

## The Book of Joel

<sup>1</sup> The LORD's<sup>†</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 grasshop-  
per 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.

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<sup>†</sup> **1:1:** When rendered in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS, "LORD" or "GOD" is the translation of God's Proper Name (Hebrew "יהוה", usually pronounced Yahweh).

- 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 meal offering and the drink offering are cut  
off from the LORD's house.  
The priests, the LORD'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 with-  
ered—  
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.
- 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,<sup>‡</sup>  
for the meal offering and the drink offering  
are withheld from your God's house.
- 14 Sanctify a fast.  
Call a solemn assembly.  
Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of  
the land to the house of the LORD, your God,

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

and cry to the LORD.

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

For the day of the LORD 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> LORD, I cry to you,

for the fire has devoured the pastures of the  
wilderness,

and the flame has burnt 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 the LORD 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.

<sup>4</sup> Their appearance is as the appearance of horses,  
and they run as horsemen.

<sup>5</sup> Like the noise of chariots on the tops of the  
mountains, they leap,  
like the noise of a flame of fire that devours  
the stubble,  
like a strong people set in battle array.

<sup>6</sup> At their presence the peoples are in anguish.  
All faces have grown pale.

<sup>7</sup> They run like mighty men.  
They climb the wall like warriors.  
They each march in his line, and they don't  
swerve off course.

<sup>8</sup> One doesn't jostle another.  
They each march in their own path.  
They burst through the defences  
and don't break ranks.

<sup>9</sup> They rush on the city.  
They run on the wall.  
They climb up into the houses.  
They enter in at the windows like thieves.

<sup>10</sup> The earth quakes before them.  
The heavens tremble.  
The sun and the moon are darkened,

- and the stars withdraw their shining.
- 11 The LORD thunders his voice before his army,  
for his forces are very great;  
for he is strong who obeys his command;  
for the day of the LORD is great and very  
awesome,  
and who can endure it?
- 12 “Yet even now,” says the LORD, “turn to me with  
all your heart,  
and with fasting, and with weeping, and with  
mourning.”
- 13 Tear your heart and not your garments,  
and turn to the LORD, your God;  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abundant in loving kind-  
ness,  
and relents from sending calamity.
- 14 Who knows? He may turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
even a meal offering and a drink offering to  
the LORD, your God.
- 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion!  
Sanctify a 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 bridegroom go out of his room,  
and the bride out of her chamber.
- 17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep  
between the porch and the altar,  
and let them say, “Spare your people, LORD,

- and don't give your heritage to reproach,  
that the nations should rule over them.  
Why should they say amongst the peoples,  
'Where is their God?' "
- 18 Then the LORD was jealous for his land,  
and had pity on his people.
- 19 The LORD 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  
amongst 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, don't be afraid.  
Be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done  
great things.
- 22 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.
- 23 "Be glad then, you children of Zion,  
and rejoice in the LORD, your God;

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

- 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.
- 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, which I sent amongst you.
- 26 You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied,  
and will praise the name of the LORD, your  
God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you;  
and my people will never again be disap-  
pointed.
- 27 You will know that I am amongst Israel,  
and that I am the LORD, your God, and there  
is no one else;  
and my people will never again be disap-  
pointed.
- 28 “It will happen afterward, that I will pour out  
my Spirit on all flesh;  
and your sons and your daughters will proph-  
esy.  
Your old men will dream dreams.  
Your young men will see visions.
- 29 And also on the servants and on the handmaids  
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.

- <sup>31</sup> The sun will be turned into darkness,  
and the moon into blood,  
before the great and terrible day of the LORD  
comes.
- <sup>32</sup> It will happen that whoever will call on the  
LORD's name shall be saved;  
for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will  
be those who escape,  
as the LORD has said,  
and amongst the remnant, those whom the  
LORD calls.

### 3

- <sup>1</sup> "For, behold, in those days,  
and in that time,  
when I restore the fortunes of Judah and  
Jerusalem,
- <sup>2</sup> I will gather all nations,  
and will bring them down into the valley of  
Jehoshaphat;  
and I will execute judgement on them there  
for my people,  
and for my heritage, Israel, whom they have  
scattered amongst the nations.  
They have divided my land,
- <sup>3</sup> and have cast lots for my people,  
and have given a boy for a prostitute,  
and sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.
- <sup>4</sup> "Yes, and what are you to me, Tyre and Sidon,  
and all the regions of Philistia?  
Will you repay me?



And if you repay me,  
I will swiftly and speedily return your repayment on your own head.

<sup>5</sup> Because you have taken my silver and my gold,  
and have carried my finest treasures into  
your temples,

<sup>6</sup> and have sold the children of Judah and  
the children of Jerusalem to the sons of the  
Greeks,  
that you may remove them far from their  
border.

<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 the LORD has spoken it.”

<sup>9</sup> Proclaim this amongst 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 ploughshares 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,  
LORD.

- 12 “Let the nations arouse 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 wine press 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 the moon are darkened,  
and the stars withdraw their shining.
- 16 The LORD will roar from Zion,  
and thunder from Jerusalem;  
and the heavens and the earth will shake;  
but the LORD will be a refuge to his people,  
and a stronghold to the children of Israel.
- 17 “So you will know that I am the LORD, your God,  
dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain.  
Then Jerusalem will be holy,  
and no strangers will pass through her any  
more.
- 18 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 the LORD’s  
house,  
and will water the valley of Shittim.
- 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.

<sup>20</sup> But Judah will be inhabited forever,  
and Jerusalem from generation to generation.

<sup>21</sup> I will cleanse their blood  
that I have not cleansed,  
for the LORD dwells in Zion.”

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2020 stable text edition

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PDF generated using Haiola and XeLaTeX on 15 May 2025 from source files dated 15 May 2025

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