

JOEL
“YAHWEH IS GOD”



OCT 10, 2013

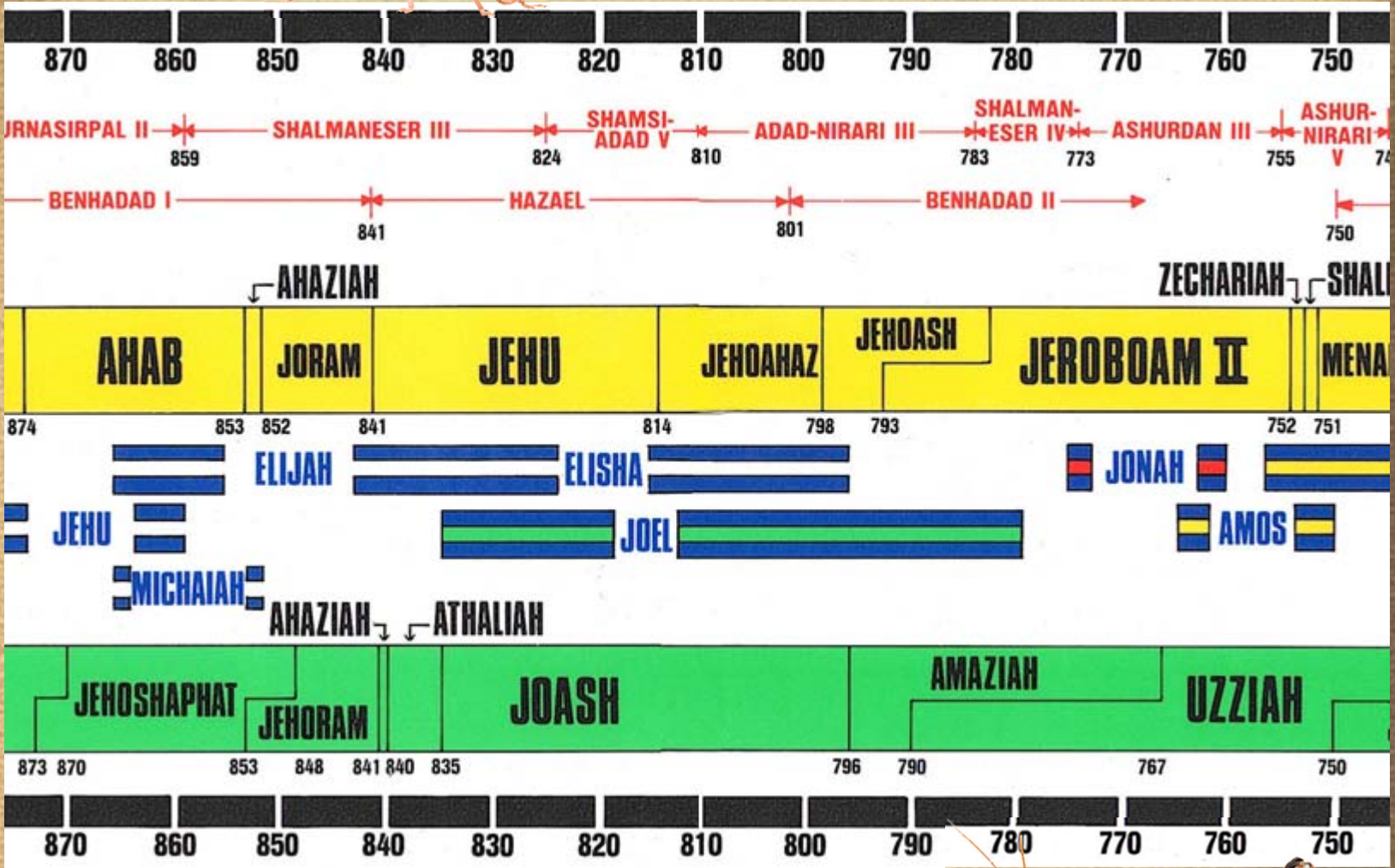
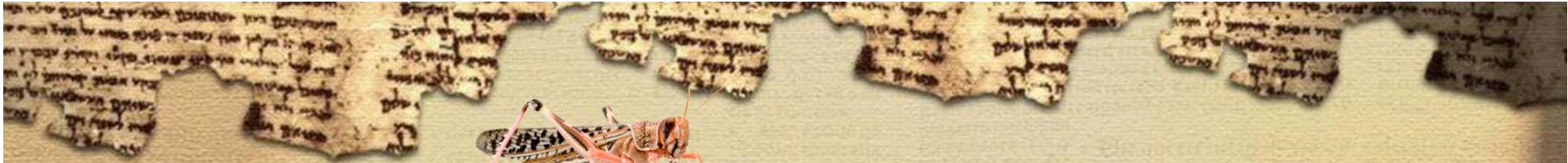


BI 305
HEBREW
PROPHETS

Theme

***HISTORY,
POETRY AND PROPHECY
UNITING
TO FOCUS ON A
COMMON THEME,
“THE DAY OF THE LORD”***





JOEL – “YAHWEH IS GOD”

PROBABLE DATE FOR BOOK
BEFORE 760 B.C.

Audience: Judah & Jerusalem

Historical Setting:

Sometime during the early reign of young king Joash, an unprecedented and devastating locust swarm invaded Judah. This great catastrophe sounded the alarm for a call to repentance in view of the greater judgment to come, the "Day of the Lord."

Purpose

The book of Joel was designed to call the nation to repentance on the basis of the calamity of the locust plague. The prophecy also served to comfort the nation with promises of future salvation and blessings in the coming Day of the Lord.

Theology



OUTLINE OF JOEL

LEVEL

I

I. The Judgment against Judah and the [Day of the Lord](#) (1:1-2:17)

2A

A

II. The Mercy of the Lord and Judgment against the nations (2:18-3:21)

2B



Are Locust Plagues for Real – YES !

- A single swarm can cover a square mile with 50 million insects, capable of eating 100 TONS of vegetation per day.
- With serrated jaws, the insect consumes it's own weight daily – yet can live for 4 days without food. A large swarm can consume in a day what 40,000 people eat in one year.
- Large swarms have been known to blanket 2000 square miles with around 25 Billion insects.

See National Geographic articles "Locus: The Teeth of the Wind" (Aug 1969) and "Report from the Locust Wars" (April 1953)

1. THE JUDGMENT AGAINST JUDAH AND THE DAY OF THE LORD (1:1-2:17)

LEVEL

2

A

If Chapter 1 ...

Then chapter 2 ...

1. Describes an actual locust infestation

2. Describes an actual locust infestation

3. Describes an actual locust infestation functioning as a prophetic forerunner

4. Describes a military attack in terms of the metaphor of a locust infestation.

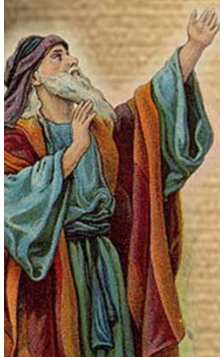
Presents a heightened description of the same invasion.

Issues a warning about a coming military offensive.

Uses that imagery to portray a human army in terms of a decisive conflict on the day of the Lord.

Represents the coming of an enemy usually viewed as the Assyrians or Babylonians.

How you interpret Chapter 1 will impact how you interpret Chapter 2



I. THE JUDGMENT AGAINST JUDAH AND THE DAY OF THE LORD (1:1-2:17)

LEVEL

2

A

A. Locust invasion: forerunner of the Day of the Lord (1:1-20)

B. Army Invasion: the arrival of the Day of the Lord (2:1-17)



II. ARMY INVASION: THE ARRIVAL OF THE DAY OF THE LORD (2:1-17)

LEVEL

2

B

- A. Mercy: the Lord responds by restoring His people (2:18-32)
- B. Judgment: The Lord's judgment against the nations and his dwelling with his people (3:1-21)

