



# JOEL



WORLD ENGLISH BIBLE | AMERICAN EDITION

The Book of

JOEL

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<sup>1</sup>Yahweh's<sup>t</sup> word that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel.

<sup>2</sup>Hear this, you elders,  
and listen, all you inhabitants of the land!  
Has this ever happened in your days,  
or in the days of your fathers?

<sup>3</sup>Tell your children about it,  
and have your children tell their children,  
and their children, another generation.

<sup>4</sup>What the swarming locust has left, the great locust  
has eaten.

What the great locust has left, the grasshopper has  
eaten.

What the grasshopper has left, the caterpillar has  
eaten.

<sup>5</sup>Wake up, you drunkards, and weep!  
Wail, all you drinkers of wine, because of the sweet  
wine,  
for it is cut off from your mouth.

<sup>6</sup>For a nation has come up on my land, strong, and  
without number.

His teeth are the teeth of a lion,  
and he has the fangs of a lioness.

<sup>7</sup>He has laid my vine waste,  
and stripped my fig tree.  
He has stripped its bark, and thrown it away.  
Its branches are made white.

<sup>8</sup>Mourn like a virgin dressed in sackcloth  
for the husband of her youth!

<sup>9</sup>The meal offering and the drink offering are cut  
off from Yahweh's house.

The priests, Yahweh's ministers, mourn.

<sup>10</sup>The field is laid waste.  
The land mourns, for the grain is destroyed,  
The new wine has dried up,  
and the oil languishes.

<sup>11</sup>Be confounded, you farmers!  
Wail, you vineyard keepers,  
for the wheat and for the barley;  
for the harvest of the field has perished.

<sup>12</sup>The vine has dried up, and the fig tree withered—  
the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the  
apple tree,  
even all of the trees of the field are withered;  
for joy has withered away from the sons of men.

Notes

†1:1 "Yahweh" is God's proper Name, sometimes rendered "LORD" (all caps) in other translations.

‡1:13 The Hebrew word rendered "God" is "אֱלֹהִים" (Elohim).

# Notes

<sup>13</sup> Put on sackcloth and mourn, you priests!  
Wail, you ministers of the altar.  
Come, lie all night in sackcloth, you ministers of my  
God,<sup>†</sup>

for the meal offering and the drink offering are  
withheld from your God's house.

<sup>14</sup> Sanctify a fast.

Call a solemn assembly.

Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land  
to the house of Yahweh, your God,  
and cry to Yahweh.

<sup>15</sup> Alas for the day!

For the day of Yahweh is at hand,  
and it will come as destruction from the Almighty.

<sup>16</sup> Isn't the food cut off before our eyes,  
joy and gladness from the house of our God?

<sup>17</sup> The seeds rot under their clods.

The granaries are laid desolate.

The barns are broken down, for the grain has  
withered.

<sup>18</sup> How the animals groan!

The herds of livestock are perplexed, because they  
have no pasture.

Yes, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.

<sup>19</sup> Yahweh, I cry to you,

for the fire has devoured the pastures of the  
wilderness,

and the flame has burned all the trees of the field.

<sup>20</sup> Yes, the animals of the field pant to you,  
for the water brooks have dried up,  
and the fire has devoured the pastures of the  
wilderness.

## 2

<sup>1</sup> 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 Yahweh comes,  
for it is close at hand:

<sup>2</sup> A day of darkness and gloominess,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness.  
As the dawn spreading on the mountains,  
a great and strong people;  
there has never been the like,  
neither will there be any more after them,  
even to the years of many generations.

<sup>3</sup> A fire devours before them,  
and behind them, a flame burns.  
The land is as the garden of Eden before them,  
and behind them, a desolate wilderness.  
Yes, and no one has escaped them.



# Notes

†2:19 "Behold", from "הִנֵּה", means look at, take notice, observe, see, or gaze at. It is often used as an interjection.

Let the bridegroom go out of his room,  
and the bride out of her chamber.

<sup>17</sup> Let the priests, the ministers of Yahweh, weep  
between the porch and the altar,  
and let them say, "Spare your people, Yahweh,  
and don't 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 Yahweh was jealous for his land,  
and had pity on his people.

<sup>19</sup> Yahweh answered his people,  
"Behold,<sup>†</sup> I will send you grain, new wine, and oil,  
and you will be satisfied with them;  
and I will no more make you a reproach among the  
nations.

<sup>20</sup> But I will remove the northern army far away  
from you,  
and will drive it into a barren and desolate land,  
its front into the eastern sea,  
and its back into the western sea;  
and its stench will come up,  
and its bad smell will rise."

Surely he has done great things.

<sup>21</sup> Land, don't be afraid.

Be glad and rejoice, for Yahweh has done great  
things.

<sup>22</sup> Don't be afraid, you animals of the field;  
for the pastures of the wilderness spring up,  
for 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 Yahweh, your God;  
for he gives you the early rain in just measure,  
and he causes the rain to come down for you,  
the early rain and the latter rain, as before.

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

<sup>25</sup> I will restore to you the years that the swarming  
locust has eaten,

the great locust, the grasshopper, and the  
caterpillar,

my great army, which I sent among you.

<sup>26</sup> You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied,  
and will praise the name of Yahweh, your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you;  
and my people will never again be disappointed.

<sup>27</sup> You will know that I am among Israel,  
and that I am Yahweh, your God, and there is no  
one else;



# Notes

<sup>7</sup> Behold, I will stir them up out of the place where you have sold them, and will return your repayment on your own head; <sup>8</sup> and I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hands of the children of Judah, and they will sell them to the men of Sheba, to a faraway nation, for Yahweh has spoken it.”

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim this among the nations: “Prepare for war! Stir up the mighty men. Let all the warriors 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> Hurry and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves together.” Cause your mighty ones to come down there, Yahweh.

<sup>12</sup> “Let the nations arouse themselves, 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, tread, for the wine press is full, the vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.”

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

<sup>15</sup> The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.

<sup>16</sup> Yahweh will roar from Zion, and thunder from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth will shake; but Yahweh will be a refuge to his people, and a stronghold to the children of Israel.

<sup>17</sup> “So you will know that I am Yahweh, your God, dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain.

Then Jerusalem will be holy, and no strangers will pass through her any more.

<sup>18</sup> It will happen in that day, that the mountains will drop down sweet wine, the hills will flow with milk, all the brooks of Judah will flow with waters; and a fountain will flow out from Yahweh’s house, and will water the valley of Shittim.

<sup>19</sup> Egypt will be a desolation and Edom will be a desolate wilderness,





