

Joel 2:1-11

- There are several views concerning the invasion described in 2:1-11.
 - More locust
 - Assyrian army of 700's BC
 - Foreign invasion in the distant future, eschatological
- I think it is an invading army in the Great Day of the Lord
- The invaders described in 2:1-11 continue to build and correlate with the historical, contemporary locust invasion of Joel's day described in chapter 1 in these ways:
 - Appearance
 - Movement
 - Complete desolation
- There can be four divisions in these verses:
 - 2:1-2 – the Lord's call to battle and the identification of this day
 - 2:3-5 – description of the army
 - 2:6-9 – description of the attack
 - 2:10-11 – utter devastation by an army under the direction of YHWH
- The locust invasion of Joel's day in chapter one was a foreshadowing of this future invasion by a nation(s). Ancient literature often compared a foreign invasion to locust
- Then, there is the possibility that Joel is describing three invasions:
 - Ch. 1 – locust invasion of his day
 - 2:1-11 – a foreign invasion
 - 2:28-3:21 – the Great eschatological judgment of the Day of the Lord
- Joel deliberately uses previous references from Isaiah, Zephaniah and Amos describing the Day of the Lord to pound home the idea that this is something to fear.
 - 700 BC – Isaiah 13:6, 9 – “Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; as destruction from the Almighty it will come!...Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.”
 - 620 BC – Zephaniah 1:15 – “A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,”
 - 760 BC – Amos 5:18-20 – “Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?”

Joel 2:1 – **“Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,**

776 [e]	3427 [e]	3605 [e]	7264 [e]	6944 [e]	2022 [e]	7321 [e]	6726 [e]	7782 [e]	8628 [e]
hā·'ā·reṣ;	yō·šə·bē	kōl	yir·gə·zū	qād·šî	bə·har	wə·hā·rî·'ū	bə·šî·yō·wn,	šō·w·pār	tiq·'ū
הָאָרֶץ	יְשֵׁבֵי	כָּל	יִרְגְּזוּ	קָדְשִׁי	בְּהָר	וְהִרְעִינוּ	בְּצִיּוֹן	שׁוֹפָר	תִּקְעוּ 1
of the land	the inhabitants	all	let tremble	My holy	in mountain	and sound an alarm	in Zion	the trumpet	Blow
Art N-fs	V-Qal-PrtcpI-mpc	N-msc	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	N-msc 1cs	Prep-b N-msc	Conj-w V-Hifil-Imp-mp	Prep-b N-proper-fs	N-ms	V-Qal-Imp-mp

7138 [e]	3588 [e]	3068 [e]	3117 [e]	935 [e]	3588 [e]
qā·rō·wḅ.	kî	Yah·weh	yō·wm-	ḅā	kî-
—	קָרוֹב:	כִּי	יְהוָה	יוֹם	בָּא
it is at hand	for	of Yahweh	the day	is coming	for
Adj-ms	Conj	N-proper-ms	N-msc	V-Qal-PrtcpI-ms	Conj

1. The sounding of the trumpet and alarm is either:
 - a. A call to the invading army to advance the attack
 - b. A warning sound from the watchers and guards on the wall of the city of Jerusalem warning of the visible coming invasion.
 - c. “trumpet” is *sopar* or *sowpar* and is most likely made from a ram’s horn.
2. The “Day of the Lord” warned of in 1:15 is now here in 2:1.
3. This is YHWH’s battle command to his responding army
4. Again, a call to “all the inhabitants of the land” as in 1:2
5. This invasion is of the Lord is made clear here and in 2:11

2:2 – “a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.

5921 [e]	6566 [e]	7837 [e]	6205 [e]	6051 [e]	3117 [e]	653 [e]	2822 [e]	3117 [e]
'al-	pā·ruś	ke·ša·ḥar	wa·'ā·rā·pēl,	'ā·nān	yō·wm	wa·'ā·pê·lāh,	ḥō·šek	yō·wm
עַל-	פָּרַשׁ	כְּשַׁחַר	וְעֵרְפָל	עָנָן	יוֹם	וְאֶפְלָה	חֹשֶׁךְ	יוֹם 2
over	spread	Like the morning [clouds]	and thick darkness	of clouds	a day	and [deep] darkness	of darkness	a day
Prep	V-Qal-QalPassPrtcpI-ms	Prep-k N-ms	Conj-w N-ms	N-ms	N-msc	Conj-w N-fs	N-ms	N-msc

310 [e]	5769 [e]	4480 [e]	1961 [e]	3808 [e]	3644 [e]	6099 [e]	7227 [e]	5971 [e]	2022 [e]
we·'a·ḥā·rāw	hā·'ō·w·lām,	min-	nih·yāh	lō	kā·mō·hū,	we·'ā·ṣūm,	rab	'am	he·hā·rfm;
וְאַחֲרָיו	הָעוֹלָם	מִן	נִהְיָה	לֹא	כְּמֹהוּ	וְעֲצוּמִים	רַב	עַם	הַהָרִים 2
and after them	ever	from	has been	never	the like of whom	and strong	great	a people [come]	the mountains
Conj-w Prep 3ms	Art N-ms	Prep	V-Nifal-Perf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt	Prep 3ms	Conj-w Adj-ms	Adj-ms	N-ms	Art N-mp

1755 [e]	1755 [e]	8141 [e]	5704 [e]	3254 [e]	3808 [e]
wā·dō·wr.	dō·wr	šə·nê	'ad-	yō·w·sēp,	lō
וְדוֹרֵי	דוֹר	שָׁנֵי	עַד-	יוֹסֵף	לֹא
and many successive	generations	for	Even	will there be any [such]	nor
Conj-w N-ms	N-ms	N-fpc	Prep	V-Hifil-Imperf.Jus-3ms	Adv-NegPrt

1. Four words for darkness:
 - a. *hosek* – “day of darkness” – used to describe Mt Sinai in Deut. 4:11 and used to describe the 9th plague against Egypt in Ex. 10:21-22

- b. *waapelah* – “thick darkness” – used to describe the 9th plague against Egypt in Ex. 10:21-
- c. *anan* – “clouds” – used to describe Mt Sinai in Deut. 4:11
- d. *waarapel* – “thick darkness” – used to describe the 9th plague against Egypt in Ex. 10:21-
- e. *kesahar* – “clouds” – used to describe Mt Sinai in Deut. 4:11

2. This is a day of YHWH’s theophany and judgment

2:3 – “Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.”

6440 [e]	776 [e]	5731 [e]	1588 [e]	3852 [e]	3857 [e]	310 [e]	784 [e]	398 [e]	6440 [e]
le·pā·nāw,	hā·'ā·reṣ	'ê·den	ke·ḡan-	le·hā·bāh;	te·la·hêt	wə·'a·hā·rāw	'êš,	'ā·kə·lāh	le·pā·nāw
לְפָנָיו	הָאָרֶץ	עֵדֵן	כְּגַן־	לְהַבָּה	תִּלְהַט	וְאַחֲרָיו	אֵשׁ	אֲכָלָהּ	לְפָנָיו 3
before them	the land	of Eden	[is] like the Garden	A flame	burns	and behind them	a fire	devours	Before them
Prep-l N-cpc 3ms	Art N-fs	N-proper-fs	Prep-k N-csc	N-fs	V-Piel-Imperf-3fs	Conj-w Prep 3ms	N-cs	V-Qal-Perf-3fs	Prep-l N-cpc 3ms

1961 [e]	3808 [e]	6413 [e]	1571 [e]	8077 [e]	4057 [e]	310 [e]	
lōw.	hā·yə·tāh	lō-	pə·lê·tāh	wə·ḡam-	šə·mā·māh,	mid·bar	wə·'a·hā·rāw
לֹוּ	הַיְתָה	לֹא־	פְּלִיטָה	וְגַם־	שְׂמֵמָה	מִדְבָּר	וְאַחֲרָיו
them	shall	nothing	escape	and surely	desolate	a wilderness	and behind them
Prep 3ms	V-Qal-Perf-3fs	Adv-NegPrt	N-fs	Conj-w Conj	N-fs	N-msc	Conj-w Prep 3ms

2:4 – “Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses they run.”

7323 [e]	3651 [e]	6571 [e]	4758 [e]	5483 [e]	4758 [e]
yə·rū·ṣūn.	kên	ū·kə·pā·rā·šîm	mar·'ê·hū;	sū·sîm	kə·mar·'êh
יְרוּצִוּן	כֵּן	וּכְפָרָשִׁים	מִרְאֵהוּ	סוּסִים	כְּמִרְאֵה 4
they run	so	and like swift steeds	their appearance is	of horses	Like the appearance
V-Qal-Imperf-3mp Pn	Adv	Conj-w, Prep-k N-mp	N-msc 3ms	N-mp	Prep-k N-msc

2:5 – “As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle.”

3851 [e]	6963 [e]	7540 [e]	2022 [e]	7218 [e]	5921 [e]	4818 [e]	6963 [e]
la·hab	kə·qō·wl	yə·raq·qê·dūn,	he·hā·rīm	rā·šê	'al-	mar·kā·bō·wt,	kə·qō·wl
לֶהַב	כְּקוֹל	יִרְקְדוּן	הַהָרִים	רֹאשֵׁי	עַל־	מִרְכָּבוֹת	כְּקוֹל
of a fire	Like the noise	they leap	mountaintops	the tops	Over	chariots	With a noise like
N-msc	Prep-k N-msc	V-Piel-Imperf-3mp Pn	Art N-mp	N-mpc	Prep	N-fp	Prep-k N-msc

4421 [e]	6186 [e]	6099 [e]	5971 [e]	7179 [e]	398 [e]	784 [e]
mil·hā·māh.	'ē·rūk	'ā·šūm,	kə·'am	qāš;	'ō·kə·lāh	'êš,
מִלְחָמָה:	עָרוּךְ	עֲצוּם	כְּעַם	קָשׁ	אֹכְלָה	אֵשׁ
battle	set in array	strong	Like a people	the stubble	that devours	flaming
N-fs	V-Qal-QalPassPrtcpl-msc	Adj-ms	Prep-k N-ms	N-ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-fs	N-cs

2:6 – “Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale.

6289 [e]	6908 [e]	6440 [e]	3605 [e]	5971 [e]	2342 [e]	6440 [e]
pā·rūr.	qib·bē·šū	pā·nīm	kāl-	'am·mīm;	yā·hî·lū	mip·pā·nāw
פְּאֲרוֹר:	קִבְּצוּ	פָּנִים	כָּל־	עַמִּים	יִתְּלוּ	מִפְּנֵיו
of color	are drained	faces	all	the people	writhe in pain	Before them
N-ms	V-Piel-Perf-3cp	N-mp	N-msc	N-mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Prep-m N-cpc 3ms

1. “Peoples” indicates the fear of people on the day of the Lord. They are not fearing insects, but an invasion.

2:7 – “Like warriors they charge; like soldiers they scale the wall. They march each on his way; they do not swerve from their paths.

376 [e]	2346 [e]	5927 [e]	4421 [e]	376 [e]	7323 [e]	1368 [e]
wə·'iš	hō·w·māh;	ya·'ā·lū	mil·hā·māh	kə·'an·šê	yə·ru·šūn,	kə·gīb·bō·w·rīm
וְאִישׁ	הוֹמָה	יַעֲלוּ	מִלְחָמָה	כְּאֲנָשִׁי	יִרְצוּן	כְּגִבּוֹרִים
and every one	the wall	they climb	of war	like men	they run	Like mighty men
Conj-w N-ms	N-fs	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	N-fs	Prep-k N-mpc	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp Pn	Prep-k Adj-mp

734 [e]	5670 [e]	3808 [e]	1980 [e]	1870 [e]
'ō·rə·hō·w·tām.	yə·'ab·bē·tūn	wə·lō	yê·lê·kūn,	bid·rā·kāw
אֲרַחֲתָם:	יַעֲבֹטוּן	וְלֹא	יִלְכְּדוּן	בְּדַרְכָּיו
ranks	they do break	and not	marches	in formation
N-cpc 3mp	V-Piel-Imperf-3mp Pn	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp Pn	Prep-b N-cpc 3ms

2:8 – “They do not jostle one another; each marches in his path; they burst through the weapons and are not halted.

1980 [e] yê·lê·kûn;	4546 [e] bim·sil·lā·tōw	1397 [e] ge·ber	1766 [e] yid·ḥā·qûn,	3808 [e] lō	251 [e] 'ā·ḥîw	376 [e] we·'iš
יִלְכוּן —	בְּמִסְלָתוֹ	גִּבּוֹר	יִדְחֲלוּן	לֹא —	אֲחֵיו	וְאִישׁ 8
marches	in his column	every one	they do push	not	another	And one
V-Qal-Imperf-3mp Pn	Prep-b N-fsc 3ms	N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp Pn	Adv-NegPrt	N-msc 3ms	Conj-w N-ms

1214 [e] yib·ṣā·'ū.	3808 [e] lō	5307 [e] yip·pō·lū	7973 [e] haš·še·lah	1157 [e] ū·bē·'ad
יִבְצְעוּ:	לֹא	יִפְלוּ	הַשְּׁלַח	וּבֵעַד
they are cut down	not	they lunge	the weapons	and Though between
V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Adv-NegPrt	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Art N-ms	Conj-w Prep

2:9 – “They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls, they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief.

1157 [e] bē·'ad	5927 [e] ya·'ā·lū;	1004 [e] bab·bāt·tîm	7323 [e] ye·ru·ṣûn,	2346 [e] ba·ḥō·w·māh	8264 [e] yā·šōq·qū,	5892 [e] bā·'îr
בְּעַד	יַעֲלוּ —	בְּבָתִּים	יָרֻצוּן	בְּחוֹמָה	יָשְׁקוּ —	בְּעִיר 9
at	they climb	into the houses	they run	on the wall	they run to and fro	In the city
Prep	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Prep-b, Art N-mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp Pn	Prep-b, Art N-fs	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Prep-b, Art N-fs

1590 [e] kag·gan·nāb.	935 [e] yā·bō·'ū	2474 [e] ha·ḥal·lō·w·nîm
כַּגַּנָּב:	יָבֹאוּ	הַחַלּוֹנִים
like a thief	they enter	the windows
Prep-k, Art N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Art N-cp

2:10 – “The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.

6937 [e]	3394 [e]	8121 [e]	8064 [e]	7493 [e]	776 [e]	7264 [e]	6440 [e]
qā·dā·rū,	wə·yā·rē·aḥ	še·meš	šā·mā·yim;	rā·'ā·šū	'e·reṣ,	rā·ḡə·zāh	lə·pā·nāw
קָדְרוּ	וַיִּרְחַ	שֶׁמֶשׁ	שָׁמַיִם	רָעָשׁוּ	אֲרֶץ	רָגְזָה	לִפְנֵי
grow dark	and moon	the sun	the heavens	tremble	the earth	quakes	Before them
V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Conj-w N-ms	N-cs	N-mp	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	N-fs	V-Qal-Perf-3fs	Prep-l N-cpc 3ms

5051 [e]	622 [e]	3556 [e]
nā·ḡə·hām.	'ā·se·pū	wə·kō·w·kā·bîm
נִגְהָם:	אָסְפוּ	וְכּוֹכְבֵי
their brightness	diminish	and the stars
N-msc 3mp	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Conj-w N-mp

2:11 – “The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful. For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?

6099 [e]	3588 [e]	4264 [e]	3966 [e]	7227 [e]	3588 [e]	2426 [e]	6440 [e]	6963 [e]	5414 [e]	3069 [e]
'ā·šūm	kî	ma·ḥā·nê·hū,	mə·'ōḏ	rab	kî	ḥē·lōw,	liḡ·né	qō·w·lōw	nā·tan	Yah·weh
עָצוּם	כִּי	מַחֲנֵהוּ	מְאֹד	רַב	כִּי	חֵילוֹ	לִפְנֵי	קוֹלוֹ	נָתַן	יְהוָה
strong [is]	for	His camp His	very	great	for	His army	before	voice	gives	Yahweh
Adj-ms	Conj	N-csc 3ms	Adv	Adj-ms	Conj	N-msc 3ms	Prep-l N-cpc	N-msc 3ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms	Conj-w N-proper-ms

3557 [e]	4310 [e]	3966 [e]	3372 [e]	3069 [e]	3117 [e]	1419 [e]	3588 [e]	1697 [e]	6213 [e]	
yə·kî·len·nū.	ū·mî	mə·'ōḏ	wə·nō·w·rā	Yah·weh	yō·wm-	ḡā·dō·wl	kî-	də·bā·rōw;	'ō·séh	
יְכִילְנוּ:	וּמִי	מְאֹד	—	וְנֹרָא	יְהוָה	יוֹם-	גָּדוֹל	כִּי-	דְבָרוֹ	עֹשֶׂה
can endure it	and who	very		and terrible	Yahweh	the day of	[is] great	For	His word	[the One] who executes
V-Hifil-Imperf-3ms 3mse	Conj-w Interrog	Adv	Conj-w V-Nifal-Prtcpl-ms	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Adj-ms	Conj	N-msc 3ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-msc	