

of a natural calamity is beyond their power to handle. We have seen many such natural calamities in the history of the world, time and again, things have come which man simply could not handle. All he ~~na~~ could do was to wait until it passed over. The great Chicago fire of about a century ago. The great London fire in the 17th century. The great plague in the middle ages which took away half of the population of Europe. Here in the U.S. I believe it was about 1790 during Washington's administration the capitol of the U.S. was in Philadelphia when this plague came. It was just people could do. Half of the population of Philadelphia before ~~all~~ autumn came and the cooler weather when the pestilence came to an end. In our day we have such improvements in medical knowledge in many ways that some of these great catastrophes of the past seem almost imaginary, yet in our day who knows how the Lord may work in such ~~ax~~ way as to bring a great catastrophe upon us which are beyond the possibilities of any human answer to. Well, these people were in that sort of a situation then. And so ~~Joel-here~~ Joel here describes the situation. In verse six it says, "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." Some people say this must be a picture of an army ~~come~~ coming, but the context makes it perfectly clear that it is not an army of human beings. It is an army of locusts. You see how impossible it is to take this verse literally. The meaning of ~~if~~ it is perfectly clear. The locusts seem like ~~x~~ the teeth of a lion as they just eat up everything in their way. There is just nothing that seems to be able to stop this plague that is ~~x~~ destroying all the food and destroying so many ~~of~~ other things. "He has laid my vine waste. ~~There-is-just-nothing-that-seems-able-to-stop-this-plague-that~~ and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white." Verse nine "The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the Lord."