

Tuesday 10th November 2020

Exodus 10:14 *“they (locusts) invaded all Egypt and settled down in every area of the country in great numbers. Never before had there been such a plague of locusts, nor will there ever be again”*

Joel 1:4 *“What the locust swarm has left*

the great locusts have eaten;

what the great locusts have left

the young locusts have eaten;

what the young locusts have left

other locusts have eaten.”

Plagues have come and gone throughout the ages. A plague of locusts in the time of the Pharaohs would have been devastating. Eating voraciously they consume everything. Recently the locusts have swarmed in East Africa and the Middle East.

Joel thought that the devastation was a sign of God’s wrath for man’s sinfulness. He exhorted his people to pass that message down the generations so that they may learn and remember the lesson. Whilst nowadays few people think that plagues, and particularly the current one, are a sign of God’s displeasure there is no doubt that we interfere with God’s creation at our peril. Climate change, pollution and inequality are all signs of our wanton disregard for God’s purpose. We need to pay attention to the Word of God, learn the lessons, as Joel says, and start to live in harmony with God’s world and ways.