Joel

CHAPTER 1

**Locusts**

The Word of Yahweh that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel. 2Hear this, you elders, and listen, all of you inhabitants of the land. Has this ever happened in your days, or in the days of your fathers? 3Tell your children about it, and have your children tell their children, and their children tell another generation. 4What 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. 5Wake up, you drunkards, and weep! Wail, all you drinkers of wine, because of the sweet wine; for it is cut off from your mouth. 6For 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. 7He has laid My vine waste, and stripped My fig tree. He has stripped its bark, and thrown it away. Its branches are made white. 8Mourn like a virgin dressed in sackcloth for the husband of her youth! The meal offering and the drink offering are cut off from Yahweh’s house; the priests, Yahweh’s ministers, mourn. 10The field is laid waste, the land mourns, because the grain is destroyed, the new wine has dried up and the oil wastes away. 11Be confounded, you farmers! Wail, you vineyard keepers; for the wheat and for the barley and the harvest of the field has perished. 12The vine has dried up, and the fig tree withered; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all of the trees of the field are withered away; for joy is withered away from the sons of men.

**Repent!**

13Put 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 meal offering and the drink offering are withheld from your God’s house. 14Sanctify a fast. Call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of Yahweh your God, and cry to Yahweh. 15Alas for the day! For the day of Yahweh is at hand, and it will come as a destruction from the Almighty. 16Isn’t the food cut off before our eyes, joy and gladness from the house of our God? 17The seeds rot under their clods. The granaries are laid desolate. The barns are broken down, for the grain has withered. 18How the animals groan! The herds of livestock are confused because they have no pasture. Yes, the flocks of sheep are made desolate. 19Yahweh, I cry to you because the fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame has burned up all the trees of the field. 20Yes, 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.

CHAPTER 2

**More Locusts**

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 Yahweh comes, for it is near at hand: 2a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, like 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. 3A fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is as the garden of Eden before them, and after them- like a desolate wilderness. Yes, and no one has escaped them. 4Their appearance is as the appearance of horses, and as horsemen, so do they run. 5Like the noise of chariots on the tops of the mountains do they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devours the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. 6At their presence the people are in anguish. All faces have grown pale. 7They run like mighty men, they climb the wall like warriors. They each march in his line, and they don’t swerve off course. 8Neither does one jostle another; they march each one in his path, and they burst through the defences, and don’t break ranks. 9They rush on the city, they run on the wall, they climb up into the houses, they enter in at the windows like thieves. 10The earth quakes before them, the skies tremble, the sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. 11Yahweh thunders His voice before His army; for His forces are very great; for he is strong who obeys His command; for the day of Yahweh is great and very awesome, and who can endure it?

**A Fast is Proclaimed**

12“Yet even now,” says Yahweh, “turn to Me with all your heart, and with fasting and with weeping and with mourning.” 13Tear your heart, and not your garments, and turn to Yahweh, your God; for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abundant in loving kindness, and relents from sending calamity. 14Who knows? He may turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, even a meal offering and a drink offering to Yahweh, your God. 15Blow the trumpet in Zion! Sanctify a fast. Call a solemn assembly. 16Gather the people. Sanctify the assembly. Assemble the elders. Gather the children, and those who nurse from the breasts. Let the bridegroom go forth from his room, and the bride out of her room. 17Let the priests, the ministers of Yahweh, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, “Spare Your people, Yahweh, and don’t give Your heritage to reproach, that the pagan nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”.

**Yahweh Answered His People**

 18Then Yahweh was jealous for His land, and had pity on His people. 19Yahweh answered His people, “Behold, 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 among the nations. 20But 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! 21Land, don’t be afraid! Be glad and rejoice, for Yahweh has done great things! 22Don’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. 23Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in Yahweh your God; for He gives you the former rains in just measure, and He causes the rain to come down for you, the former rains and the latter rains, as before. 24The threshing floors will be full of wheat, and the vats will overflow with new wine and oil. 25I 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 among you. 26You will have plenty to eat and will be satisfied, and will praise the name of Yahweh your God who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people will never again be ashamed. 27You will know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am Yahweh your God, and there is no one else; and My people will never again be ashamed.

**The Day of the Lord**

28It will happen in the last days, 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. 29And also on the servants and on the handmaids I will pour out My Spirit in those days. 30I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood, fire, and pillars of smoke. 31The sun will be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes. 32It will happen that whoever will call on the name of Yahweh shall be saved; for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who escape, as Yahweh has said, and among the remnant, those whom Yahweh calls.

CHAPTER 3

**Judgment on the Nations**

For behold, in those days, and in that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 2I 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, 3and have cast lots for My people, and have given a boy for a prostitute, and sold a girl for wine, that they may drink. 4Yes, and what are you to Me, Tyre, 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. 5Because you have taken My silver and My gold, and have carried My finest treasures into your temples, 6and 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. 7Behold, I will stir them up out of 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 children of Judah, and they will sell them to the men of Sheba, to a distant nation; for Yahweh has spoken it. 9Proclaim this among the nations: “Sanctify war! Stir up the mighty men. Let all the warriors draw near. Let them come up. 10Beat your ploughshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weak say, ‘I am strong!’. 11Hurry and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves together.” Cause Your mighty ones to come down there, Yahweh. 12Let the nations arouse themselves, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat; for there will I sit to judge all the surrounding nations. 13Put in the sickle; for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the winepress is full, the vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. 14Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of Yahweh is near, in the valley of decision. 15The sun and the moon will be darkened, and the stars will withdraw their shining. 16Yahweh will roar from Zion, and thunder from Jerusalem; the heavens and the earth will shake, but Yahweh will be a refuge for His people, and a stronghold to the children of Israel.

**God’s People to be Blessed**

17So 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. 18It 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 come forth from the house of Yahweh and will water the valley of Shittim. 19Egypt will be a desolation, and Edom will be a desolate wilderness, because of the violence done to the children of Judah; because they have shed innocent blood in their land. 20But Judah will be inhabited for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. 21I will cleanse their blood that I have not so far cleansed: for Yahweh dwells in Zion.