

# 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.

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

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

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

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

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

**2** Blow 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:

<sup>2</sup>A 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.

<sup>3</sup>A 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.

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

<sup>5</sup>With 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.

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

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

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

<sup>9</sup>They 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.

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

<sup>11</sup>The 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?

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

fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

<sup>13</sup>So 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.

<sup>14</sup>Who 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?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly;

<sup>16</sup>Gather 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.

<sup>17</sup>Let 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?"

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, And pity His people.

<sup>19</sup>The 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.

<sup>20</sup>"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."

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

<sup>22</sup>Do 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.

<sup>23</sup>Be 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.

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

<sup>25</sup>"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.

<sup>26</sup>You 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.

<sup>27</sup>Then 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.

<sup>28</sup>"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.

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

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

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

<sup>32</sup>And 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,

<sup>2</sup>I 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.

<sup>3</sup>They 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.

<sup>4</sup>"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;

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

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

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

<sup>8</sup>I 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."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>16</sup> The 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.

<sup>17</sup> "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."

<sup>18</sup> And 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.

<sup>19</sup> "Egypt 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.

<sup>20</sup> But Judah shall abide forever, And  
Jerusalem from generation to  
generation.

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