORARY. The fact that God thousands of years ago gave us this prophecy of Joel 2 that directly relates to our end days, we can have faith that no matter how bad it gets - and it is going to get bad - the Bible describes this in dramatic fashion - the evil takes over and there will be darkness...we know it is coming, we know it is temporary and we know the end is glorious and need to focus on that. We want to keep light in the world as long as possible. This means do what is possible not to lose your humanity. Continue to be kind and respectful and do good wherever and whenever we can. Do not be part of the darkness overtaking the earth.

Pain IS coming but it is for a specific purpose and we know our God! It will not be one minute longer than necessary to create age-lasting results.

Be on the same P.A.G.E. as God. Watch Him PROVIDE, ALLOW, GUIDE and ESTABLISH. God sees bigger, better and beyond all that is happening around us. When we look at a prophecy as dark as this one, we can say the light of God's truth shines through the darkness of the swarm of locusts to the other side. God's light is stronger and more powerful.

*So, has God lost control of our world?  
For Jonathan and Rick (and Julie!) and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...  
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*









## Descriptions of the End Times:

2 Timothy 3:1: (KJV) *But understand this that in the last days perilous times shall come.*

Isaiah 42:13-14: (KJV) <sup>13</sup>*The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies. <sup>14</sup>I have long time holden my peace, I have been still and refrained myself... (For how long? 6,000 years)*

God now takes an offensive position. Why this change from a God of love and peace to a God who will destroy and devour? This is because God is also a God of justice, who will not allow sin to forever triumph in the world. It must be punished and eradicated.

Romans 12:19: (KJV) *Vengeance is mine, I will repay.*

This requires a change in His posture. As our God rises up in judgment against the nations and all wickedness, a character change occurs. He now declares Himself *...a man of war, ready to destroy and devour, mighty in battle leading an army.*

Daniel 12:1: (KJV) *There shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation.*

Isaiah 24:1: (Revised Version) *Behold the Lord will lay waste the earth and make it desolate and will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants.*

Isaiah 24:2: (Revised Version) *It shall be, as with people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the creditor, so with the debtor.*

Every segment of society disturbed.

Isaiah 24:5: (Revised Version) *The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants - for they have transgressed the laws and violated the statutes.*

We have literally and metaphorically polluted the earth well beyond repair.