**CHAPTER** **2**

*The prophet foretells the terrible day of the Lord: exhorts sinners to a sincere conversion: and comforts God’s people with promises of future blessings under Christ.*

**1** Blow ye the trumpet in Sion, sound an alarm in my holy mountain, let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: because the day of the Lord cometh, because it is nigh at hand.

**2** A day of darkness, and of gloominess, a day of clouds and whirlwinds: a numerous and strong people as the morning spread upon the mountains: the like to it hath not been from the beginning, nor shall be after it even to the years of generation and generation.

**3** Before the face thereof a devouring fire, and behind it a burning flame: the land is like a garden of pleasure before it, and behind it a desolate wilderness, neither is there any one that can escape it.

**4** The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses, and they shall run like horsemen.

**5** They shall leap like the noise of chariots upon the tops of mountains, like the noise of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, as a strong people prepared to battle.

**6** At their presence the people shall be in grievous pains: all faces shall be made like a kettle.

**7** They shall run like valiant men: like men of war they shall scale the wall: the men shall march every one on his way, and they shall not turn aside from their ranks.

**8** No one shall press upon his brother: they shall walk every one in his path: yea, and they shall fall through the windows, and shall take no harm.

**9** They shall enter into the city: they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up the houses, they shall come in at the windows as a thief.

**10** At their presence the earth hath trembled, the heavens are moved: the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars have withdrawn their shining.

**11** And the Lord hath uttered his voice before the face of his army: for his armies are exceedingly great, for they are strong and execute his word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible: and who can stand it?

**12** Now therefore saith the Lord: Be converted to me with all your heart, in fasting, and in weeping, and in mourning.

**13** And rend your hearts, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, patient and rich in mercy, and ready to repent of the evil.

**14** Who knoweth but he will return, and forgive, and leave a blessing behind him, sacrifice and libation to the Lord your God?

**15** Blow the trumpet in Sion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly,

**16** Gather together the people, sanctify the church, assemble the ancients, gather together the little ones, and them that suck at the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth from his bed, and the bride out of her bride chamber.

**17** Between the porch and the altar the priests the Lord’s ministers shall weep, and shall say: Spare, O Lord, spare thy people: and give not thy inheritance to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them. Why should they say among the nations: Where is their God?

**18** The Lord hath been zealous for his land, and hath spared his people.

**19** And the Lord answered and said to his people: Behold I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and you shall be filled with them: and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

**20** And I will remove far off from you the northern enemy: and I will drive him into a land unpassable, and desert, with his face towards the east sea, and his hinder part towards the utmost sea: and his stench shall ascend, and his rottenness shall go up, because he hath done proudly.

**21** Fear not, O land, be glad and rejoice: for the Lord hath done great things.

**22** Fear not, ye beasts of the fields: for the beautiful places of the wilderness are sprung, for the tree hath brought forth its fruit, the fig tree, and the vine have yielded their strength.

**23** And you, O children of Sion, rejoice, and be joyful in the Lord your God: because he hath given you a teacher of justice, and he will make the early and the latter rain to come down to you as in the beginning.

**24** And the floors shall be filled with wheat, and the presses shall overflow with wine and oil.

**25** And I will restore to you the years which the locust, and the bruchus, and the mildew, and the palmerworm have eaten; my great host which I sent upon you.

**26** And you shall eat in plenty, and shall be filled: and you shall praise the name of the Lord your God, who hath done wonders with you, and my people shall not be confounded for ever.

**27** And you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel: and I am the Lord your God, and there is none besides: and my people shall not be confounded for ever.

**28** And it shall come to pass after this, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy: your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

**29** Moreover upon my servants and handmaids in those days I will pour forth my spirit.

**30** And I will shew wonders in heaven; and in earth, blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke.

**31** The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood: before the great and dreadful day of the Lord doth come.

**32** And it shall come to pass, that every one that shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved: for in mount Sion, and in Jerusalem shall be salvation, as the Lord hath said, and in the residue whom the Lord shall call.