

Hordes of Grasshoppers

On this day in 1931, hordes of grasshoppers swept across several western states and destroyed thousands of acres of crops. Eyewitnesses said the grasshoppers were so thick they could be scooped up in shovels. Nebraska, Iowa and North and South Dakota were the most affected areas. In one 16,000-mile area of Iowa inspected by entomologists, there was not enough vegetation remaining to feed even a single animal.

Newspaper reports at the time called the grasshopper infestation the worst in 50 years. Some farmers in Nebraska sold grasshoppers for 20 cents a pound to be used as fish food at state hatcheries. Other farmers collected grasshoppers to feed their poultry during the following winter.

In the Book of Joel, God told His people to mourn over the locust plague that He had sent among them like a great destroying army (2:25). Four different types of locusts had completely devastated all their crops. They destroyed not only that year's harvest, but seed for their crops for years to come. Yet God promised Israel that He would repair the damage done, and they would again have abundance.

Sometimes our lives seem as if they have been hit by a swarm of locusts or grasshoppers. All our hopes and dreams have been stripped away by either consequences of our own actions or circumstances out of our control. We may feel that we can never be productive again. But God promises to repair damage done by "plagues" to His children. If we trust Him, He will heal relationships, restore hope and joy, and make us fruitful again.

--Beecher Hunter