

**Joel I**  
The Locusts

*Wake up and hear this ...*

I. Disaster is at Hand

- A. Ravaging Locusts
- B. A World of Trouble
- C. Alarm and Invitation

II. Sovereignty

- A. Providence
- B. With Purpose
- C. Seek the Lord!

III. And a Hiding Place

- A. The Day of Christ
- B. Humility and Repentance
- C. Trust and Thanksgiving

*... the Day of the Lord is coming!*

**Children, Listen ...**

1. Do we always understand why bad things happen?
2. What does "God is sovereign" mean?
3. Is God ever guilty of sin and evil?
4. How will being near God every day help us when we face really terrible days?
5. Can Jesus' followers trust God at all times? If so, how is that possible?

**Perplexed But Not Despairing**

One of the most fundamental truths revealed about God in Scripture is that He is absolutely sovereign. This means that all things come to pass by His good and perfect will through His acts of providence. That by no means suggests that He is guilty of evil or sin of any kind. It does mean that all things, even bad things are subservient to His perfect design. Mankind's fall into sin and the resulting calamity it has wrought on all creation and all the grief, sorry and even disasters that follow always, somehow fits into His ultimate plan for good. We may not always understand how or why but we can know it is so. Even consuming locust must do His bidding! As a part of His plan of redemption even natural disasters have a supernatural origin. Whether they affect us directly or not they should get our attention and in do so should strike us with awe and wonder in such a way that compels us to draw near to Him as our refuge and keeper with an abiding trust that he is merciful and kind to those He loves. Worldwide, national and even personal tragedy, grievous as it may be, cannot shake the foundation we have now and will have for all eternity if we are in the Lord Jesus Christ. "Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face." William Cowper