

# Joel 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.

## Analysis

"He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree" describes agricultural devastation. The vine and fig tree symbolized peace, prosperity, and covenant blessing throughout Scripture (1 Kings 4:25, Micah 4:4, Zechariah 3:10). Their destruction signals covenant curse—God removing blessings promised for obedience (Deuteronomy 28:30, 39). The phrase "made it clean bare" uses Hebrew chasap (strip off, bare) indicating total defoliation. "The branches thereof are made white" describes bare, bleached branches after locusts stripped all foliage—an image of death and desolation. This devastation illustrates covenant theology: God blesses obedience, judges disobedience. The Reformed understanding emphasizes that these temporal judgments typologically point to eternal realities. As locusts physically devastated the land, so sin spiritually devastates souls. Yet as God later promises restoration (2:25), He ultimately provides eschatological restoration through Christ.

## Historical Context

Vines and figs were primary crops in ancient Israel, requiring years to mature. Their destruction meant years of lost productivity and food shortage. God's covenant with Israel explicitly connected agricultural prosperity to obedience (Leviticus 26:3-5, Deuteronomy 28:1-14) and agricultural disaster to disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:15-24, 38-40). The prophets frequently used agricultural imagery

to communicate spiritual realities—barren land symbolizing spiritual barrenness, fruitful land representing covenant faithfulness.

## Related Passages

---

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

---

1. What does it mean that God claims ownership ("my vine," "my fig tree") while judging His people's enjoyment of them?
2. How do temporal losses serve as warnings about eternal spiritual realities?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְשָׁם	לְשֻׁטָּה	וְתָאַגֵּת	וְלְקַצֵּף	מְשֻׁפָּה
<b>He hath laid</b>	<b>my vine</b>	<b>waste</b>	<b>my fig tree</b>	<b>and barked</b>
H7760	H1612	H8047	H8384	H7111
<b>bare</b>			<b>bare</b>	
			H2834	H2834

  
וְהַשְׁלִיכָה	הַלְּבָבָ יְנוּ	שְׁרִיגִים:
**and cast it away**	**thereof are made white**	**the branches**
H7993	H3835	H8299

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Isaiah 5:6** (Parallel theme): And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

**Amos 4:9** (Parallel theme): I have smitten you with blasting and mildew: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.

**Joel 1:12** (Parallel theme): The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)