

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Joel

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1:1-12

Background: Joel wrote this book to the people of Judah.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The word of Yahweh came to Joel to give to the elders and all the people. [1:1-2]
- ☐ Locusts, grasshoppers, and caterpillars had ruined the vineyard and fig tree. [1:4-7]
- ☐ The people were told to mourn because the grain and drink offerings had been cut off from the house of Yahweh. [1:8-9]
- ☐ Crops were destroyed, trees had all withered, and joy had withered away. [1:10-12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Whose word came to Joel? [1:1]
The word of Yahweh.
2. Who was to receive this word from Joel? [1:2]
The elders and other inhabitants of the land.
3. What were the elders and inhabitants told to tell their children about? [1:2-3]
They were told to tell their children about what happened in their days.
4. What do you think the locusts, grasshoppers, and caterpillars ate? [1:4-12]
They ate the crops.
5. How do you think the sweet wine was cut off? [1:4-5]
The locusts, grasshoppers, and caterpillars ate the grapevines in the vineyards, so there were no grapes to make wine.
6. Describe the nation that came upon the land. [1:6]
It was powerful and it had many individuals. Its teeth were like those of a lion and lioness.
7. What do you think this nation was? [1:6]
It was the swarms of insects that destroyed the crops.
8. What was the result of the attack of the locusts, grasshoppers, and caterpillars on the vineyards? [1:4-7]
Those who drank wine lost their sweet wine supply.
9. What did the "nation" of insects do to the vineyard and fig tree? [1:7]
It turned the vineyard into a desolate place, and it stripped the fig tree bare.

Joel 1:1-12 continued

10. How should the elders and those who lived in the land mourn like? [1:8]
They should mourn as a virgin whose young bridegroom had died would mourn.
11. What was cut off from the house of Yahweh? [1:9]
The grain offering and the drink offering.
12. What are three products that were ruined when the fields were ruined? [1:9-10]
The grain, new wine, and oil.
13. Who was told to be ashamed, and who was told to wail? [1:11]
The farmers were told to be ashamed, and the vine growers were told to wail.
14. Why do you think joy withered away from the descendants of mankind? [1:12]
Their joy withered because their crops, vines, and trees were ruined.

Comment Section:

1:13-20

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The priests were told to mourn because the grain and drink offering had been withheld from Yahweh's house. [1:13]
- ☐ Joel told them to call a holy fast and assembly because the day of Yahweh was almost there. [1:14-15]
- ☐ Food was cut off, crops were rotting, cattle and sheep were suffering, and fire had devoured the pastures of the wilderness and the trees of the fields. [1:16-20]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What had been withheld from the house of God? [1:13]
The grain offering and the drink offering.
2. Where were the people to gather? [1:14]
They were to gather at the house of Yahweh.
3. What would come with the day of Yahweh? [1:15]
Destruction from the Almighty would come with the day of Yahweh.
4. Why do you think joy and gladness were cut off from the house of God? [1:16]
It may have been because there was no food. Perhaps they were sad because they could no longer bring grain and drink offerings to God.
5. What had been torn down? [1:17]
The barns.
6. Why were the herds of cattle confused and wandering? [1:18]
They were confused and wandering because they had no pasture.
7. What things did the fires and flames destroy? [1:19]
They destroyed the pastures of the wilderness and all the trees of the fields.
8. What happened to the brooks of water? [1:20]
They dried up.

Comment Section:

2:1-11

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ The day of the Lord was coming soon. [2:1]
- ☐ On that day a powerful army would come and destroy the land. [2:2-5]
- ☐ The people would be in anguish. [2:6]
- ☐ The army would come into the city, terrify the inhabitants, and make the sky dark. [2:7-10]
- ☐ This army would follow Yahweh's commands. [2:11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why were all the inhabitants of the land told to tremble in fear? [2:1]
They should tremble because the day of Yahweh was coming soon.
2. What would happen on the day of Yahweh? [2:2]
A large and mighty army would come.
3. What would the land be like behind the army? [2:3]
It would be a ruined wilderness.
4. What would the army look and act like? [2:4]
It would look like horses and run like horsemen.
5. What would the army sound like? [2:5]
It would sound like chariots rumbling along the mountain tops, like fiery flames burning up rubble, and like a mighty army ready for battle.
6. How would people respond to this army? [2:6]
They would be in anguish and their faces would become pale.
7. What do you think this army consisted of? [2:7-9]
It might be the huge swarms of insects that were described in Joel 1, or it might be a human army.
8. How would the army enter the city? [2:9]
They would rush into the city, run on the wall, climb into the houses, and go through the windows like thieves.
9. What would happen to the sun, moon, and stars? [2:10]
They would stop shining.
10. Whose army would this be? [2:11]
This would be Yahweh's army.

Joel 2:1-11 continued

11. Who do you think would be able to endure the day of the Yahweh? [2:11]
Perhaps no one would be able to endure it.

Comment Section:

2:12-17

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh told the people to return to him with all their heart. [2:12]
- ☐ The people were told why they should return to Yahweh. [2:13]
- ☐ The leaders were told to call for a holy fast and a holy assembly. [2:15-16]
- ☐ The priests were to weep and cry to Yahweh to spare His people. [2:17]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In what ways were the people to return to Yahweh? [2:12]
They were to return to him with all their hearts and with fasting, weeping, and mourning.
2. Sometimes people tore their clothes when they were overwhelmed with grief, sorrow, or horror. What were these people told to tear, and what do you think tearing that meant in this situation? [2:13]
They were told to tear their heart. Perhaps tearing their heart meant to be truly and deeply sorry for their sins.
3. Why did Joel say the people should return to Yahweh? [2:13]
They should return to Yahweh because he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in love, and he is ready to turn from inflicting punishment.
4. What do you think Yahweh might have done if the people humbly returned to him? [2:14]
Perhaps he might have turned back and blessed them instead of destroying them.
5. What was the purpose of blowing a ram's horn in Zion? [2:15]
The purpose was to call the people to a holy fast and a holy assembly.
6. Who do you think was to come to the holy assembly? [2:16-17]
Everyone was to come.
7. What two things were the priests to ask Yahweh to do? [2:17]
They were to ask him to spare his people, and they were to ask him not to make them into an object of scorn.
8. What do you think would be the reason that other nations might say about Judah, "Where is their God?" [2:17]
If God were to allow Judah to be destroyed, the other nations might think that Judah's God was not able to protect them.

Comment Section:

2:18-19

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh had pity on His people and said he would provide for them. [2:18-19]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. In what way did Yahweh show he was zealous for his land and had pity on his people? [2:18-19]
He answered his people and promised to satisfy them with grain, new wine, and oil.
2. What had Yahweh's people been among the nations? [2:19]
They had been a disgrace among the nations.

Comment Section:

2:28-32

Background: In Joel 2:20-27, Yahweh said that he would send the attackers away from Judah, send rain, and restore the crops that the locusts had eaten. He also said that he would never again bring shame on his people.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh told Joel what would happen afterward when He would pour out His Spirit on all flesh. [2:28-32]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Yahweh say will happen when He pours out his Spirit? [2:28]
Their sons and daughters will prophesy, their old men will dream dreams, and their young men will see visions.
2. What do you think it meant that Yahweh would pour out his Spirit on servants and female servants in those days? [2:29]
It probably meant that He would pour out his Spirit on all kinds of people, regardless of their position in life.
3. What will Yahweh show in the heavens and on the earth? [2:30]
He will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth with blood, fire, and pillars of smoke..
4. What will happen to the sun and the moon? [2:31]
The sun will turn into darkness and the moon into blood.
5. Who will be saved at that time? [2:32]
Everyone who calls on the name of Yahweh will be saved.

Comment Section:

3:14-21

Background: In Joel 3:1-13, Yahweh said that he would judge the nations in the Valley of Jehoshaphat because of what they did to the people of Judah and Jerusalem.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Joel announced that the day of Yahweh in the Valley of Judgment was near [3:14-16]
- ☐ Yahweh said that Jerusalem will be holy because he lives there. [3:17]
- ☐ When the day of Yahweh comes, Judah will be blessed and inhabited forever, and their shed blood will be avenged. [3:18-21]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why will there be a tumult in the Valley of Judgment? [3:14]
There will be a tumult because the day of Yahweh is near.
2. How will the stars change? [3:15]
They will keep back their brightness. That is, they will no longer shine.
3. What two things will Yahweh be for his people? [3:16]
Yahweh will be a shelter and a fortress for his people.
4. Who lives in Zion? [3:17]
Yahweh their God lives in Zion.
5. What good things will be abundant in Judah? [3:18]
There will be sweet wine, milk, and water.
6. What will come from the house of Yahweh? [3:18]
A fountain will come from the house of Yahweh.
7. Why do you think Egypt and Edom will become an abandoned devastation and wilderness? [3:19]
Those things will happen because the people of Egypt and Edom violently shed the innocent blood of the people of Judah.
8. What will be inhabited forever? [3:20]
Judah will be inhabited forever.

Comment Section: