

Joel

1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

2 Hear this, you elders, And give ear, all you inhabitants of the land! Has anything like this happened in your days, Or even in the days of your fathers?

3 Tell your children about it, Let your children tell their children, And their children another generation.

4 What the chewing locust left, the swarming locust has eaten; What the swarming locust left, the crawling locust has eaten; And what the crawling locust left, the consuming locust has eaten.

5 Awake, you drunkards, and weep; And wail, all you drinkers of wine, Because of the new wine, For it has been cut off from your mouth.

6 For a nation has come up against My land, Strong, and without number; His teeth are the teeth of a lion, And he has the fangs of a fierce lion.

7 He has laid waste My vine, And ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white.

8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the husband of her youth.

9 The grain offering and the drink offering Have been cut off from the house of the LORD; The priests mourn, who minister to the LORD.

10 The field is wasted, The land mourns; For the grain is ruined, The new wine is dried up, The oil fails.

11 Be ashamed, you farmers, Wail, you vinedressers, For the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field has perished.

12 The vine has dried up, And the fig tree has withered; The pomegranate tree, The palm tree also, And the apple tree-- All the trees of the field are withered; Surely joy has withered away from the sons of men.

13 Gird yourselves and lament, you priests; Wail, you who minister before the altar; Come, lie all night in sackcloth, You who minister to my God; For the grain offering and the drink offering Are withheld from the house of your God.

14 Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land Into the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD.

15 Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.

¹⁶Is not the food cut off before our eyes,
Joy and gladness from the house of our
God?

¹⁷The seed shrivels under the clods,
Storehouses are in shambles; Barns are
broken down, For the grain has withered.

¹⁸How the animals groan! The herds of
cattle are restless, Because they have
no pasture; Even the flocks of sheep
suffer punishment.

¹⁹O LORD, to You I cry out; For fire has
devoured the open pastures, And a
flame has burned all the trees of the
field.

²⁰The beasts of the field also cry out to
You, For the water brooks are dried up,
And fire has devoured the open
pastures.

2Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound
an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the
inhabitants of the land tremble; For the
day of the LORD is coming, For it is at
hand:

²A day of darkness and gloominess, A
day of clouds and thick darkness, Like
the morning clouds spread over the
mountains. A people come, great and
strong, The like of whom has never
been; Nor will there ever be any such
after them, Even for many successive
generations.

³A fire devours before them, And behind
them a flame burns; The land is like the
Garden of Eden before them, And

behind them a desolate wilderness;
Surely nothing shall escape them.

⁴Their appearance is like the
appearance of horses; And like swift
steeds, so they run.

⁵With a noise like chariots Over
mountaintops they leap, Like the noise
of a flaming fire that devours the stubble,
Like a strong people set in battle array.

⁶Before them the people writhe in pain;
All faces are drained of color.

⁷They run like mighty men, They climb
the wall like men of war; Every one
marches in formation, And they do not
break ranks.

⁸They do not push one another; Every
one marches in his own column. Though
they lunge between the weapons, They
are not cut down.

⁹They run to and fro in the city, They run
on the wall; They climb into the houses,
They enter at the windows like a thief.

¹⁰The earth quakes before them, The
heavens tremble; The sun and moon
grow dark, And the stars diminish their
brightness.

¹¹The LORD gives voice before His
army, For His camp is very great; For
strong is the One who executes His
word. For the day of the LORD is great
and very terrible; Who can endure it?

¹²"Now, therefore," says the LORD,
"Turn to Me with all your heart, With

fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

¹³So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

¹⁴Who knows if He will turn and relent, And leave a blessing behind Him-- A grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly;

¹⁶Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room.

¹⁷Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, Weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, And do not give Your heritage to reproach, That the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

¹⁸Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And pity His people.

¹⁹The LORD will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.

²⁰"But I will remove far from you the northern army, And will drive him away into a barren and desolate land, With his face toward the eastern sea And his back toward the western sea; His stench will come up, And his foul odor will rise, Because he has done monstrous things."

²¹Fear not, O land; Be glad and rejoice, For the LORD has done marvelous things!

²²Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field; For the open pastures are springing up, And the tree bears its fruit; The fig tree and the vine yield their strength.

²³Be glad then, you children of Zion, And rejoice in the LORD your God; For He has given you the former rain faithfully, And He will cause the rain to come down for you-- The former rain, And the latter rain in the first month.

²⁴The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

²⁵"So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust, And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

²⁶You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.

²⁷Then you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: I am the LORD your God And there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.

²⁸"And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.

²⁹And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

³⁰"And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

³¹The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

³²And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

3 "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

²I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom

they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.

³They have cast lots for My people, Have given a boy as payment for a harlot, And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.

⁴"Indeed, what have you to do with Me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia? Will you retaliate against Me? But if you retaliate against Me, Swiftly and speedily I will return your retaliation upon your own head;

⁵Because you have taken My silver and My gold, And have carried into your temples My prized possessions.

⁶Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem You have sold to the Greeks, That you may remove them far from their borders.

⁷"Behold, I will raise them Out of the place to which you have sold them, And will return your retaliation upon your own head.

⁸I will sell your sons and your daughters Into the hand of the people of Judah, And they will sell them to the Sabeans, To a people far off; For the LORD has spoken."

⁹Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, Let all the men of war draw near, Let them come up.

¹⁰Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak say, "I am strong."

¹¹Assemble and come, all you nations,
And gather together all around. Cause
Your mighty ones to go down there, O
LORD.

¹²"Let the nations be wakened, and
come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
For there I will sit to judge all the
surrounding nations.

¹³Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe.
Come, go down; For the winepress is
full, The vats overflow-- For their
wickedness is great."

¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of
decision! For the day of the LORD is
near in the valley of decision.

¹⁵The sun and moon will grow dark, And
the stars will diminish their brightness.

¹⁶The LORD also will roar from Zion,
And utter His voice from Jerusalem; The
heavens and earth will shake; But the
LORD will be a shelter for His people,
And the strength of the children of Israel.

¹⁷"So you shall know that I am the
LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My
holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be
holy, And no aliens shall ever pass
through her again."

¹⁸And it will come to pass in that day
That the mountains shall drip with new
wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And
all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded
with water; A fountain shall flow from the
house of the LORD And water the
Valley of Acacias.

¹⁹Egypt shall be a desolation, And
Edom a desolate wilderness, Because
of violence against the people of Judah,
For they have shed innocent blood in
their land.

²⁰But Judah shall abide forever, And
Jerusalem from generation to
generation.

²¹For I will acquit them of the guilt of
bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted;
For the LORD dwells in Zion."