

JOEL

¹ The word of the Lord *is this*, that was made to Joel, the son of Pethuel.

² Eld [*or old*] men, hear ye this, and all dwellers of the land, perceive ye with ears. If this thing was done in your days, either in the days of your fathers.

³ Of this thing tell ye to your sons, and your sons *tell* to their sons, and the sons of them *tell* to another generation.

⁴ A locust ate the residue of a wortworm, and a bruchus ate the residue of a locust, and rust ate the residue of a bruchus.

⁵ Drunken men, wake ye, and weep; and yell ye, all that drink wine in sweetness; for it perished from your mouth.

⁶ For why a folk strong and unnumberable ascended [*or went up*] on my land. The teeth thereof *be* as the teeth of a lion, and the cheek teeth thereof *be* as of a whelp of a lion.

⁷ It setted my vinery [*or put my vineyard*] into desert, and took away the rind of my fig tree. It made naked and spoiled that *vinery*, and casted forth; the branches thereof *be* made white.

⁸ Wail thou, as a virgin girded with a sackcloth on the husband of her time of marriage.

⁹ Sacrifice and moist sacrifice perished from the house of the Lord; and priests, the ministers of the Lord, mourned.

10 The country is made bare of people. The earth mourned; for wheat is destroyed. Wine is shamed, and oil was sick, *either failed*.

11 The earth-tillers be shamed, the vine-tillers yelled on wheat and barley; for the ripe corn of the field is perished.

12 The vinery is shamed [*or the vine-yard is confounded*]; and the fig tree was sick. The pomegranate tree, and the palm tree, and the fir tree, and all the trees of the field dried up; for joy is shamed from the sons of men.

13 Ye priests, gird you, and wail; ye ministers of the altar, yell. Ministers of my God, enter ye, lie ye in sackcloth; for why sacrifice and moist sacrifice perished from the house of your God.

14 Hallow ye fasting, call ye the company, gather ye together eld [*or old*] men, and all dwellers of the earth, into the house of your God; and cry ye to the Lord,

15 A! A! A! to the day; for the day of the Lord is nigh, and shall come as a tempest from the Almighty.

16 Whether foods perished not before your eyes; gladness and full out joy *perished* from the house of your God?

17 Beasts waxed rotten in their drit. Barns be destroyed, cellars be destroy-ed, for wheat is shamed.

18 Why wailed a beast? *why* lowed the flocks of oxen and kine? for no pasture is to them; but also the flocks of sheep perished.

¹⁹ Lord, I shall cry to thee, for fire ate the fair things of desert, and flame burnt all the trees of the country.

²⁰ But also beasts of the field, as a cornfloor thirsting rain, beheld [*up*] to thee; for the wells of waters be dried up, and fire devoured the fair things of desert.

CHAPTER 2

¹ Sing ye with a trump in Zion, yell ye in mine holy hill [*or mountain*]. All the dwellers of earth be disturbed [*or troubled*]; for the day of the Lord cometh,

² for the day of darkneses and of mist is nigh, the day of cloud and of whirlwind. *These locusts be* as the morrowtide spread abroad on hills, a much people and strong. None was like it from the beginning, and after it shall not be, till into years of generation and of generation.

³ Before the face thereof *shall be* fire devouring, and after it *shall be* burning flame; as a garden of liking *or Eden* the land *shall be* before them, and wilderness of desert *shall be* after them, and none is that shall escape them.

⁴ The looking of them *shall be* as the looking of horses; and as horsemen, so they shall run.

⁵ As the sound of carts on the heads [*or tops*] of hills they shall skip; as the sound of the flame of fire devouring stubble, as a strong people made ready to battle.

⁶ Peoples shall be tormented of the face thereof, all faces shall be *as* driven into a pot.

⁷ As strong men they shall run, as men warriors they shall ascend on the wall. *These* men shall go in their ways, and they shall not bow away from their paths.

⁸ Each man shall not make strait his brother, each man shall go in his *own* path; but also they shall fall down by windows, and shall not be hurt.

⁹ They shall enter into the city, they shall run on the wall; they shall ascend on houses, they shall enter as a night thief by windows.

¹⁰ The earth trembled of his face, heavens were moved, the sun and the moon were made dark, and stars withdrew their shining.

¹¹ And the Lord gave his voice before the face of his host, for his hosts be full many; for *those be* strong, and do the word of him. For the day of the Lord is great, and full fearedful, and who shall suffer it?

¹² Now therefore saith the Lord, Be ye turned again to me in all your heart, in fasting, and weeping, and wailing;

¹³ and carve ye your hearts, and not your clothes, and be ye turned again to your Lord God, for he is benign, and merciful, patient, and of much mercy, and abiding, *either forgiving*, on malice.

¹⁴ Who knoweth, if God be turned again, and forgive, and leave blessing after him? sacrifice and moist sacrifice to our Lord God.

¹⁵ Sing ye with a trump in Zion, hallow ye fasting, call ye *a* company;

¹⁶ gather together the people, hallow ye the church, gather ye together eld [*or old*] men, gather ye together little children, and *those* sucking the breasts; a spouse go out of his bed, and a spousess *out* of her chamber.

¹⁷ Priests, the ministers of the Lord, shall weep betwixt the porch and the altar, and shall say, Lord! spare thou, spare thy people, and give thou not thine heritage into shame, that nations be lords of them. Why say they among peoples, Where is the God of them?

¹⁸ The Lord loved jealously his land, and spared his people.

¹⁹ And the Lord answered, and said to his people, Lo! I shall send to you wheat, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be [*ful*] filled with those; and I shall no more give you *to be a* shame among heathen men.

²⁰ And I shall make him that is at the north far from you; and I shall cast him out into a land without way, and desert; his face against the east sea, and the last part thereof at the last sea; and the stink thereof shall ascend or go up, and the root thereof shall ascend [*or go up*], for he did proudly.

²¹ Earth, do not thou dread, make thou full out joy, and be glad; for the Lord magnified that he should do.

²² Beasts of the country, do not ye dread, for the fair things of desert burgeoned; for the tree brought his fruit, the fig tree and vinery [*or the vineyard*] gave their strength.

²³ And the sons of Zion, make ye full out joy, and be ye glad in your Lord God, for he gave to you a teacher of rightfulness [*or rightwiseness*], and he shall make morrowtide rain and eventide rain to come down to you, as in the beginning.

²⁴ And cornfloors shall be [*full-*]filled of wheat, and pressers shall flow with wine and oil.

²⁵ And I shall yield to you the years which the locust, bruchus, and rust, and wortworm, my great strength, ate, which I sent into you.

²⁶ And ye shall eat eating, and ye shall be [*ful*] filled; and ye shall praise the name of your Lord God, that made marvels with you; and my people shall not be shamed without end.

²⁷ And ye shall know, that I am in the midst of Israel; and I *am* your Lord God, and none is more; and my people shall not be shamed without end.

²⁸ And it shall be, after these things I shall shed [*or pour*] out my spirit on each man; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy; your eld [*or old*] men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ But also I shall shed [*or pour*] out my spirit on my servants, and hand-maids, in those days;

³⁰ and I shall give great wonders in heaven, and in earth, blood, and fire, and the heat of smoke.

³¹ The sun shall be turned into darknesses, and the moon into blood, before that the great day and horrible of the Lord come.

³² And it shall be, each that calleth to help the name of the Lord shall be safe; for why salvation,

either saving, shall be in the hill of Zion and in Jerusalem, as the Lord said, and in the residue men, which the Lord calleth.

CHAPTER 3

¹ For lo! in those days, and in that time, when I shall turn the captivity of Judah and of Jerusalem,

² I shall gather all folks, and I shall lead them [*forth*] into the valley of Jehoshaphat*; and I shall dispute there with them on my people, and mine heritage Israel, which they scattered among nations; and they parted my land,

³ and sent lot on my people; and they setted [*or putted*] a knave child in the bordel house, and sold a damsel for wine, that they should drink.

⁴ But what to me and to you, thou Tyre, and Sidon, and each end of Palestine *or Philistia*? Whether ye shall yield avenging to me? and if ye venge you against me, soon swiftly I shall yield while to you onto your head.

⁵ Ye took away my silver and gold, and ye brought my desirable things and fairest things into your temples of idols.

⁶ And ye sold the sons of Judah, and the sons of Jerusalem, to the sons of Greeks, that ye should make them far from their coasts.

⁷ Lo! I shall raise them from the place in which ye sold them; and I shall turn your yielding into your head.

* **CHAPTER 3:2** Also known as the Kidron Valley; it is the setting for the Last Judgement, and so it is also called the 'Valley of Doom'.

⁸ And I shall sell your sons and your daughters into the hands of the sons of Judah, and they shall sell them to Sabeans, a far-off folk, for the Lord spake.

⁹ Cry ye this thing among heathen men, hallow ye battle, raise ye *up* strong men; all men warriors, nigheth, and ascend or goeth up.

¹⁰ Beat ye together your plowst† into swords, and your mattocks, *either pickaxes*, into spears; a feeble man say, that I am strong.

¹¹ All folks, break ye out, and come from compass *about*, and be ye gathered together; there the Lord shall make thy strong men to die.

¹² Folks rise together, and ascend or goeth up into the valley of Jehoshaphat; for I shall sit there, to deem all folks in compass.

¹³ Send ye sickles, *either scythes*, for [*the*] ripe corn waxed; come ye, and go ye down, for the presser is full; pressers be plenteous, for the malice of them is multiplied.

¹⁴ Peoples, peoples in the valley of cutting down [*or the valley of concision, or slaying together*]; for the day of the Lord is nigh in the valley of cutting down [*or the valley of concision*].

¹⁵ The sun and the moon be made dark, and stars withdraw their shining.

¹⁶ And the Lord shall roar from Zion, and shall give his voice from Jerusalem, and heavens and earth shall be moved; and the Lord is the hope of his people, and the strength of the sons of Israel.

† **CHAPTER 3:10** In other writings, Wycliffe renders this word as 'plowghschares' ('plough/plowshares').

¹⁷ And ye shall know, that I *am* your Lord God, dwelling in Zion, in mine holy hill; and Jerusalem shall be holy, and aliens shall no more pass by it.

¹⁸ And it shall be, in that day, mountains shall drop *with* sweetness, and little hills shall flow with milk, and waters shall go by all the rivers of Judah; and a well shall go out of the house of the Lord, and shall moist the strand of thorns.

¹⁹ Egypt shall be into desolation, and Idumea into desert of perdition; for that that they did wickedly against the sons of Judah, and shedded out innocent blood in their land.

²⁰ And Judah shall be inhabited without end, and Jerusalem into generation and into generation.

²¹ And I shall cleanse the blood of them, which I had not cleansed; and the Lord shall dwell in Zion.

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Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling, was made in response to requests from readers who wanted my Wycliffe's Old and New Testaments and Apocrypha in one volume. Printing limitations dictated the number of pages available to me and the letter size. In my previous books, Wycliffe's Bible, Wycliffe's Old Testament, Vols. 1 amp 2, Wycliffe's New Testament, and Wycliffe's Apocrypha, I have tens of thousands of rewritten verses, presented in parentheses "()", to provide help in comprehending the 14th century Middle English vocabulary and grammar. In this present volume, with space at a premium, those "helps" had to be eliminated, to make room for the text of the Apocrypha.

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