

Joel 1

Chapter 1 of 3 · 20 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Locust Plague

- 1** The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.
 - 2** 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?
 - 3** Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.
 - 4** 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.
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- 5** Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.
 - 6** 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.
 - 7** He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.
 - 8** Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth.
 - 9** The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD'S ministers, mourn.

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- 10 The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth.
- 11 Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.
- 12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.
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A Call to Repentance

- 13 Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.
- 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,
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- 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 all 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.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Altar — מזֶבֶחַ (Mizbeach)

Altar, place of sacrifice

The Hebrew **mizbeach** (מִזְבֵּחַ) means altar—from the root 'to slaughter.' Altars were places where sacrifices were offered to God, pointing forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Lord — אֲדֹנָי / יְהוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Priest — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

Sanctify — קִדַּשׁ (Qadash)

To set apart, make holy

The Hebrew **qadash** (קִדַּשׁ) means to set apart or consecrate—separating something for God's sacred purposes. God sanctified the seventh day (Genesis 2:3) and calls His people to 'be holy; for I am holy' (Leviticus 11:44).

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

Joel 1:1 **Parallel theme:** Acts 2:16. **Word:** Jeremiah 1:2

Joel 1:2 **Parallel theme:** Joel 2:2; Job 8:8; Jeremiah 30:7; Hosea 5:1

Joel 1:3 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 13:14; Deuteronomy 6:7; Psalms 44:1; 71:18; 145:4; Isaiah 38:19

Joel 1:4

Parallel theme: Joel 2:25; Exodus 10:4; Deuteronomy 28:38; 2 Chronicles 7:13; Psalms 78:46; 105:34; Isaiah 33:4; Jeremiah 51:14; Amos 4:9; 7:1

Joel 1:5 **Parallel theme:** James 5:1

Joel 1:6 **Parallel theme:** Joel 2:25

Joel 1:7 **Parallel theme:** Joel 1:12; Isaiah 5:6; Amos 4:9

Joel 1:8 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 22:12; Malachi 2:15

Joel 1:9 **Sacrifice:** Joel 1:13; 2:14; 2:17; Hosea 9:4. **References Lord:** Isaiah 61:6

Joel 1:10 **Parallel theme:** Joel 1:5; Jeremiah 12:11; Hosea 4:3; 9:2

Joel 1:11 **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 17:11; Jeremiah 9:12

Joel 1:12

Parallel theme: Joel 1:10; 1:16; Psalms 4:7; 92:12; Isaiah 9:3; 16:10; 24:11; Jeremiah 48:3; 48:33. **Related:** Song of Solomon 2:3

Joel 1:13

Parallel theme: 1 Kings 21:27; Jeremiah 4:8; 9:10; Ezekiel 7:18. **Sacrifice:** Joel 2:17

Joel 1:14 **References God:** Nehemiah 8:18; Jonah 3:8. **References Lord:** Leviticus 23:36; 2 Chronicles 20:13

Joel 1:15 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 30:7; James 5:9; Revelation 6:17. **References Lord:** Joel 2:11; 2:31; Psalms 37:13

Joel 1:16 **References God:** Psalms 43:4

Joel 1:18 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 12:4; Hosea 4:3

Joel 1:19 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 50:15; Jeremiah 9:10. **References Lord:** Amos 7:4; Micah 7:7

Joel 1:20 **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 17:7; 18:5; Job 38:41; Psalms 104:21; 145:15; 147:9

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