

The Book of

Joel

Chapter 1

The word of the Lord which came to Joel *the son* of Bathuel. 2 Hear these words, ye elders, and hearken all ye that inhabit the land. Have such things happen in your days, or in the days of your fathers? 3 Tell your children concerning them, and your children *tell* their children, and their children another generation. 4 The leavings of the caterpillar have the locust eaten, and the leavings of the locust have the grasshopper eaten, and the leavings of the grasshopper have the blight eaten. 5 Awake, ye drunkards, from their wine, and weep: mourn, all ye that drink wine to drunkenness: for joy and gladness and removed are from your mouth. 6 For a strong and innumerable nation is come up against my land, their teeth are lion's teeth, and their back teeth those of a whelp. 7 He has ruined my vine, and utterly broken my fig-trees: he has utterly searched *it*, and cast it down; he has whitened its branches. 8 Lament to me more than a bride girded with sackcloth for the one who married her as a virgin. 9 The meat offering and drink offering are removed from the house of the Lord: mourn, ye priests that serve at the altar of the Lord.

10 For the plains languish: let the land mourn, for the corn languishes; the wine is dried up, the oil becomes scarce; 11 the husbandmen are consumed: mourn your property on account of the wheat and barley; for *the* gathering of crops has perished from out of *the* field. 12 The vine is dried up, and the fig-trees are become few; the pomegranate, and palm tree, and apple, and all trees of the field are dried up: for the sons of men have disgraced joy. 13 Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: mourn, ye that serve at the altar: go in, sleep in sackcloth, ye that minister to God: for the meat-offering and drink-offering are withheld from the house of your God. 14 Sanctify a fast, proclaim a service, *and* gather the elders *and* all the inhabitants of the land into the house of your God, and cry earnestly to the Lord, 15 Alas, Alas, Alas for the day! For the day of the Lord is nigh, and it will come as trouble upon trouble. 16 meat has been destroyed before your eyes, joy and gladness from out of the house of your God. 17 The heifers have started at their mangers, the treasures are abolished, *and* the wine-presses are broken down; for the corn is withered. 18 What shall we store up for ourselves? The herds of cattle have mourned, because they had no pasture; and the flocks of sheep have been utterly destroyed. 19 To thee, O Lord, will I cry: for fire has devoured the fair places of the wilderness, and a flame has burnt up all

the trees of the field. 20 And the cattle of the field have looked up to thee: for *the* releases of waters have been dried up, and fire has devoured the beautiful *places* of the wilderness.

Joel 2

Chapter 2

Sound the trumpet in Zion, make a proclamation in my holy mountain, and let all the inhabitants of the land be confounded: for the day of the Lord is near; 2 for a day of darkness and gloominess is near, a day of cloud and mist: a numerous and strong people shall be spread upon the mountains as the morning; there has not been from the *beginning of the age* one like it, and after it there shall not be again even to the years of many generations. 3 Before him is a consuming fire, and behind him is a flame kindled: the land before his face is as a paradise of delight, and behind him a desolate plain: and there none shall escape him.

4 Their appearance is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they pursue. 5 As the sound of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, and as the sound of a flame of fire devouring stubble, and as a numerous and strong people setting themselves in array for battle. 6 Before them shall the people be crushed: every face *shall be* as the blackness of a pot. 7 As warriors shall they run, and as men of war shall they mount on the walls; and each shall move in his path, and they shall not turn aside from their tracks: 8 and not one shall stand aloof from his brother: they shall go on weighed down with their arms, and they fall upon their weapons, yet shall they in no wise be destroyed. 9 They shall seize upon the city, and run upon the walls, and go up upon the houses, and enter in through the windows as thieves. 10 Before them the earth shall be confounded, and the sky shall be shaken: the sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their light. And the Lord shall utter his voice before his host: for his camp is very great: for his words are strong works: for the day of the Lord is great, very glorious, and who shall be ready for it? * 12 Now therefore, said the Lord your God, Turn to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with lamentation: 13 and rend your hearts, and not your garments, and turn to the Lord your God: for he is merciful and compassionate, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy, and repents of evils. 14 Who knows if he will return, and repent, and leave a blessing behind him, even a meat offering and a drink offering to the Lord your God? 15 Sound the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, *and* proclaim healing: 16 gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the infants that suck at the breast: let the bridegroom go out from of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet. 17 Between the base and the altar let the priests that minister to the Lord weep, and say, Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the

heathen should rule over them, lest they should say among the heathen, Where is their God? 18 But the Lord was jealous of his land, and spared his people.

19 And the Lord answered and said to his people, Behold, I send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied with them: and I will no longer make you a reproach among the Gentiles.

Joel 3

20 And I will chase away from you the northern *enemy*, and will drive him away into a dry land, and I will sink his face in the first sea, and his back parts in the final sea, and his corruption shall arise, and his stink arise, because he has wrought great things. 21 Be of good courage, O land; rejoice and be glad: for the Lord has done great things. 22 Be of good courage, ye beasts of the plain, for the plains of the wilderness have budded, for the trees have borne their fruit, the fig tree and the vine have yielded their strength. * 23 Rejoice then and be glad, ye children of Zion, in the Lord your God: for he has given you food fully, and he will rain on you the early and the latter rain, as before. 24 And the floors shall be filled with corn, and the presses shall overflow with wine and oil. 25 And I will recompense you for the years which the locust, and the grasshopper, and the blight, and the caterpillar have eaten, *even* my great forces, which I sent against you. 26 And ye shall eat abundantly, and be satisfied, and shall praise the name of the Lord your God, who has wrought wonderfully with you: and my people shall not be ashamed forever. 27 And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and I am the Lord your God, and there is none else beside me; and my people shall no more be ashamed forever.

* In the September reading of Chapter Two verse twelve in the *Greek Menaion* the phrase: "Thus said the Lord" is added to the beginning of this passage. This phrase is not present in the Apostoliki Diakonia or Zoe Brotherhood texts that follow *Codex Sinaiticus*. This seems to be a liturgical interpolation.

* In the *Pentecostarion* on Saturday evening at Great Vespers for the Sunday of the Holy Pentecost the phrase: "Thus said the Lord" is added to the beginning of this passage. This phrase is not present in the Apostoliki Diakonia or Zoe Brotherhood texts that follow *Codex Sinaiticus*. This seems to be a liturgical interpolation.