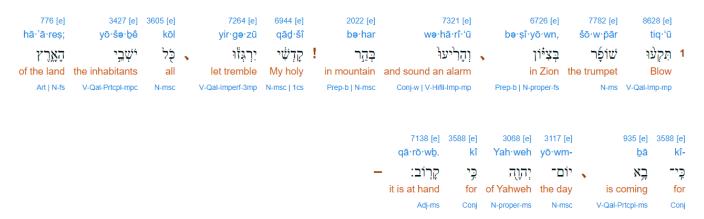
Joel 2:1-11

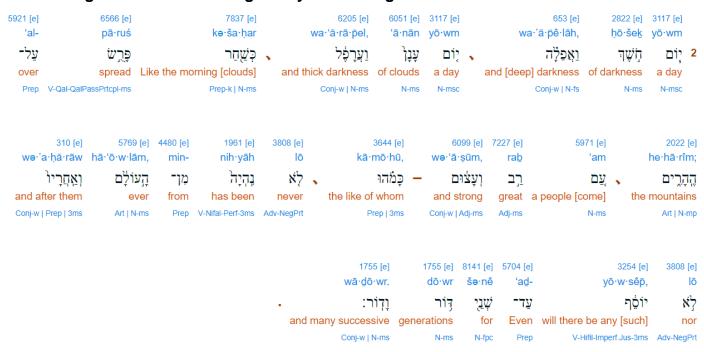
- There are several views concerning the invasion described in 2:1-11.
 - More locust
 - Assyrian army of 700's BC
 - Foreign invasion in the distant future, eschatological
- I think it is an invading army in the Great Day of the Lord
- The invaders described in 2:1-11 continue to build and correlate with the historical, contemporary locust invasion of Joel's day described in chapter 1 in these ways:
 - o 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,"
 - o 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,



- 1. The sounding of the trumpet and alarm is either:
 - a. A call to the invading army to advance the attack
 - 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.



- 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.



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



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.

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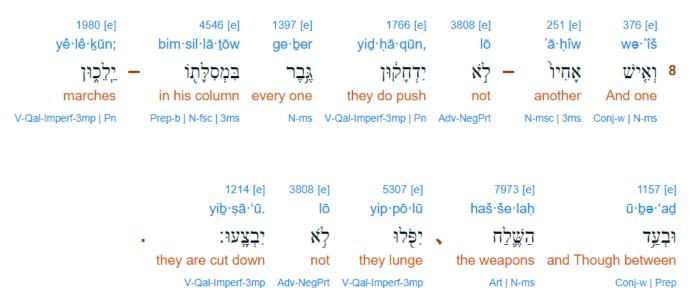
2:6 – "Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale.

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.



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



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.



like a thief

Prep-k, Art | N-ms V-Qal-Imperf-3mp

they enter

the windows

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.



5051 [e] 622 [e] 3556 [e] nā·ḡə·hām. 'ā·sə·pū wə·kō·w·kā·bim

[Cֹוֹכֶבֶים אָּסְפָּר בָּיִם אָּסְפָּר their brightness diminish and the stars

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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?



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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	С	onj-w V-Nifal-Prtcpl-ms	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Adj-ms	Conj	N-msc 3ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-msc