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.” Joel 2:25. God tells us clearly that He is the one who commands the locusts to devour the land” II Chronicles 7:13,” but when there is repentance, He is the one who “hears from heaven” and “heals the land.” II Chronicles 7:14.

It must be the result of “seducing spirits and doctrines of devils” I Timothy 4:1 when church leaders decide they are the one called to raise up the last day “Army of God.” The “Latter Rain” movement of the past century believed they were being prepared as “Joel’s Army.” Many of them did not believe in the literal return of Jesus Christ, but rather believed there would come a day in which they would receive immortality, and be transformed into “Manifested Sons of God” Romans 8:19 to prepare the way for Christ to return. This movement faded into virtual obscurity in the late 1950s and 60s, making way for the Charismatic movement which followed.

The ugly head of this religious deception (Joel’s Army) has raised up several times during the past fifty years, but each time it has ended in the shame of immorality and perversion. One claimed to be the “captain of Joel’s army” in the 1970s. A “company of prophets” arose in the 1990s, and a “worker of miracles” who claimed many “resurrections from the dead” arose in the first decade of this century, but these all ended with the shame of immorality and even perversion. One claimed to be the “ill savor” in the end.

There are keys to understanding who Joel’s “Army of God” actually is. Remember, it cannot be God’s people, it is only His army of judgment. Joel told us, “...when they fall on the sword, they shall not be wounded” (Hebrew text: ‘shall not be stopped’). Joel 2:8 KJV. To “fall on the sword” has forever spoken of suicide. Joel was seeing the “suicide bomber” in his visions from God. John saw a locust army of 200,000,000 having “breastplates of fire, jacinth, and brimstone.” Revelation 9:16:17. That is a perfect description of a suicide belt. The scripture says they are “prepared to slay the third part of men.” Revelation 9:15. The locusts are swarming even now, and only God can stop them.

The people of God are not “Joel’s Army.” God needs no army, but He does need His church to stand up and preach the gospel of Christ. There are no Captains or Generals in the church, and there is only one “head,” which is Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:22-23. The enemy has been destroyed by Jesus Christ on the cross, and we are sent forth, not in “ranks” to “win the victory,” but as ambassadors of peace, carrying the news of Christ’s victory. Neither Satan nor Sin can hold anyone who will believe the truth of the gospel, because the Battle is Over, and the victory has been won!

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