

# Joel 1:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

---

"For a nation is come up upon my land" describes the locust invasion using military terminology. The Hebrew *goy* (nation) typically refers to foreign peoples but here describes an insect army God sovereignly commands. This metaphor establishes that God controls nature to accomplish His purposes—natural disasters function as instruments of divine judgment. "Strong, and without number" emphasizes overwhelming force. The phrase "whose teeth are the teeth of a lion" uses vivid imagery communicating destructive power. Lions epitomized strength and terror. This language prepares readers for Joel's later description of the ultimate "Day of the LORD" when God's judgment will be final and inescapable. Theologically, this teaches God's sovereignty over creation and His use of even insects to accomplish judicial purposes.

## Historical Context

---

Locust plagues were devastating in the ancient Near East. Swarms containing billions of insects could darken the sky, devouring every green plant within hours. Ancient Egyptian, Assyrian, and other records describe similar catastrophes. The military language also functions symbolically, pointing beyond the immediate plague to future military invasion (likely Babylon's conquest in 586 BC). Joel employs near fulfillment (locust plague) anticipating ultimate fulfillment (eschatological Day of the LORD).

## Related Passages

---

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

---

1. How does recognizing God's sovereignty over natural disasters affect your response to them?
2. What does Joel's judgment imagery teach about the certainty of final judgment?

## Interlinear Text

---

כִּי	גוֹי	עָלָה	עַל	אֶרֶץ י	עַצוֹם	וְאֵין
H3588	<b>For a nation</b>	<b>is come up</b>	H5921	<b>upon my land</b>	<b>strong</b>	H369
	H1471	H5927		H776	H6099	
מִסְפָּר	שֵׁנִי	שֵׁנִי	אֶרֶץ ה			
<b>and without number</b>	<b>are the teeth</b>	<b>are the teeth</b>	<b>of a lion</b>			
H4557	H8127	H8127	H738			
וַיִּתֵּן	לִבִּי	לִוִּי				
<b>and he hath the cheek teeth</b>	<b>of a great lion</b>					
H4973	H3833	H0				

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Joel 2:25** (Parallel theme): And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.