### Joel

## Chapter 1

1These are words of Jehovah that came to JoEl (son of BathuEl).  
  
2[Joel says:]  
  
 ‘Listen to these things, O you elders…  
 Give ear, all you who live in the land!  
 Have you seen such things in your [lives]?  
 Were they seen in the days of your fathers?  
  
 3‘Describe these things to your children,  
 And to all the generations that follow!  
  
 [‘For God says:]  
  
 4‘For, caterpillars ate all that there was,  
 And locusts devoured what they didn’t eat;  
 Then, grasshoppers ate what remained from the locusts,  
 And what the grasshoppers didn’t consume,  
 Was thereafter destroyed by the blight.  
  
 5‘Now, sober up and start crying,  
 All you who are drunk from your wine;  
 For, joy and gladness are gone from your mouths,  
 6Since a powerful and populous nation,  
 Has now arrived in your land.  
  
 ‘They have teeth that are like those of lions,  
 And molars like those of young bears.  
 7They’ve appointed your grapevines to extinction,  
 And condemned your fig-trees to splinters.  
 They’re searching for you and cutting you down,  
 So now, all of your branches are white.  
  
 8‘Therefore, wail like woman wearing sackcloth,  
 [Who mourns] for the man of her virgin years.  
 9For the drink offerings and other sacrifices,  
 Have been removed from [His Temple].  
 Yes mourn, O you Priests who serve at the Altar,  
 10For all of the fields now lie bare!  
  
 ‘And mourn, O land, for the grain is now gone,  
 Also, the wine has all dried,  
 And the oil is in short supply,  
 11Because the farmers have withered away.  
  
 ‘Therefore, wail for all that you own,  
 Since the wheat and barley are gone from the fields!  
  
 12‘The grapes [have shriveled and] dried;  
 Very few fig-trees remain;  
 The pomegranates, palms, and the melons,  
 And all the trees in the plains are now dry…  
 Yes, all that brings joy to sons of men,  
 Has been taken away!  
  
 13‘So Priests, tie your [hands] and beat on your chests…  
 Yes wail, you who serve at the Altar!  
 Go to bed wearing sackcloth,  
 You who are serving before Me,  
 Since there’s nothing left to be sacrificed,  
 And nothing to bring as drink offerings,  
 To the House of Jehovah!’  
  
14[And Joel says:]  
  
 ‘Call for a period of fasting…  
 Proclaim a solemn assembly!  
 Gather the elders and all of the people,  
 To the House of Jehovah your God,  
 Where all must fervently call to the Lord!  
  
 15‘Woe, woe, woe for this time!  
 For the Day of the Lord has arrived,  
 And misery upon misery has reached you!  
 16Before your eyes, all the food was destroyed,  
 With the rest that brings joy to your people.  
  
 17‘In the stables, the cows are now restless,  
 Since all that they treasure is gone.  
 The wine vats have all been cut down,  
 And all of your grain is now parched…  
 18So you’re left with nothing at all.’  
  
 ‘The herds of oxen are bawling,  
 Because they don’t have any pasture,  
 And your flocks of sheep have all been destroyed.  
 19So, you should call out to Jehovah,  
 For your beautiful fields have been burned,  
 And the flames have consumed all your trees.  
  
 [‘For God says:]  
  
 20‘Now, even the beasts in the plains,  
 Have all started looking to Me,  
 Because their springs have gone dry,  
 And the desert’s beauty has vanished.’