**The Book of Joel**

**Joel Chapter 1**

1The Word of Yahweh that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel:

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| 2 | 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? |
| 3 | Tell your children about it,  and have your children tell their children,  and their children, another generation. |
| 4 | 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. |
| 5 | Wake up, you drunkards, and weep!  Wail, all you drinkers of wine,  because of the sweet wine,  for it will be cut off from your mouth. |
| 6 | 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. |
| 7 | 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. |
| 8 | Mourn like a virgin dressed in sackcloth  for the husband of her youth! |
| 9 | The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off  from the house of Yahweh.  The priests, Yahweh’s ministers, mourn. |
| 10 | The field is laid waste;  the land mourns,  for the grain is destroyed,  The new wine has dried up,  and the oil languishes. |
| 11 | Be confounded, you farmers!  Wail, you vineyard keepers,  for the wheat and for the barley,  for the harvest of the field has perished. |
| 12 | The vine has dried up  and the fig tree is withered;  the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apricot tree,  even all of the trees of the field are withered;  for joy has withered away from the sons of men. |
| 13 | Put on sackcloth and mourn, you priests!  Wail, you ministers of the altar.  Come, lie all night in sackcloth,  you ministers of my God,  for the grain offering and the drink offering  are withheld from the house of your God. |
| 14 | Proclaim a holy fast!  Call a solemn assembly!  Gather the elders  and all the inhabitants of the land  to the house of Yahweh your God,  and cry out to Yahweh! |
| 15 | Alas for the day!  For the Day of Yahweh is at hand,  and it will come as destruction from *El* Shaddai. |
| 16 | Has not the food been cut off  before our eyes;  *and* joy and gladness  *cut off* from the house of our God? |
| 17 | The seeds have shriveled under their shovels.  The granaries are laid desolate.  The granaries are desolate, because the grain has withered. |
| 18 | How the animals groan!  The herds of livestock are confused,  because they have no pasture.  Yes, the flocks of sheep are made desolate. |
| 19 | Yahweh, I cry out to you,  for the fire has devoured  the pastures of the wilderness,  and the flame has burned  all the trees of the field. |
| 20 | 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. |

**Joel Chapter 2**

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| 1 | Blow the shofar in Zion,  and sound an alarm on my holy mountain!  Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  for the Day of Yahweh comes,  for it is close at hand: |
| 2 | a day of darkness and gloom,  a day of clouds and thick darkness.  Like the dawn spreading on the mountains,  a large and strong people *comes*;  there has never been the like,  nor will there be any more after them,  even to the years of many generations. |
| 3 | 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. |
| 4 | Their appearance is as the appearance of horses,  and as horsemen, so do they run. |
| 5 | With a noise like that of chariots they leap on the tops of the mountains,  like the crackling of a flame of fire that devours the stubble,  like a strong people set in battle formation. |
| 6 | At their presence the peoples are in anguish.  All faces have grown pale. |
| 7 | They run like mighty men.  They climb the wall like warriors.  They each march in his line,  and they do not swerve off course. |
| 8 | They do not crowd each other;  each on his own path do they march,  and they burst through the defenses and do not break ranks. |
| 9 | They rush on the city.  They run on the wall.  They climb up into the houses.  They enter in at the windows like a thief. |
| 10 | The earth quakes before them.  The heavens tremble.  The sun and the moon are darkened,  and the stars withdraw their shining. |
| 11 | Yahweh thunders his voice  before his army,  for his camp is very large;  for he is strong who obeys his command;  for the Day of Yahweh is great and very terrifying,  and who can survive it? |
| 12 | “Yet even now,”  says Yahweh,  “turn to me with all your heart,  and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning. |
| 13 | Tear your hearts,  and not your garments.”  Turn to Yahweh, your God;  for he is gracious and merciful,  slow to anger and abundant in covenant faithfulness  and relents from sending calamity. |
| 14 | Who knows? He may turn and change his mind,  and leave *enough for* a blessing behind him,  *enough for* a grain offering and a drink offering  to Yahweh, your God. |
| 15 | Blow the shofar in Zion!  Announce a sacred fast;  call a solemn assembly; |
| 16 | gather the people.  Sanctify the assembly;  assemble the elders;  gather the children  and those who nurse from breasts.  Let the groom come out from his room,  and the bride out of her room. |
| 17 | Let the priests, the ministers of Yahweh,  weep between the porch and the altar,  and let them say,  “Spare your people, Yahweh,  and do not give your heritage to reproach,  such that the nations should rule over them.  Why should they say among the peoples,  ‘Where is their god?’” |

18Then Yahweh will be jealous for his land and have pity on his people. 19Yahweh answered his people,

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|  | “Behold, I will send you  grain, new wine, and oil,  and you will be satisfied with them;  and I will no longer make you  a reproach among the nations. |
| 20 | 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. |
| 21 | Land, do not be afraid.  Be glad and rejoice,  for Yahweh has done great things. |
| 22 | Do not 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. |
| 23 | Be glad then, you children of Zion,  and rejoice in Yahweh your God;  for he gives you the former rain for your vindication,  and he causes the rain to come down for you,  the former rain and the latter rain, as before. |
| 24 | The threshing floors will be full of wheat,  and the vats will overflow  with new wine and oil. |
| 25 | I will restore to you the years  that the swarming locust has eaten,  the great locust, the grasshopper,  and the caterpillar,  my great army that I sent against you. |
| 26 | 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. |
| 27 | You will know that I am in the midst of Israel,  and that I am Yahweh your God,  and there is no other;  and my people will never again be disappointed. |
| 28 | It will happen afterward  that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh,  and your sons and your daughters will prophesy.  Your old men will dream dreams.  Your young men will see visions. |
| 29 | And also on my servants and on my servant girls in those days,  I will pour out my spirit. |
| 30 | I will show wonders  in the heavens and in the earth:  blood, fire, and pillars of smoke. |
| 31 | The sun will be turned into darkness  and the moon into blood  before the great and terrible Day of Yahweh comes. |
| 32 | But everyone who calls  on the name of Yahweh will be saved;  for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem  there will be those who escape,  as Yahweh has said,  even among the survivors whom Yahweh is calling.” |

**Joel Chapter 3**

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| 1 | “For behold, in those days and in that time,  when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, |
| 2 | I will gather all nations  and will bring them down into the Valley of Jehoshaphat,  and I will execute judgment on them there for my people  and for my heritage, Israel,  whom they have scattered among the nations.  They have divided my land, |
| 3 | and have cast lots for my people,  and have traded a boy for a prostitute  and sold a girl for wine and have drunk it. |

4Yes, and what would you *do* to me, Tyre and Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you repaying me *for something I have done*? And if you are repaying me, I will swiftly and speedily return your repayment on your own head. 5Because you have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried my finest treasures into your temples, 6and have sold the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem to the Greeks, so that you remove them far from their territory. 7Behold, I will rouse them up from the place where you have sold them, and will return your repayment on your own head; 8and I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hands of the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the men of Sheba, to a faraway nation, for Yahweh has spoken it.”

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| 9 | Proclaim this among the nations:  Prepare for war!  Stir up the mighty men.  Let all the warriors draw near. Let them come up. |
| 10 | Beat your plowblades into swords,  and your pruning hooks into spears.  Let the weak say, “I am strong.” |
| 11 | Hurry and come, all you surrounding nations,  and gather yourselves together.  Cause your mighty ones to come down there, O Yahweh. |
| 12 | Let the nations be roused  and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat,[[1]](#footnote-24438)  for I will sit there  to judge all the surrounding nations. |
| 13 | Put in the sickle,  for the harvest is ripe.  Come, tread,  for the winepress is full;  the vats overflow,  for their wickedness is great. |
| 14 | Multitudes, multitudes  in the Valley of Decision!  For the Day of Yahweh is near  in the valley of decision. |
| 15 | The sun and the moon are darkened,  and the stars withdraw their shining. |
| 16 | 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. |
| 17 | “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. |
| 18 | And in that day  the mountains will drop down sweet wine,  the hills will flow with milk,  all the brooks of Judah will flow with waters,  and a spring will flow out from the House of Yahweh[[2]](#footnote-28784)  and will water the Valley of Acacia *Trees*. |
| 19 | Egypt will be a desolation,  and Edom will be a desolate wilderness  for the violence done to the children of Judah,  because they have shed innocent blood in their land. |
| 20 | But Judah will be inhabited forever,  and Jerusalem from generation to generation. |
| 21 | I will cleanse their blood,  that I have not cleansed;  for Yahweh dwells in Zion.” |

1. Jehoshaphat means “Yahweh judges.” [↑](#footnote-ref-24438)
2. Meaning “the Temple” [↑](#footnote-ref-28784)