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Deep Cuts: Return to Me
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Joel 1:1 (NIV): The word of the LORD that came to Joel son of Pethuel.

Joel 1:2-4 (NIV): Hear this, you elders; listen, all who live in the land. Has anything like this ever happened in your days or in the days of your ancestors? Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation. What the locust swarm has left the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left the young locusts have eaten; what the young locusts have left other locusts have eaten.

Deuteronomy 28:42 (NIV): Swarms of locusts will take over all your trees and the crops of your land.

The Day of the Lord

- For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. (Joel 1:15)
- Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. (Joel 2:1)
- The day of the LORD is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it? (Joel 2:11)
- The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. (Joel 2:31)
- For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. (Joel 3:14)

Joel 2:12 (NIV): "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."

How to Prepare for the Day of the Lord

Way #1: Recognize It's Not Too Late

Joel 2:12 (NIV): "Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."

Way #2: Respond to God with Genuine Repentance

Joel 2:13 (NIV): Rend your heart and not your garments ...

Way #3: Remember God's Character

John 3:16 (NIV): For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Joel 2:13 (NIV): ... Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.

Psalms 51:17 (NIV): ... [A] broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.