

Are locusts figurative or physical in Joel?

Answer = Physical

- ★ A simile or metaphor is used to compare an actual locust plague to a figurative human army.
- ★ Simile = a figure of speech involving the comparison of one thing with another thing of a different kind, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid.

Are locusts figurative or physical?

Statements suggesting locusts are figurative.

- ★ Nation invaded my land, 1:6.
- ★ My great army, 2:25.
- ★ Remove the northern army, 2:20.
- ★ There is a great and mighty people, 2:2.

Are locusts figurative or physical?

Statements suggesting locusts are physical.

- ★ Very specific on 4 types of locusts.
- ★ A detailed description of the locusts use multiple “likes” in [2:3-7](#). This indicates a simile being used.
- ★ Climb into houses and enter through windows, [2:9](#).
- ★ The judgment affects only food supply and not killing people or the destruction of homes.

Are locusts figurative or physical?

Other Considerations

- ★ Nation can be used figuratively of a swarm of locusts, [Joel 1:6](#). See Strong's and Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicons.
- ★ Palestine has had several locust invasions through history and locusts come from the north.
- ★ Message = emphasize the widespread destruction of locusts like a ruthless, physical army.

Amos

- ★ Emphasize justice and judgment.
 - Justice: 5:7, 15, 24, 6:12.
 - Judgment: “ For three transgressions of ... and for four I will not revoke its punishment”, 8x.

Amos

★ Nature illustrations.

- Pleiades and Orion, 5:8.
- Shepherd, 3:12.
- Plow them with oxen, 6:12.
- Basket of summer fruit, 8:2.
- Grain is shaken in a sieve, 9:9.
- Meat and fish hooks, 4:2.

Obadiah

- ★ Contrast is made between Mt. Zion and Mt. Seir and the emphasis on mountains - 11x (vs. 3(2x), 4(2x), 8, 9, 16, 17, 19, 21(2x)).

Jonah

- ★ It is written as a historical, autobiographical narrative.

Micah

- ★ A concern for injustice done to the poor, 2:1-3, 8-9, 3:1-3, 11, 6:10-12, 7:2-3.

Nahum

- ★ The most poetic book of the Minor Prophets and one of the finest in all the Old Testament according to scholars.

Habakkuk

- ★ God's message to Judah is conveyed through a conversation between God and Habakkuk.
- ★ This is known as a colloquy [*kol-uh-kwee*] ("a literary work written as a dialogue or conversation").

Zephaniah

- ★ Note the following 3 markings:
day of the Lord, “I will” and a
description of what the Lord will
do.

Haggai

- ★ Note the markings of “thus says the Lord” or equivalent statements, 28x.

Zechariah

- ★ It is the longest, most obscure of all the Minor Prophets and the most difficult of OT Books.
- ★ The style of the book compares with Ezekiel, Daniel, and Revelation in being highly symbolic in style.
- ★ Zechariah is highly Messianic like Isaiah.
- ★ Uses allegories = A story in which the characters and events are symbols that stand for ideas about human life or for a political or historical situation.

Malachi

- ★ A new style of address known as the didactic-dialectic method of speaking is utilized.
 - Didactic = Designed or intended to teach people something.
 - Dialectic = A discourse between two or more people holding different points of view about a subject but wishing to establish the truth through reasoned arguments.
- ★ An assertion or charge is made, an objection is raised by the hearers (“*but you say*”) and a refutation to the objection is presented by the speaker.

Malachi

No.	Verses	Lord's Charge	People's Objection	Lord's Refutation
1	1:2-3	I loved you.	How hast Thou loved us?	Loved Jacob, hated Esau.
2	1:6-7	Where is My honor		
3	1:6-7	Priest despise my name	<u>How have we despised Thy name?</u>	Presenting defiled food.
4	1:6-7		How have we defiled Thee?	<u>Present blind, lame, sick for sacrifice.</u>

Malachi

No.	Verses	Lord's Charge	People's Objection	Lord's Refutation
4	1:6-7		How have we defiled Thee?	<u>Present blind, lame, sick for sacrifice.</u>
5	2:11,14	Judah profaned the sanctuary & married daughter of a foreign god	For what reason?	Lord has witness against you and wife of your youth, your companion, your wife by covenant.
6	2:16-17	<u>You have wearied the Lord with your words about OK to divorce.</u>	How have we wearied Him?	By saying everyone one who does evil is good in the sight of the Lord.

Malachi

No.	Verses	Lord's Charge	People's Objection	Lord's Refutation
7	3:7-8	Turned aside from My statutes, Return to Me.	How shall we return?	
8	3:7-8	You are robbing Me.	<u>How have we robbed Thee?</u>	In tithes and offerings.
9	3:13-15	Your words are arrogant against Me.	What have we spoken against Thee?	<u>It is vain to serve Me.</u>

Malachi

- ★ Appeal to the Lord as the source of his message — “Says the Lord”
26x.