

# Locusts, Grasshoppers, Towers, & Joel

First Edition

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## Inconsistencies & Misapplications (of Scripture applied to interpretation of Joel)

This document intends to properly represent prophetic symbols found in verses of the book Joel that seem to be commonly misapplied in regard to the context of the subject matter or inconsistent with certain guidelines of Scriptural interpretation such as the following:

- 1) Every word must have its proper bearing on the subject presented in the Bible.
- 8) Figures always have a figurative meaning, and are used much in prophecy, to represent future things, times and events; such as mountains, meaning governments; beasts, meaning kingdoms. {1842 WiM, MWV1 21.4} Waters, meaning people. Lamp, meaning word of God. Day, meaning year.
- 10) Figures sometimes have two or more different significations, as day is used in a figurative sense to represent three different periods of time.
- 11) How to know when a word is used figuratively. If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally, if not, figuratively.
- 12) To learn the true meaning of figures, trace your figurative word through your Bible, and where you find it explained, put it on your figure, and if it makes good sense you need look no further, if not, look again.
- 13) To know whether we have the true historical event for the fulfilment of a prophecy. If you find every word of the prophecy (after the figures are understood) is literally fulfilled, then you may know that your history is the true event. But if one word lacks a fulfilment, then you must look for another event, or wait its future development. For God takes care that history and prophecy doth agree, so that the true believing children of God may never be ashamed.

Numerous scriptures relative to the prophetic symbols in question will be listed in the following pages. Specifically, the following prophetic symbols will be addressed: grasshoppers & locusts, cankerworm (canker/cankered), teeth, towers, thick darkness.

After the presentation of these verses, the document will discuss the problems with applying Islam to certain Scriptures in Joel.

The reader should consider examining the surrounding verses associated with all verses listed here to gain appropriate understanding of context.

Note: This document considers the first and last appearances of words in Scripture from the perspective of the English language (instead of Hebrew or Greek)

## Grasshopper

Grasshopper is edible:

"[Even] these of them ye may eat; the locust after his kind, and the bald locust after his kind, and the beetle after his kind, and the grasshopper after his kind." Leviticus 11:22 (This is the first appearance of the word "grasshopper" in the Bible)

Grasshopper is jumpy with tendency to flee away:

"Canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper? the glory of his nostrils [is] terrible." Job 39:20

Burdensome Grasshopper:

"Also [when] they shall be afraid of [that which is] high, and fears [shall be] in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:" Ecclesiastes 12:5 (This is the last appearance of the word "grasshopper" in the Bible)

## Grasshoppers

Hebrews likened to grasshoppers (stature in comparison to Anakim):

"And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, [which come] of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight." Numbers 13:33 (This is the first appearance of the word "grasshoppers" in the Bible)

Grasshoppers interpreted as *multitude* (Midian, Amalek, children of the east ALL inclusive):

"And [so] it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass. For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; [for] both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it." Judges 6:3-5

"And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels [were] without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude." Judges 7:12

"[It is] he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof [are] as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:" Isaiah 40:22

"They shall cut down her forest, saith the LORD, though it cannot be searched; because they are more than the grasshoppers, and [are] innumerable." Jeremiah 46:23

"There shall the fire devour thee; the sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm: make thyself many as the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts. Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven: the cankerworm spoileth, and fleeth away. Thy crowned [are] as the locusts, and thy captains as the great grasshoppers, which camp in the hedges in the cold day, [but] when the sun ariseth they flee away, and their place is not known where they [are]." Nahum 3:15-17 (This is the last appearance of the word "grasshoppers" in the Bible)

Representing "Consumption":

"Thus hath the Lord GOD showed unto me; and, behold, he formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, [it was] the latter growth after the king's mowings. And it came to pass, [that] when they had made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, O Lord GOD, forgive, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he [is] small."  
Amos 7:1-2

## Locust & Locusts

### Not one remaining locust:

"And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt." Exodus 10:19 (This is the first appearance of the word "locust" in the Bible)

### Locust is edible:

"[Even] these of them ye may eat; the locust after his kind, and the bald locust after his kind, and the beetle after his kind, and the grasshopper after his kind." Leviticus 11:22 (This is the first appearance of the word "locust" in association with being "edible" in the Bible)

"And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;" Mark 1:6 (This is the last appearance of the word "locusts" in association with being "edible" in the Bible)

### Note:

Spiritually, eating the locust appears to be closely associated with eating the "little book" of Revelation 10:9,11 (the millerites ate the little book after the empowerment of the 1st angel's message in verse 9 and verse 11 represents the 144,000 eating the the little book after the empowerment of the 1st angel's message {compare 8-11-1840 with 9-11-2001}) after the empowerment of a message. John baptized Jesus Christ (upon whom the Divine Symbol descended) and, henceforth from that point in time, the jews, especially His "followers" were required to "eat His flesh" and "drink His blood" (see John 5:56)

### Locusts as a divine punishment/consequence:

"Else, if thou refuse to let my people go, behold, to morrow will I bring the locusts into thy coast:" Exodus 10:4 (This is the first appearance of the word "locusts" in the Bible)

### Note:

"east wind" also appears to represent divine punishment;

"Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways [from] the ancient paths, to walk in paths, [in] a way not cast up; To make their land desolate, [and] a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head. I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will show them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity." Jeremiah 18:15-17.

So, the locusts brought about by an east wind in Exodus seem to point to (or remind of) the 7-Times since "consumption" happens to be one of the punishments within the 7-Times (Leviticus 26:16)

### Representing "consumption":

"Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather [but] little in; for the locust shall consume it." Deuteronomy 28:38

"All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume." Deut. 28:42

"If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, [or] if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness [there be]; what prayer and supplication soever

be [made] by any man, [or] by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house: Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, [even] thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)" 1 Kings 8:37-39

"He gave also their increase unto the caterpillar, and their labour unto the locust." Psalms 78:46

"That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten." Joel 1:4

"And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you." Joel 2:25 (This is the last appearance of the word "locust" in the Bible)

"I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured [them]: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD." Amos 4:9

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the land of Egypt for the locusts, that they may come up upon the land of Egypt, and eat every herb of the land, [even] all that the hail hath left." Exodus 10:12

"If there be dearth in the land, if there be pestilence, if there be blasting, or mildew, locusts, or caterpillars; if their enemies besiege them in the cities of their land; whatsoever sore or whatsoever sickness [there be]:" 2 Chronicles 6:28

"If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 2 Chron. 7:13,14

"He spake, and the locusts came, and caterpillars, and that without number, And did eat up all the herbs in their land, and devoured the fruit of their ground." Psalms 105:34-35

"There shall the fire devour thee; the sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm: make thyself many as the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts." Nahum 3:15

"Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven: the cankerworm spoileth, and fleeth away." Nahum 3:16

"And your spoil shall be gathered [like] the gathering of the caterpillar: as the running to and fro of locusts shall he run upon them" Isaiah 33:4 (rapid consumption- see strong's H622 and H4944)

Multitudinous (still representing "consumption"):

"There shall the fire devour thee; the sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm: make thyself many as the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts." Nahum 3:15

## Contextual Specifications of the Grasshopper/Locust Symbol

### As Applied to the Papacy:

"O thou daughter dwelling in Egypt, furnish thyself to go into captivity: for Noph shall be waste and desolate without an inhabitant. Egypt [is like] a very fair heifer, [but] destruction cometh; it cometh out of the north. Also her hired men [are] in the midst of her like fatted bullocks; for they also are turned back, [and] are fled away together: they did not stand, because the day of their calamity was come upon them, [and] the time of their visitation. The voice thereof shall go like a serpent; for they shall march with an army, and come against her with axes, as hewers of wood. They shall cut down her forest, saith the LORD, though it cannot be searched; because they are more than the grasshoppers, and [are] innumerable. The daughter of Egypt shall be confounded; she shall be delivered into the hand of the people of the north." Jeremiah 46:19-24

"There shall the fire devour thee; the sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm: make thyself many as the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts. Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven: the cankerworm spoileth, and fleeth away. Thy crowned [are] as the locusts, and thy captains as the great grasshoppers, which camp in the hedges in the cold day, [but] when the sun ariseth they flee away, and their place is not known where they [are]." Nahum 3:15-17

### As Applied to Islam of 3 woes:

"The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;" Proverbs 30:27

"And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power." Revelation 9:3

"And the shapes of the locusts [were] like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads [were] as it were crowns like gold, and their faces [were] as the faces of men." Rev. 9:7 (This is the last appearance of the word "locusts" in the Bible)

### Note:

Both the first and last appearances of the word "locusts" portray a divine punishment/consequence

## **Cankerworm** A Methodical Approach as an Example for how Symbols in the Bible Should be Treated

### To "Canker" (a concept of corruption/consumption)

#### First Mention:

"That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten. " Joel 1:4 (cankerworms "eat")

#### Repetition and enlargement:

"And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. " Joel 2:25 (cankerworms "eat" years)

"There shall the fire devour thee; the sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm: make thyself many as the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts." Nahum 3:15 (cankerworms rapidly, multitudinously [by increase] eat, comparison to fire devouring)

"Thou hast **multiplied** thy merchants above the stars of heaven: the cankerworm **spileth**, and **fleeth away**." Nahum 3:16 (cankerworm multiplies [by increase], plunders invasively and surreptitiously) (Last mention of "cankerworm")

"But shun profane [and] vain babblings: for they will **increase** unto more ungodliness. And their word will **eat** as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some." 2 Timothy 2:16-18 (cankering increases ungodliness, unsound/false doctrine portrayed as "eating")

#### Last Mention:

"Your **gold and silver is cankered**; and the **rust** of them shall be a witness against you, and shall **eat** your flesh **as it were fire**. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days." James 5:3 (to canker: corrupts [rust] silver and gold; ability to "eat" like "fire")

### Significance of silver and gold:

The vessels of the sanctuary are silver and gold (see Numbers 7) and these vessels figuratively represent the human consecrated to God's service (see Malachi 3:3. Consider also the total amount (measured by shekels) of gold and silver in Numbers 7:85-86 equivalent to 2520 thus representing the "host" for the sanctuary.)

### Significance of Fire:

In Joel 1:4, locusts and worms devour the land in the same manner as the "fire" devours the land in Joel 2:3

### Fire may represent the Holy Spirit and truth:

"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a **pillar of fire**, to **give them light**; to go by day and night:" Exodus 13:21

"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." Acts 2:3

"And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and [there were] seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God." Revelation 4:5

Fire may represent the profane and false spirit:

"And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. " Leviticus 10:1

"Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass [yourselves] about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks [that] ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow." Isaiah 50:11

#### Summary:

The concept of "cankering" throughout scripture exhibits the surreptitious, rapidly increasing corruption of foundational doctrines/waymarks introduced by favoring false doctrine, customs and traditions of man, circumventing Christ's righteousness (trying to enter into the sanctuary by another way beside the one door facing the east [See Ezekiel 8:7-9]) etc.

More could be expounded upon. The Bible is like an endless ocean with an unknown depth. But this concludes the discussion of cankering for this document.

The Bible student may treat "worms", "palmerworm", "caterpillar" and any other figure in the same manner along with prayerful request for the Holy Spirit's guidance to obtain increased understanding of figurative language in the Bible.

**Tower & Towers** "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have [sufficient] to finish [it]?" Luke 14:28 (This is the last appearance of the word "tower" in the Bible)

Note:

Above and below this note, this document presents the first and last appearance of the word "tower" in the Bible. In Genesis 11 the people began to build a tower in rebellion to God's command to spread throughout the earth. God "came down" to examine what the men built and thereafter confounded the language. So, the people were not able to finish building the tower. In the final appearance of the word "tower" Jesus inquires about being able to finish building the tower. It appears, in a spiritual sense, that building a tower requires more than the ability of which humanity is capable; for the tower mankind attempted to build in Genesis 11 was never finished. The Bible shows evidence that any "exalted" tower will be cast down in the "day of the Lord". Truly, only one tower may be built completely even upon only one foundation. Even so, those who attempt to build this "righteous" tower will never be able to complete it without completely relinquishing pride, selfishness and rebellion. If the Christian fails to die to self, the inexorable tendency to be drawn to worldly, rebellious towers will overcome and the building of these towers will resume (but these are the towers that will never be completed).

Representing Church & State: (Exalted Towers)

"And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top [may reach] unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded." Genesis 11:4-5 (This is the first appearance of the word "tower" in the Bible)

"And he beat down the tower of Penue], and slew the men of the city." Judges 8:17

"And upon every high tower, and upon every fenced wall," Isaiah 2:15

"Behold the land of the Chaldeans; this people was not, [till] the Assyrian founded it for them that dwell in the wilderness: they set up the towers thereof, they raised up the palaces thereof; [and] he brought it to ruin." Isaiah 23:13

"A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers." Zephaniah 1:16

"I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that none passeth by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is none inhabitant." Zephaniah 3:6

Representing Apostasy/Self-Exaltation:

"And the children of Israel did secretly [those] things that [were] not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city." 2 Kings 17:9

"He smote the Philistines, [even] unto Gaza, and the borders thereof, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city." 2 Kings 18:8

"And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong." 2 Chronicles 26:15 (See 2Chron. 26:9-20)

Towers Associated with Religion or worship: (False or True Religion)

"And when all the men of the tower of Shechem heard [that], they entered into an hold of the house of the god Berith." Judges 9:46

"The God of my rock; in him will I trust: [he is] my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence." 2 Samuel 22:3

"[He is] the tower of salvation for his king: and showeth mercy to his anointed, unto David, and to his seed for evermore." 2 Sam. 22:51

"And the children of Israel did secretly [those] things that [were] not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city." 2 Kings 17:9

"And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes." Isaiah 5:2

"And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem." Micah 4:8

"Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:" Matthew 21:33

"And he began to speak unto them by parables. A [certain] man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about [it], and digged [a place for] the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country." Mark 12:1

#### Towers Associated with Refuge (confidence in man or confidence in God)

"And he spake also unto the men of Penuel, saying, when I come again in peace, I will break down this tower." Judges 8:9

"But there was a strong tower within the city, and thither fled all the men and women, and all they of the city, and shut [it] to them, and gat them up to the top of the tower. And Abimelech came unto the tower, and fought against it, and went hard unto the door of the tower to burn it with fire." Judges 9:51-52

"The God of my rock; in him will I trust: [he is] my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence." 2 Samuel 22:3

"For thou hast been a shelter for me, [and] a strong tower from the enemy." Psalm 61:3

"My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and [he] in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me." Psalm 144:2

"The name of the LORD [is] a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." Proverbs 18:10

#### Towers Used to Describe Christ's Bride

"Thy neck [is] like the tower of David builded for an armoury, whereon there hang a thousand bucklers, all shields of mighty men." Song. 4:4

"Thy neck [is] as a tower of ivory; thine eyes [like] the fishpools in Heshbon, by the gate of Bathrabbim: thy nose [is] as the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus." Song. 7:4

"I [am] a wall, and my breasts like towers: then was I in his eyes as one that found favour." Song. 8:10

#### Watchtowers

"I have set thee [for] a tower [and] a fortress among my people, that thou mayest know and try their way" Jeremiah 6:27

"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved." Habakkuk 2:1

## Other Towers of Interest

"And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers [and] streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall." Isaiah 30:25

"Because the palaces shall be forsaken; the multitude of the city shall be left; the forts and towers shall be for dens for ever, a joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks;" Isaiah 32:14

"And they shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock" Ezekiel 26:4

"And he shall set engines of war against thy walls, and with his axes he shall break down thy towers." Ezekiel 26:9

"Behold, therefore I [am] against thee, and against thy rivers, and I will make the land of Egypt utterly waste [and] desolate, from the tower of Syene even unto the border of Ethiopia." Ezekiel 29:10

"Thus saith the LORD; They also that uphold Egypt shall fall; and the pride of her power shall come down: from the tower of Syene shall they fall in it by the sword, saith the Lord GOD." Ezekiel 30:6

## Thick Darkness

The phrase "thick darkness" occurs at least eight times throughout Scripture. Another phrase, "gross darkness" occurs twice in Scripture and the word "gross" may also be translated as "thick" according to the Hebrew translation (see Strong's number 6205). The word "gross" only occurs four times throughout Scripture: twice in association with darkness, twice in association with the hearts of men. It occurs twice in the old testament and twice in the new testament. In both Hebrew and Greek languages, this word may be translated to English as "thick".

### Gross Darkness:

"For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee." Isaiah 60:2

"Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, [and] make [it] gross darkness." Jeremiah 13:16

### Thick Darkness:

"And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days:" Exodus 10:22

"And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God [was]." Exodus 20:21

"And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness." Deuteronomy 4:11

"These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me." Deuteronomy 5:22

"Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness." 1 Kings 8:12

"Then said Solomon, The LORD hath said that he would dwell in the thick darkness." 2 Chronicles 6:1

"When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it," Job 38:9

"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 hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, [even] to the years of many generations." Joel 2:2

"That day [is] a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness," Zephaniah 1:15

### A Few SOP Comments on Darkness:

"And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour." Not only did the darkness enshroud the immediate vicinity of the cross, but "there was darkness over the whole land." God dwells in the thick darkness; He hides His glory from human eyes. The Father, with His heavenly angels, was inclosed in that thick darkness. God was close beside His Son, tho not manifesting Himself to Him or to any human being. Had

one ray of His glory and power penetrated the thick darkness that enveloped Him, every human spectator would have been destroyed. And in that thick darkness God hid from prying eyes the last human agony of His Son. He clothed nature with sackcloth, that she might not look upon her suffering, dying Author in His last humiliation." ST, December 8, 1898

"Behold," says the Scripture, "the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee." Isaiah 60:2. It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth." COL p.415

Refer also to GC p. 310-311 for a thorough listing of verses relative to "the day of the Lord" in context.

Could the curtain be rolled back, could you discern the purposes of God and the judgments that are about to fall upon a doomed world, could you see your own attitude, you would fear and tremble for your own souls and for the souls of your fellow men. Earnest prayers of heart-rending anguish would go up to heaven. You would weep between the porch and the altar, confessing your spiritual blindness and backsliding. {6T 408.3}

## Teeth

Signifying Rebellion - Flesh in Close Association with Teeth (taking matters into own hands):

"And while the flesh [was] yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague" Numbers 11:33

"Wherefore do I take my flesh in my teeth, and put my life in mine hand?" Job 13:14

"And the priests' custom with the people [was, that], when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; And he struck [it] into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh, unto all the Israelites that came thither." 1 Samuel 2:13,14

"And I will take away his blood out of his mouth, and his abominations from between his teeth: but he that remaineth, even he, [shall be] for our God, and he shall be as a governor in Judah, and Ekron as a Jebusite." Zechariah 9:7

Individual Accountability:

"In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge. But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge." Jeremiah 31:29,30

"What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge? [As] I live, saith the Lord GOD, ye shall not have [occasion] any more to use this proverb in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:2-4

Teeth within the church:

"His eyes [shall be] red with wine, and his teeth white with milk. " Genesis 49:12 in context of Judah's blessing

" [They shall be] burnt with hunger, and devoured with burning heat, and with bitter destruction: I will also send the teeth of beasts upon them, with the poison of serpents of the dust." Deuteronomy 32:24

"My soul [is] among lions: [and] I lie [even among] them that are set on fire, [even] the sons of men, whose teeth [are] spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword." Psalms 57:4

"He teareth [me] in his wrath, who hateth me: he gnasheth upon me with his teeth; mine enemy sharpeneth his eyes upon me." Job 16:9

"With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth." Psalms 35:16

"When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with [their] teeth." Acts 7:54

"Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him." Micah 3:5

"[There is] a generation, whose teeth [are as] swords, and their jaw teeth [as] knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from [among] men." Proverbs 30:14

#### Teeth of King of the North:

"The roaring of the lion, and the voice of the fierce lion, and the teeth of the young lions, are broken." Job 4:10

"Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth [are] terrible round about." Job 41:14

"Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD." Psalms 58:6

"Blessed [be] the LORD, who hath not given us [as] a prey to their teeth." Psalms 124:6

"Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth [were of] iron, and his nails [of] brass; [which] devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;" Daniel 7:19

"For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth [are] the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion." Joel 1:6

Note:

Compare the occurrence of strong's H4973 (jaw/cheek teeth) in Proverbs 30:14 and Joel 1:6

#### Teeth Being Broken:

"And I brake the jaws of the wicked, and plucked the spoil out of his teeth." Job 29:17

"Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies [upon] the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly." Psalms 3:7

"Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD." Psalms 58:6

"Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble [is like] a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint." Proverbs 25:19

"He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, he hath covered me with ashes." Lamentations 3:16

### Threshing Teeth:

"Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat [them] small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, [and] shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel." Isaiah 41:15,16

### Describing Christ's Bride:

"Thy teeth [are] like a flock [of sheep that are even] shorn, which came up from the washing; whereof every one bear twins, and none [is] barren among them." Song of Solomon 4:2

"Thy teeth [are] as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and [there is] not one barren among them." Song of Solomon 6:6

### Signifying Famine:

"And I also have given you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD." Amos 4:6

### Describing 5th Trumpet:

"And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as [the teeth] of lions." Revelation 9:8

### Note:

Revelation 9:8 is the only verse in the Bible where "teeth" appear in association with the 5th trumpet (probably because, by association and context, the 5th trumpet deals specifically with the literal Roman empire {not spiritual}, is not associated with literal Israel from the Old Testament in any way, and itself does not appear in a literal fashion in the Old Testament to function as a typification of spiritual manifestation). Two or more witnesses become necessary to prove "teeth" to be a valid identifier of Islam in the Old Testament. Instead, the Bible describes Islam in the 5th and 6th trumpets uniquely (different symbolism) while no symbolization or description appears for Islam of the 7th trumpet whatsoever.

## **TOOTH**

### Signifying "Recompense":

"Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot," Exodus 21:24  
(This is the first appearance of the word "tooth" in the Bible)

"And if he smite out his manservant's tooth, or his maidservant's tooth; he shall let him go free for his tooth's sake." Exodus 21:27

"Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him [again]." Leviticus 24:20

"And thine eye shall not pity; [but] life [shall go] for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot." Deuteronomy 19:21

"Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." Matthew 5:38,39  
(This is the last appearance of the word "tooth" in the Bible)

Note:

These verses seem to exhibit the concept of "what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again".

## Contextual Differences Between the Locusts in Joel and the Locusts in Rev. 9

Joel Army	Rev. 9 Army
The Locusts “eat” and the fire “devours” “green” things.	The locusts do not “eat” and are restricted from harming “green” things.
Locusts are the Northern Army. (see Joel 2:20,25)	Locusts represent Islam from the bottomless pit.
These locusts do not sting	Locusts have stinging power of scorpions.
This army is so great, it is without number.	This army happens to be quantified (numbered). See Rev. 9:16
This is the Northern army, it overthrows many and the world does not escape. Dan. 11:41-42	This Islamic army is not permitted to “kill” in the 5 <sup>th</sup> trumpet and is only permitted to “slay” a 3 <sup>rd</sup> part in the 6 <sup>th</sup> trumpet.
This army enters windows like a thief. Joel 2:9	This army’s efforts are especially directed toward “thieves”. Rev. 9:21
This army has the characteristic “devouring” or “consumption” of locusts applied to it throughout various scriptures. This army always has a king over it and that of a fierce countenance.	This army is only described as locusts in the 5 <sup>th</sup> trumpet. It is described as 4 winds in the 6 <sup>th</sup> trumpet because Islam came under the guidance of 4 sultans and an empire was established. According to Proverbs 30:27, Islam could no longer be described as locusts once it became organized under 4 sultans.
This army employs cohesively organized tactics. Tactics like these come from Greece and Rome. See Joel 2:7,8 It may be worth noting that Roman armies were in the habit of razing cities and pouring salt on the land to prevent the increase of the earth. When locusts become gregarious and swarm to consume plant material, chemical changes occur in their physiology causing them to become toxic. Their excrement is also toxic and falls upon the earth, causing soil corruption. A description such as this appears to be similar to Joel 2:3.	This army depends on ambush, surprise attack, and assassination tactics. This army does not move cohesively as a unit and “individual glory” is commonly sought. This army continues to use these inefficient tactics presently.

## Extraneous Considerations (from the author)

The term "grasshopper" does not ever appear to be used in direct correlation to Islam. If this idea is proposed, how is it justified by Scripture?

The term "locust" or "locusts" appears to be used most often in association with devouring, consuming, eating. The 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet employs locusts as a symbol for Islam. How does Revelation describe these locusts? Instead of "devouring", these locusts are given the ability to sting like a scorpion tail. Also, Revelation very specifically clarifies that these locusts do not "hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads." Out of all the times the term "locust" is used in connection with "eating", here in Revelation the locusts are restricted from "eating" altogether and are only permitted to harm those without the seal of God. Is it absurd for the Bible student to conclude that the Bible is deliberate in making this distinction with the Locusts of Islam? Bible students know it is Islam because Arabic Islam exhibited the very characteristics altogether described in Rev 9:1-11. The symbol of "locust" alone does not define the power of Islam. The term "locust" happens to be just one of the defining factors of this 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet power and accurately describes the tactical behavior of Arabic Islam/the 5<sup>th</sup> trumpet (see Proverbs 30:27). Locusts also dwell in the desert and the Islamic faith originated from the desert. If these locusts in Revelation 9 do not "devour" and are specifically permitted only to harm those without the seal of God, application needs not to be made of "Islam" to the interpretation of locusts in Joel because the locusts in Joel do consume, devour, and harm the "green" things, even God's chosen nation.

In Judges 6, "children of the east" appear. But this should not be taken to represent "Islam". No such thing as Islam existed during that time and, since the things in the Bible were written more for those upon whom the end of the world has come, the subject matter given in Judges 6 happens to be more appropriately aligned with the three enemies: the beast, the dragon, and the false prophet. This is more consistent because Midian, Amalek, and the children of the east all camped against Israel and destroyed Israel's increase of the earth. In the Revelation, Islam is specifically restricted from harming the "earth", so to speak, and Islam certainly does not camp against God's chosen. Claiming that these verses in Judges 6 represent Islam violates rules 1, 12, and 13, of prophetic interpretation.

Here are a few more instances illustrating this threefold enemy:

Tyre, Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine in Joel 3:4

See Jeremiah 25:21-22

Edom, Moab, and the children of Ammon

Jezebel, King Ahab, prophets of baal

Herodias, Herod, and Salome

To claim that Joel 2:8 represents the characteristic suicide bombings of "Radical Islam" directly violates Rule 11:

How to know when a word is used figuratively. If it makes good sense as it stands, and does no violence to the simple laws of nature, then it must be understood literally, if not, figuratively.

The information in the verse does not make sense as it stands and does violence to the simple laws of nature. When a person falls upon a sword, they surely end up incapacitated or dead. The text in Joel shows that "they are not wounded". One does not literally fall upon a sword unscathed. The Bible student must seek for a figurative understanding, then. (See "cankerworm" on page 9)

Regarding the "day of the Lord", the Bible usually refers to this day being "nigh at hand". That is to say that the day is not here yet, but will very soon be here. This is especially evident when Joel refers to day of the Lord. So, how do we justify claiming that the day of the Lord began on 9-11 when the Bible says this day is "nigh at hand"? Zephaniah chapter 2 advises the "nation not desired" to gather together *before* the "day of the Lord's anger":

"Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; Before the decree bring forth, [before] the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD'S anger come upon you." Zephaniah 2:1-2

And not just once, but twice:

"Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: **it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.**" Zephaniah 2:3

The "towers" in certain verses are interpreted to be the world trade center (Isa. 30:25 & Zeph. 1:16, for example). If the towers are literal towers in these verses, then the other objects in the verses should be literal as well. But this uniform application is not made while dividing these verses. All objects in the verse will be acknowledged as symbolic until "towers" is encountered. Suddenly, "towers" is not symbolic, but literal. This is not contextually valid, and shows evidence of improperly dividing Scripture. Opponents are already skeptical of the proof-texting method, and these loose, seemingly careless applications of Scriptural interpretation (example: Because locusts represent Islam in Rev. 9, It by necessity represents Islam in Exodus 10, Judges 6, Joel 1 & 2, etc) are the reason. With this in mind, Bible students better make sure they give the "correct sound" of the trumpet.

Thick darkness has been suggested to represent the smoke from the world trade center. This is clearly not the case according to SOP:

"Behold," says the Scripture, "the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee." Isaiah 60:2. It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth." COL p.415

#### **Suggested Scriptural Comparisons:**

Joel 1:2 with Exodus 10:6 & Proverbs 17:6  
Joel 1:3 with Exodus 10:2,5  
Joel 1:4 with Amos 4:9/2Kings 24:1-3/Nah. 3:15-17/2Tim. 2:17  
Joel 1 & 2 with Deuteronomy 28 and Isaiah 33 & 34  
Joel 1:6 with Ezekiel 7:17-27/19:2/22:25 & Jeremiah 46:23 & Isaiah 1:7 & Proverbs 30:14  
Joel 1:6,7 with Isa. 5:6/Jer. 5:6/Jer. 5:17/Jer. 6:22 & 3T p.387-388  
Joel 1:8 with Isa. 32:9-14/Isa. 22:12  
Joel 1:10 with Haggai 1:11 & Isaiah 24:7  
Joel 1:15 with Isaiah 13:6-13  
Joel 1:19 with Isaiah 24:4  
Joel 2:1,2 with Matthew 22:7  
Joel 2:2,3 with Isa. 1:7/Eze. 38:15/Jer. 5:17/Isa. 64:11/Ps. 74:7-9/Jer. 4:7/Jer. 32:29\*  
Joel 2:4 with Jeremiah 6:23  
Joel 2:9 with Isaiah 33:4  
Joel 2:20 with Jeremiah 6 & Isaiah 34:3 & Daniel 11:45  
Joel 2:23 with Ezekiel 22:24 & Zechariah 10:7  
Joel 2:25 with Jer. 10:25/Ps. 78.33/Job 32:7/Ezr. 9:7  
Joel 3 with Isaiah 28:21  
Joel 3:4 with Isaiah 59:18  
Joel 3:6 with Isaiah 10:13  
Joel 3:14 with Isaiah 52:11  
Joel 3:15 with Ecclesiastes 12:2  
Joel 3:18 with Isaiah 30:25

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More information may or may not be added to this document as time proceeds. I intend this document to be used for assistance in clarifying this disagreement.

Intended to Edify,

George Seaman