### Joel

## Chapter 2

1[‘For God says:]  
  
 ‘So, sound the trumpets in Zion,  
 And on the Holy Mountain, you must proclaim,  
 That all should bow to their faces,  
 For the Day of the Lord is at hand (it’s near)!  
  
 2‘It’s a day that’s gloomy and dark…  
 It’s a day that’s cloudy with fog.  
 And as dawn peaks over the mountains,  
 [You can see] a vast, mighty people.  
  
 ‘Throughout the ages, such a thing hasn’t happened,  
 And through coming years, it won’t happen again…  
 From one generation to another.  
  
 3‘A consuming fire is raging before you,  
 And all that’s behind you is burning.  
 A paradise of delights lies before you,  
 But all that’s behind is extinction and desert,  
 From which no man can escape.  
  
 4‘The sight of them is like horses…  
 Like cavalry in hot pursuit.  
 5Theirs is the sound of chariot wheels  
 Leaping across tops of mountains…  
 Like the sounds of flames burning stubble,  
 And of a vast mighty hoard of warriors.  
  
 6‘Before them, the people will all be destroyed,  
 And their faces will be like burnt pots.  
 7For as soldiers, they’ll attack you;  
 And as men of war, they’ll then scale your walls.  
  
 ‘Each of their men will go their own ways,  
 And they’ll not be turned from their paths…  
 8But, none will stray far from their brothers.  
  
 ‘They’ll arrive here with shields,  
 And by their arrows, the people will fall…  
 For no way will they tire [of killing].  
  
 9‘They’ll thereafter capture the city,  
 And along its walls, they’ll run.  
 Then, into your homes, they’ll descend  
 And climb through your windows like thieves.  
  
 10‘Before their faces, there’ll be just confusion,  
 And even the skies will be shaken.  
 Then the sun and the moon will grow dark,  
 And the brightness of the stars will decrease.  
  
 11‘Before his armies, the Lord will call out;  
 For he’s leading a great mighty hoard.  
 His power will be seen in the things that he does,  
 For great is the Day of the Lord,  
 Since none can stand and oppose him.  
  
 12‘Now run,’ says Jehovah your God!  
 ‘Flee to Me whole-heartedly…  
 Come fasting, weeping, and beating your chests!’  
  
  
13[Joel then says:]  
  
 ‘So, tear at your hearts, not your clothes,  
 And turn to Jehovah your God!  
 For, He shows mercy and pity…  
 He’s gentle and He’s forgiving,  
 [So He’ll overlook] the bad things you’ve done.  
  
 14‘Who knows if He’ll stop and consider,  
 Then change His plans and bless you instead.  
 So, bring sacrifices and drink offerings,  
 To Jehovah your God!  
  
 15‘Now, blow the trumpets in Zion…  
 Proclaim a [day] of holy fasts…  
 A day of sacred service must be declared!  
  
 16‘Yes, gather all of the people,  
 And proclaim a holy assembly!  
 Choose your elders, then gather your young…  
 Even those who are nursing at breasts!  
 Call the grooms from their bedrooms  
 And the brides from their wedding chambers!’  
  
 17‘Now, Priests, you should all start to weep…  
 Yes, you who serve before God,  
 At the base of the Altar.  
 Then pray:  
  
 ‘Spare Your people, O Lord!  
 Don’t hand them over for scorning  
 And to be ruled by the gentiles!  
 Then the nations will never have reason to ask,  
 What has become of your God?’  
  
 18‘O Jehovah,  
 ‘Show zeal for Your land,  
 And please show mercy to Your people!  
  
  
 19‘O Jehovah,  
  
 ‘Reply to Your people and say:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’ll send enough grain that you’ll be full,  
 Along with much wine and olive oil…  
 And you’ll be scorned by the nations no more!  
  
 20‘Then I’ll drive away those who have come from the north  
 And push them into a waterless land…  
 I’ll remove their faces to the farthest of seas,  
 And their rears to the opposite end,  
 Where they [will lie] rotting and groaning,  
 And where nothing that they’ve done can be seen.’  
  
 21‘So, be courageous O land…  
 Yes, you should rejoice and be glad,  
 For Jehovah will be moved to take action!  
  
 22‘Also take courage, you cattle;  
 For, pastures will burst from the desert,  
 And all the trees will bear fruit…  
 The fig-trees and grapevines will then yield their strength!  
  
 23‘And be glad, O children of Zion…  
 Find joy in Jehovah your God.  
 For to the righteousness, He will send food,  
 And He’ll bring the rains (both the early and late)  
 Just like He’s done in the past.  
  
 24‘Then your threshing-floors will be covered with grain,  
 As your vats of wine and oil overflow.  
 25He will repay you for all of those years  
 When your things were devoured by blight…  
 By grasshoppers, caterpillars, and locusts,  
 And by the great army that He sent against you.  
  
 26‘Then you’ll all eat and be filled,  
 And you’ll praise the Name of your God…  
 The One who sent you great wonders.  
 And thereafter, His people won’t meet with disgrace  
 Throughout the ages that follow.  
  
  
27[Now God says:]  
  
 ‘O IsraEl,  
  
 ‘At that time, you’ll come here and know  
 That I’m here in your midst…  
 Yes Me, Jehovah your God!  
 For there are no Gods other than Me,  
 And I’ll not leave My people disgraced throughout the age!  
  
 28‘Then, in the last days, I’ll pour out My Breath,  
 And your sons and daughters will all prophesy,  
 Your aged men will dream dreams,  
 And young men in your midst will see visions.  
  
 29‘In those days, I’ll pour out My Breath  
 Upon My male and female attendants.  
 30Miracles, I’ll bring to the skies,  
 And fire, smoke and blood to the land.  
  
 31‘For the sun will then become dark,  
 And the moon [will be changed] into blood,  
 Before the great and apparent arrival,  
 Of the Day of the Lord.  
  
 32‘Then, all who call on the name of the Lord  
 Will be the ones who are saved,’ said Jehovah.  
  
 ‘For, to Mount Zion and JeruSalem,  
 Will come a person who saves,  
 Announcing good news to all those  
 Who’ve been called by the Lord.’