



The Book of Joel

Author: Joel

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Time Covered: The Day of Jehovah

1 The word of Jehovah that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel:

An Invasion of Locusts

2 Hear this, O elders;
and give ear, all inhabitants of the land.^a
Has anything like this happened in your days,
or in the days of your fathers?

3 Tell your sons of it,
and let your sons tell their sons,
and their sons to another generation.

4 What the cutting locust left,
the swarming locust has eaten.
What the swarming locust left,
the hopping locust has eaten,
and what the hopping locust left,
the destroying locust has eaten.

5 Awake, you drunkards, and weep,
and wail, all you drinkers of wine,
because of the sweet wine,
for it is cut off from your mouth.

6 For a nation has come up against^b my land,
strong and beyond number;
its teeth are lions' teeth,
and it has the fangs of a lioness.

7 It has devastated my vine
and my fig tree a splintered stump;
it has stripped them bare and cast them
away;
their branches have turned white.

8 Wail like a virgin^c wearing sackcloth
for the bridegroom^d of her youth.

9 The grain offering and the drink offering

are cut off
from the house of Jehovah.

The priests mourn,
the ministers of Jehovah.

10 The fields are destroyed,
the ground mourns,
because the grain is destroyed,
the wine dries up,
the oil languishes.

11 Be ashamed, O farmers;
wail, O vinedressers,
for the wheat and the barley,
because the harvest of the field has
perished.

12 The vine has dried up;
the fig tree languishes.
The pomegranate, the palm, and the apple,
all the trees of the field have dried up.

For joy has turned to shame
from the sons of men.

A Call to Repentance

13 Gird yourselves with sackcloth, O priests;
wail, O ministers of the altar!

Come spend the night in sackcloth,
O ministers of my God!

Because grain offering and drink offering
are withheld from the house of your God.

14 Consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly.

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

The Day of Jehovah Is Near

15 Alas for the day!
For the day of Jehovah is near,
and as destruction from the Almighty.

16 Is not the food cut off
before our eyes,

joy and gladness
from the house of our God?

17 The seeds shrivel under their shovels;
the storehouses are desolate;
the granaries are torn down
because the grain has dried up.

^a Or *earth*

^b I.e., *has invaded*

^c Or *young woman*

^d Or *her husband*



18 How the beasts groan!
The herds of cattle wander around
because there is no pasture for them;
even the flocks of sheep suffer.

The Prophet Calls to Jehovah

19 To you, O Jehovah, I cry out.
For fire has devoured
the pastures of the wilderness,
and flame has burned
all the trees of the field.
20 Even the beasts of the field pant for you
because the water brooks are dried up,
and fire has devoured
the pastures of the wilderness.

The Day of Jehovah and His Great Army

2 Blow a trumpet in Zion;
sound an alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land^a tremble,
for the day of Jehovah is coming! It is near!
2 A day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains
a great and mighty people;
their has been nothing like it from old,
and after it nothing will be again
for generation after generation.
3 Before them a fire devours,
and behind them a flame burns.
The land is like the garden of Eden before them,
but behind them a desolate wilderness,
and nothing escapes them.
4 Their appearance is like the appearance of horses,
and like war horses they run.
5 Like the noise of chariots,
on the tops of the mountains they leap,
like the crackling of a flame of fire
devouring the stubble,

^a Or *earth*

like a mighty people
drawn up for battle.
6 Before them peoples are in anguish;
all faces turn pale.
7 Like warriors they charge;
like soldiers they scale the wall.
They march each on his way;
they do not swerve from their paths.
8 They do not jostle one another;
each marches in his path;
they burst through the weapons
they do not break ranks.
9 Upon the city they leap,
upon the walls they run,
into the houses they climb,
through the windows they enter like a thief.
10 Before them the earth quakes;
the heavens tremble.
The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.
11 Jehovah utters his voice
before his army,
for his camp is exceedingly great;
he who executes his word is powerful.
For the day of Jehovah is great and very awesome;
who can endure it?

Return to Jehovah

12 "Yet even now," declares Jehovah,
"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13 and rend your hearts and not your garments."
Return to Jehovah your God,
for he is compassionate^b and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in loyal love;
and he will reconsider^c the calamity.

^b Or *gracious*
^c Or *feel regret over*. The Hebrew word (*nacham*) translated "be sorry," "repent," "regret," "be comforted," "comfort," "reconsider" and "change one's mind" can pertain to a change of attitude or intention.



14 Who knows whether he will turn back and reconsider,^a

and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for Jehovah your God?

15 Blow the trumpet 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 room,
and the bride her chamber.

17 Between the porch^b and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of Jehovah,
weep and say, "Spare your people,
O Jehovah,

and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,
"Where is their God?"

The Response and Promise of Jehovah

18 Then Jehovah became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

19 Jehovah answered and said to his people,
"Look, I am sending to you

God is perfect and therefore does not make mistakes in his dealings with his creation. However, he can have a change of attitude or intention as regards how humans react to his warnings. God can go from the Creator of humans to that of a destroyer of them because of his unrepentant wickedness and failure to heed his warnings. On the other hand, if they repent and turn from their wicked ways, he can be compassionate and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in loyal love; and he will "reconsider" the calamity that he may have intended.

^a Or *feel regret over*

^b A porch or entranceto a bulding consisting of various designs.

grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.

20 "The northerner, I will remove far from you,
and drive him into a parched and desolate land,

his vanguard into the eastern sea,^c
and his rear guard into the western sea;^d
the stench and foul smell of him will rise,
for he has done great things.

21 "Fear not, O land;
be glad and rejoice,
for Jehovah has done great things!

22 Fear not, you beasts of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;

the tree bears its fruit;
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

23 "Be glad, O sons of Zion,
and rejoice in Jehovah your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;

he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early^e and the latter^f rain, as before.

24 "The threshing floors will be full of grain;
the vats will overflow with wine and oil.

25 I will restore to you the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent among you.

26 "You will eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of Jehovah your God,

who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people will never again be put to shame.

27 You will know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am Jehovah your God and

^c I.e. *the Dead Sea*

^d I.e., *the Mediterranean Sea*

^e I.e. *autumn*

^f I.e. *spring*



there is no other.
And my people will never again be put to shame.

Jehovah Will Pour Out His Spirit

28 “And it will come to pass afterward,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
and your young men will see visions.^a
29 Even on the male and female servants
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

**Those Calling on the Name of
Jehovah Will Be Saved**

30 “And I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth, blood and fire and
columns of smoke. 31 The sun will be turned
into darkness and the moon into blood
Before the coming of the great and awe-
inspiring day of Jehovah. 32 And everyone
who calls on the name of Jehovah will be
saved; For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there will be those who escape, just as
Jehovah has said, The survivors whom
Jehovah calls.

Jehovah Judges the Nations

3 For look! In those days, and in that
time, when I will return the fortunes of
Judah and Jerusalem,^b 2 I will gather all the
nations and bring them down to the Valley
of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into
judgment with them there, on behalf of my
people and my inheritance Israel, because
they have scattered them among the nations
and have divided up my land. 3 They have
cast lots for my people, and have given a
boy for a prostitute, and have sold a girl for
wine and have drunk it.

4 “What are you to me, O Tyre and
Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are
you paying me back for something? If you
are paying me back, swiftly and speedily I
will return your payment on your
head. 5 For you have taken my silver and my
gold, and have carried my rich treasures into
your temples. 6 And the sons of Judah and
Jerusalem you sold to the sons of the Greeks,
in order to remove them from their
border. 7 Look! I am rousing them from the
place where you have sold them, and I will
return your payment on your own head. 8 I
will sell your sons and your daughters into
the hand of the sons of Judah, and they will
sell them to the Sabeans, to a nation far
away, for Jehovah has spoken.”

9 Proclaim this among the nations:
Prepare for a war;
stir up the mighty men.
Let all the men of war draw near;
let them come up!
10 Beat your plowshares into swords,
and your pruning hooks into spears;
let the weak say, “I am a warrior.”
11 Hasten and come,
all you surrounding nations,
and gather yourselves there.
Bring down, O Jehovah, your mighty ones.
12 Let the nations be roused
and come up to the Valley of
Jehoshaphat;^c
for there I will sit to judge
all the surrounding nations.
13 Put in the sickle,
for the harvest is ripe.
Go in, 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 Jehovah is near
in the valley of decision.

^a Joel 2:28–32 in the English Bible is 3:1–5 in the Hebrew Bible

^b Joel 3:1–21 in the English Bible is 4:1–21 in the Hebrew Bible

^c I.e. *Jehovah judges*



¹⁵ The sun and moon grow dark,
and the stars will lose their brightness.

¹⁶ Jehovah roars from Zion,
and utters his voice from Jerusalem,
and the heavens and the earth shake.

But Jehovah is a refuge to his people,
a stronghold to the sons of Israel.

Jehovah Blesses His People

¹⁷ “So you will know that I am Jehovah your
God,

who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain.

And Jerusalem will be holy,

and strangers will pass through it no more.

¹⁸ “And in that day

the mountains will drip sweet wine,

and the hills shall flow with milk,

and all the streams of Judah

will flow with water;

and a fountain shall come forth from the
house of Jehovah

and water the Valley of the Acacia Trees.

¹⁹ “Egypt will become a desolation
and Edom a desolate wilderness,
for the violence done to the sons of Judah,
in whose land they have shed innocent
blood.

²⁰ But Judah will be inhabited forever,
and Jerusalem to all generations.

²¹ I will not leave unpunished their blood,
that I had not considered innocent,
for Jehovah dwells in Zion.”