The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

1 Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?

Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.

That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.

Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of new wine,
because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.

For a nation is come up upon My land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.

He hath laid My vine waste, and broke My fig tree; he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.

Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth.

The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD'S ministers, mourn.

The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth.

Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: come, ye ministers of the altar.

Lo, the land is as though a great lion, and a wild beast of the forest eateth it


My land. So called because Jehovah is about to put in His claim. The end-time is here referred to, when He will do this: "the day of the LORD." See v. 16, and 2. 1, &c.


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14 Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD,

15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the ALMIGHTY shall it come.

16 Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

17 The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.

18 How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.

19 O LORD, to Thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned the trees of the field.

20 The beasts of the field cry also unto Thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

21 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

22 The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.

23 Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.

24 Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.

25 They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

26 Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his ways: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.

symbolized by the locusts of 1. 4. Cp. Rev. 9, 7. The noise, &c. Cp. Rev. 9, 9. Connect this with the end of v. 6. 7 men. Heb. pl. of 'emeth. Ap. 14. III. 8 thrust=cast, or press. walk=march, as in v. 7. sword=weapons. 6 people=people's. 13 they shall not, &c. Cp. Rev. 9. The whole scene belongs to 'the day of the LORD'. Only confusion arises from not keeping the symbol distinct from what is symbolized. 14 a solemn assembly—a day of restraint. Heb. 'adudah. Occurs only here, in 2. 15; 2 Kings 10, 20; and Isa. 1, 13. Ref. to Pent. (Lev. 25, 36; Num. 29, 35; Deut. 16, 8) where the fem. form 'eduth is used (Ap. 92). It is found also in 2 Chron. 7, 9. Neh. 8, 18. gather the elders. There being no mention of a king in this book is held by some as pointing to the time of Athaliah's usurpation. But see notes on p. 1224, and Ap. 77.

15 the day of the LORD. See note on Isa. 2, 12. This is the great subject of Joel's prophecy, already then 'at hand', destruction from the ALMIGHTY. Note the Fig. Paronomasia (Ap. 6). Heb. 'eshshad mishahdadi = mighty destruction from the ALMIGHTY. Cp. Isa. 13, 9. the ALMIGHTY—the All-bountiful. Heb. Shaddai. Ap. 4, VII. In this connection it is similar to 'the wrath of the Lamb' (Rev. 6, 14, 17) in its violent contrast.

16 Is not . . . ? Fig. Erotesis. Ap. 6. joy and gladness. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 12, 7; 16, 11, 14, 15).

17 The seed, &c. Note the Fig. Abanatha (Ap. 6) in this verse.


19 to Thee will I cry. Cp. Ps. 50, 15. the fire. Cp. 2, 3.

12 A fire, &c. Cp. Amos 5, 18, 20. morning=blackness, or darkness. Heb. shahar. A Homonym with two meanings: (1) to be black or dark (Job 30, 30). Hence put for seeking in the early morning while yet dark (Ps. 78, 34; 63, 1. Prov. 1, 26; Isa. 26, 9; Hos. 5, 16, &c.); (2) dawn or morning (Gen. 15, 12; 21, 28; Josh. 6, 14; Hos. 6, 3; 10, 15, &c.).

13 great people. Symbolized by the locusts in 1. 4.

14 A fire, &c. Cp. 1, 19, 20. them. The northern army (v. 11) symbolized by the locusts of 1. 4.


16 The appearance of them: i.e. the army of v. 20. horsemen=war-horses (Hab. 1, 8).

17 Like on the tops, &c. The Heb. accents leap=run, as a strong people.

18 They shall not be wounded.
488-477

9 They shall 0 run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall 1 climb up upon the houses; they shall 2 enter in at the windows 3 like a thief.

10 The earth shall quake before 3 them; the heavens shall tremble: 4 the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

11 And 5 the LORD shall utter His voice before His army: for His camp is very great: for He is strong that executeth His word: for 6 the day of the LORD is 4 great and very terrible; and 6 who can abide it?

12 Therefore also now, 5 saith 1 the LORD, 6 turn ye even to Me 8 with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

13 And 6 render your heart, and not 5 your garments, and 12 turn unto 1 the LORD your 5 God:

G for 6 ye 5 is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great 6 kindness, and 9 repenteth of the 8 evil.

B 14 Who knoweth if He will 9 return and 10 repent, and leave 6 a blessing behind Him; even 6 a 6 meat offering and a drink offering unto 1 the LORD your 5 God?

E J 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call 6 a solemn assembly:

16 Gather the People, 6 sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, 6 gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her 12 closet.

17 Let 5 the priests, the ministers of 1 the LORD, weep 6 between the porch and the altar, and let them say, 6 Spare Thy People, 8 5 the LORD, and give not 6 Thy heritage to reproach, that the 6 heathen should rule over them:

K 6 wherefore should they say among the 6 people, 'Where is their 12 God?''

18 Then will 1 the LORD be 6 jealous for His land, and pity His people.

19 Yea, 5 the LORD will answer and say unto His People, 6 O Behold, I will send you 5 corn, and 4 wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more 6 make you a reproach among the 11 heathen:

20 But I will remove far off from you 5 the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward 5 the east sea, and his hinder part toward 5 the utmost sea, and his 6 stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because 6 he hath done great things.

words of the "Song of Moses", and sum up the object and outcome of all the events which go to make up 6 the day of the LORD". 19 Behold. Fig. Asterisk (Ap. 6), to call attention to the "blessing" mentioned in v. 14. corn, &c. Cp. 1. 19; Mal. 3. 11, 12. The Article is used with each of these in the Hebrew text. wine. Heb. treash. Ap. 27. 11. 20 the northern army. This is what the "locusts" of l. 4 are the symbol of. The prophet does not "forget for a moment" the locusts of l. 4; but, here, explains the symbol. Locusts do not come from the north. The armies of Rev. 9, Dan. 11 do. 1226. 10 the east sea; i.e. the Dead Sea. Cp. Ezek. 47, 18. Zech. 14 8. 14. 6 the utmost sea = the Great Sea. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 11. 24; 34. 2). Ap. 92. Cp. "hinder" in Zech. 14. 8. 6 stink shall come up. Referring to the destruction of Isa. 66. 24. he. The invader, the antichrist or beast of Dan. 7 and 8. hath done great things = he magnified himself to do great things. Cp. Dan. 8. 9-11; 11. 36, and notes there. This is quite inapplicable to locusts.
2. 21.

JOEL.

21 1 Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things.
22 1 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and vine do yield their strength.
23 1 Be glad then, ye handmaids of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the latter rain in the first month.
24 1 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.
25 1 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpiller, and the palmerworm, My great army which I sent among you.
26 1 And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, That hath dealt wondrously with you: and My people shall never be ashamed.
27 1 And ye shall know that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and My people shall never be ashamed.
28 1 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:
29 1 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My spirit.
30 1 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.
31 1 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the Lord come.
32 1 And it shall come to pass, that whatsoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as 1 the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom 1 the Lord shall call.

2. 21-32 (M2, p. 1227). GOOD BESTOWED. LAND AND PEOPLE. (Division.)

2. 21-27. Temporal blessings.

2. 21-27 (O1, above). TEMPORAL BLESSINGS. (Repeated Alternation.)

O1 1 Reson.


24 floors = threshing-floors. Wheat = corn.

28 afterward = i.e. after the “good bestowed” had begun to be enjoyed (2. 21-27, O1 above): for the nation had been restored under Ezra and Nehemiah; “the light had sprung up” (Isa. 42. 7. Matt. 4. 12-16. Luke 2. 32); “the days of the Son of Man” were then present (Luke 17. 22). “Afterward” would come the days of the Spirit; and “this is that” which was seen on the “day of Pentecost”, when Luke 2. 17.

29 servants, &c. Any whom God might call. Elisha was a ploughman, Amos a herdsman. I will pour out My spirit. Note the Fig. Epanadiplosis (Ap. 6) used to emphasise the statement included within this sentence, and the repetition of it at the end of v. 29. This must be put by Fig. Metonymy (of Cause), Ap. 6, for the “power from on high”, or spiritual gifts. See note on Acts 2. 4. God the Holy Spirit cannot be “poured out” all flesh. Put by Fig. Synecdoche (of Genus), Ap. 6, for all sorts and conditions of men, as described in the words which follow, and your daughters. Women are not excluded from spiritual gifts. prophesy. Not necessarily foretelling, but for in the Spirit. Hab. 2. 12.

3.1  

JOEL.

1 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,
and I will gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat,
and will plead with them there for My People and for My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted My land.
And they have cast lots for My People; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.

Yea, and what have ye done to Me, O Tyre, and Sidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render Me a recompence? and if ye recompense Me, swiftly and speedily will I return your recompence upon your own head;
Because ye have taken My silver and My gold, and have carried into your temples My holy heritage, which I bought for My people Jerusalem.

Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them; and will return your recompence upon your own head:
And I will sell your sons and your daughters unto Grecians, that ye might remove them far from you over the face of the earth.
And I will cause you to be delivered into the hand of the children of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto them for goodly spoil, and have carried into your temples My heritage, which I bought for My people Jerusalem.

Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:
Assemble yourselves, and come, prepare war, awake the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; for the day of the LORD is near; and the day of vengeance is come; the teeth of the lion are open, and his mouth is ready against him.

Prepare the토키아 into swords, and the cutlers into razors: let the weakResolution, and the weak Resolution sit, melt Resolution, andResolution sit, &c. See v. 11.3. Saith: See note on v. 14.3. Multitudes. Note the Fig. Epizeuxis (Ap. 6), to express "great multitudes".

Mic. 4. 3, when Hos. 2. 18 shall be fulfilled. yourselves. Cp. 3. 2. Heb. ʿāšēth ye, hast ye, as in Sept. and Vulg. Occurs only here. heathen = nations. thither. To the valley of Jehoshaphat. 12 wakened. Cp. 3. 2. and come up. Cp. Ps. 96. 13; 98. 9; 110. 6. Isa. 2. 4; 3. 13. Mic. 4. 3, there will I sit, &c. See v. 2. 13 Put ye in the sickle. Cp. Matt. 13. 30. Rev. 14. 15, 16. sickle = vintage-knife. Heb. magag. Occurs only here and Jer. 50. 16. the harvest = the vintage. Cp. Jer. 51. 53. Hos. 6. 11. get you down = go in; i.e. into the winepress = tread ye. press. Heb. ṁaṭh. 14 Multitudes. Note the Fig. Epizeuxis (Ap. 6), to express "great multitudes". decision = threshing; i.e. judgment. Cp. Isa. 41. 16. the day, &c. Defining the time as well as the place. Cp. 2. 1.
15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.
16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake:
17 So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, My holy mount: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.
18 That day, the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.
19 Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence against the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.
20 But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.
21 For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.

18 that day. Cp. v. 1.
19 Egypt = the acacias. Ref. to Pent. (Num. 33. 49).
20 But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.
21 For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.

3. 11, 12. See note on Ex. 34. 7.
18 that day. Cp. v. 1.
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