# Joel

1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel son
of Pethuel.
2 Hear this, elders;
listen, all who live in the land.
Has anything like this happened in your
days or in the days of your fathers?
3 Tell your children about it, and let your
children tell their children, and their
children the next generation.
4 What the cutting locust left, the swarming
locust ate;
what the swarming locust left, the hopping
locust ate;
and what the hopping locust left, the
destroying locust ate.
5 Wake up, drunkards, and weep!
Wail, all you wine drinkers, over the sweet
wine, for it has been cut off from your
mouths.
6 For a nation has come up against my land,
mighty and beyond counting.
Its teeth are a lion's teeth, and it has the
fangs of a lioness.
7 It has devastated my vine and splintered my fig
tree.
It has stripped it completely bare and cast it
away;
its branches have turned white.
8 Lament like a virgin dressed in sackcloth for
the husband of her youth.

9 Grain offerings and drink offerings have
ceased in the house of the LORD.
The priests who minister to the LORD
mourn.
10 The field is devastated;
the ground mourns, for the grain is
destroyed, the new wine has dried up, and
the oil has failed.
11 Be ashamed, farmers;
wail, vinedressers, over the wheat and
barley, for the harvest of the field has
perished.
12 The vine has dried up, and the fig tree has
withered.
Pomegranate, palm, and apple—all the trees
of the field have dried up.
Indeed, joy has withered away from
mankind.

13 Put on sackcloth and mourn, priests;
wail, ministers of the altar.
Come, spend the night in sackcloth,
ministers of my God, for grain offerings
and drink offerings have been withheld
from the house of your God.
14 Consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly.
Gather the elders and all who live in the
land to the house of the LORD your God,
and cry out to the LORD.
15 Alas for the day!
For the day of the LORD is near, and it will
come like destruction from the Almighty.

16 Has not food been cut off before our eyes, and
joy and gladness from the house of our
God?
17 The seeds have shriveled beneath their clods.
The storehouses are desolate;
the granaries are torn down, for the grain
has dried up.
18 How the livestock groan!
The herds of cattle wander in confusion
because they have no pasture;
even the flocks of sheep suffer.
19 To you, LORD, I cry out, for fire has consumed
the pastures of the wilderness, and flame
has scorched all the trees of the field.
20 Even the wild animals pant for you, for the
watercourses have dried up, and fire has
consumed the pastures of the wilderness.

# 2

1 Blow the horn in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all who live in the land tremble, for the
day of the LORD is coming;
it is near—
2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds
and thick darkness.
Like dawn spreading over the mountains
comes a great and mighty people.
There has never been its like, nor will there
be again through the years of generation
after generation.
3 Fire devours before it, and flame scorches
behind it.
Before it the land is like the garden of Eden;

behind it, a desolate wilderness.
Nothing escapes it.
4 They look like horses, and they run like
horsemen.
5 With a sound like chariots they leap over the
mountaintops, with a crackling like
flames consuming stubble, like a mighty
people drawn up for battle.
6 Before it peoples writhe in anguish, and every
face grows pale.
7 They run like warriors;
they scale the wall like soldiers.
Each marches on his way, and they do not
swerve from their paths.
8 They do not push one another;
each marches in his own track.
They plunge through the weapons without
breaking ranks.
9 They rush upon the city;
they run along the wall.
They climb into the houses and enter
through the windows like a thief.
10 Before it the earth trembles and the heavens
shake.
The sun and moon grow dark, and the stars
withdraw their brightness.
11 The LORD raises his voice before his army, for
his camp is vast, and mighty is the one
who carries out his word.
For the day of the LORD is great and very
dreadful.
Who can endure it?

12 “Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me
with all your heart, with fasting, weeping,
and mourning.
13 Tear your hearts, and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD your God, for he is
gracious and compassionate, slow to
anger and abounding in steadfast love,
and he relents from disaster.
14 Who knows?
He may turn and relent and leave a blessing
behind him—a grain offering and a drink
offering for the LORD your God.

15 Blow the horn in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly.
16 Gather the people;
consecrate the congregation.
Assemble the elders;
gather the children, even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his chamber, and
the bride her bridal canopy.
17 Between the porch and the altar let the priests
who minister to the LORD weep.
Let them say, “Spare your people, LORD.
Do not give your inheritance over to
disgrace, for the nations to rule over them.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’ ”
18 Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had compassion on his people.

19 The LORD answered his people, “Look, I am
sending you grain, new wine, and oil, and
you will have your fill.
I will no longer make you a disgrace among
the nations.
20 I will drive the northerner far from you and
thrust him into a dry and desolate land,
his front toward the eastern sea and his
rear toward the western sea.
His stench will rise, and his foul smell will
rise, for he has done great things.”
21 Do not fear, ground;
rejoice and be glad, for the LORD has done
great things.
22 Do not fear, wild animals, for the pastures of
the wilderness have grown green.
The trees bear their fruit;
the fig tree and vine yield their abundance.
23 Children of Zion, rejoice and be glad in the
LORD your God, for he has given you the
early rain in righteousness.
He has sent down rain for you, the early and
the late rain, as before.
24 The threshing floors will be full of grain, and
the vats will overflow with new wine and
oil.
25 “I will repay you for the years the swarming
locust ate, the hopping locust, the
destroying locust, and the cutting
locust—my great army that I sent among
you.
26 You will eat abundantly and be satisfied, and
you will praise the name of the LORD
your God, who has done wonders for you.

My people will never again be put to shame.
27 You will know that I am in the midst of Israel,
that I am the LORD your God and there is
no other.
My people will never again be put to shame.

28 Afterward I will pour out my Spirit on all
flesh.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy;
your old men will dream dreams, and your
young men will see visions.
29 Even on male and female servants I will pour
out my Spirit in those days.
30 I will show wonders in the heavens and on the
earth: blood, fire, and columns of smoke.
31 The sun will turn to darkness and the moon to
blood before the great and dreadful day of
the LORD comes.
32 And everyone who calls on the name of the
LORD will be delivered.
For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there
will be escape, as the LORD has said, and
among the survivors will be those whom
the LORD calls."

# 3

1 "For look, in those days and at that time, when
I restore the fortunes of Judah and
Jerusalem,
2 I will gather all the nations and bring them
down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.
There I will enter into judgment with them
over my people, my inheritance Israel,
whom they scattered among the nations.

They divided up my land.
3 They cast lots for my people, traded a boy for a
prostitute, and sold a girl for wine to
drink.
4 What have you against me, Tyre and Sidon and
all the districts of Philistia?
Are you repaying me for something?
If you repay me, I will swiftly and speedily
bring your repayment back on your own
heads.
5 For you took my silver and my gold and carried
my fine treasures into your temples.
6 You sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to
the Greeks to remove them far from their
territory.
7 Look, I will rouse them from the place where
you sold them, and I will bring your
repayment back on your own heads.
8 I will sell your sons and daughters into the
hands of the people of Judah, and they
will sell them to the Sabeans, to a distant
nation, for the LORD has spoken."

9 Proclaim this among the nations: Consecrate a
war!
Rouse the warriors;
let all the soldiers draw near and come up.
10 Beat your plowshares into swords and your
pruning hooks into spears.
Let the weak say, "I am a warrior."
11 Hurry and come, all you surrounding nations,
and gather there.
Bring down your warriors, LORD!

12 “Let the nations rouse themselves and come
up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I
will sit 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 the LORD is near in the valley
of decision.
15 The sun and moon grow dark, and the stars
withdraw their brightness.
16 The LORD roars from Zion and raises his voice
from Jerusalem;
the heavens and the earth shake.
But the LORD is a refuge for his people, a
stronghold for the people of Israel.
17 “You will know that I am the LORD your God,
dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain.
Jerusalem will be holy, and foreigners will
never again pass through her.

18 In that day the mountains will drip sweet
wine, the hills will flow with milk, and all
the watercourses of Judah will flow with
water.
A spring will come out of the house of the
LORD and water the Valley of Shittim.
19 Egypt will become a desolation, and Edom a
desolate wilderness, because of the
violence against the people of Judah, for
they shed innocent blood in their land.

20 But Judah will be inhabited forever, and
Jerusalem from generation to generation.
21 I will vindicate their blood, which I have not
vindicated;
and the LORD dwells in Zion."

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