**THE**

**PROPHECY OF JOEL**

JOEL*, whose name, according to* ST. JEROME*, signifies* THE LORD GOD*: or, as others say,* THE COMING DOWN OF GOD*: prophesied about the same time in the kingdom of Judea, as* OSEE *did in the kingdom of Israel. He foretells under figure the great evils that were coming upon the people for their sins: earnestly exhorts them to repentance: and comforts them with the promise of a* TEACHER OF JUSTICE*, viz.,* CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD*, and of the coming down of his holy* SPIRIT*.*

**CHAPTER** **1**

*The prophet describes the judgments that shall fall upon the people, and invites them to fasting and prayer.*

**1** The word of the Lord, that came to Joel, the son of Phatuel.

**2** Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land: did this ever happen in your days, or in the days of your fathers?

**3** Tell ye of this to your children, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation.

**4** That which the palmerworm hath left, the locust hath eaten: and that which the locust hath left, the bruchus hath eaten: and that which the bruchus hath left, the mildew hath destroyed.

**5** Awake, ye that are drunk, and weep, and mourn all ye that take delight in drinking sweet wine: for it is cut off from your mouth.

**6** For a nation come up upon my land, strong and without number: his teeth are like the teeth of a lion: and his cheek teeth as of a lion’s whelp.

**7** He hath laid my vineyard waste, and hath pilled off the bark of my fig tree: he hath stripped it bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.

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

**9** Sacrifice and libation is cut off from the house of the Lord: the priests, the Lord’s ministers, have mourned:

**10** The country is destroyed, the ground hath mourned: for the corn is wasted, the wine is confounded, the oil hath languished.

**11** The husbandmen are ashamed, the vinedressers have howled for the wheat, and for the barley, because the harvest of the field is perished.

**12** The vineyard is confounded, and the fig tree hath languished: the pomegranate tree, and the palm tree, and the apple tree, and all the trees of the field are withered: because joy is withdrawn from the children of men.

**13** Gird yourselves, and lament, O ye priests, howl, ye ministers of the altars: go in, lie in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: because sacrifice and libation is cut off from the house of your God.

**14** Sanctify ye a fast, call an assembly; gather together the ancients, all the inhabitants of the land into the house of your God: and cry ye to the Lord:

**15** Ah, ah, ah, for the day: because the day of the Lord is at hand, and it shall come like destruction from the mighty.

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

**17** The beasts have rotted in their dung, the barns are destroyed, the storehouses are broken down: because the corn is confounded.

**18** Why did the beasts groan, why did the herds of cattle low? because there is no pasture for them: yea, and the flocks of sheep are perished.

**19** To thee, O Lord, will I cry: because fire hath devoured the beautiful places of the wilderness: and the flame hath burnt all the trees of the country.

**20** Yea, and the beasts of the field have looked up to thee, as a garden bed that thirsteth after rain, for the springs of waters are dried up, and fire hath devoured the beautiful places of the wilderness.