[Reading through the prophecies of Joel I was struck by how bleak the prophecies were. I also realized that there was a mixture of things that have already happened, the plague of locust & Israel's repentance, and things yet to come, the day of the Lord. The following note helped to clarify some of what I was reading.]

****Life Application Study Bible Notes:** *Joel begins by describing a terrible plague of locusts that covers the land and devours the crops. The devastation wrought by these creatures is but a foretaste of the coming judgment of God, the "day of the LORD." Joel, therefore, urges the people to turn from their sin and turn back to God. Woven into this message of judgment and the need for repentance is an affirmation of God's kindness and the blessings he promises for all who follow him.*

Joel 1:9 *There is no grain or wine to offer at the Temple of the Lord. The priests are mourning because there are no offerings. Listen to the weeping of these ministers of the Lord! (NLT)*

The nation of Judah (Southern Kingdom) was devastated. There was nothing left. There was not even enough grain or wine to offer in the regular sacrifices required daily at the Temple. The fascinating thing to me was the reaction of the priests. The priests were "mourning" it was as if a relative had died. The pattern of daily sacrifices and worship had been stopped. They could not individually or corporately Worship God properly and as required by Old Testament Law. Their proper response to that was to weep and mourn. I wonder, how many times have I wept because I could not be at church to worship with God's people? How many times have I grieved when I could take part of normal times of worship and celebration?

PRAYER: O Lord, help me to have the attitude of these priest. Help me to see any disruption of my opportunities to worship, or to bring You glory , as a cause for weeping and mourning.

Pastor Mark Kieft
>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>