English: Unlocked Literal Bible for Joel

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Bible Text: The English Unlocked Literal Bible (ULB)

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## Joel

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1This is the word of Yahweh that came to Joel son of Pethuel.2Hear this, you elders,and listen, all you inhabitants of the land.Has anything like this happened in your daysor in the days of your ancestors?3Tell your children about it,and let your children tell their children,and their children the next generation.4What the swarming locust has left, the great locust has eaten;what the great locust has left,the grasshopper has eaten;and what the grasshopper has left,the caterpillar has eaten.

5Wake up, you drunkards, and weep!Wail, all you drinkers of wine,because the sweet wine has been cut off from you.6For a nation has come up upon my land,mighty and without number.His teeth are the teeth of a lion,and he has the teeth of a lioness.7He has made my vineyard into a desolate placeand has stripped my fig tree bare.He has stripped its barkand thrown it away;the branches are bare white.

8Mourn like a virgin girded in sackclothfor the death of her young bridegroom.9The grain offering and the drink offeringhave been cut off from the house of Yahweh.The priests, Yahweh's servants, mourn.10The fields are ruined;the ground is mourningbecause the grain has been destroyed.The new wine has dried up;the oil fails.

11Be ashamed, you farmers,and wail, you vine growers,for the wheat and the barley.For the harvest of the fields has perished.12The vines have witheredand the fig trees have dried up;the pomegranate trees, also the palm trees, and the apple trees—all the trees of the field have withered.For joy has withered awayfrom the descendants of mankind.

13Gird yourselves with sackcloth and mourn, you priests!Wail, you servants of the altar.Come, lie all night in sackcloth,you servants of my God.For the grain offering and the drink offeringhave been withheld from the house of your God.14Call for a holy fast,and call a holy assembly.Gather the eldersand all the inhabitants of the landto the house of Yahweh your God,and cry to Yahweh.

15Alas for the day!For the day of Yahweh is almost here.With it will come destruction from the Almighty.16Has not food been cut offfrom before our eyes,and joy and gladnessfrom the house of our God?

17The seeds rot under their clods,the storehouses are desolate,and the barns have been torn down,for the grain has withered.18How the cattle groan!Their herds are wandering in confusionbecause they have no pasture.Even the flocks of sheep are suffering.

19Yahweh, I cry to you.For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness,and flames have burned all the trees of the fields.20Even the animals of the fields pant for you,for the water brooks have dried up,and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

21Blow the ram's horn in Zion,and sound an alarm on my holy mountain!Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble in fear,for the day of Yahweh is coming;indeed, it is near.2It is a day of darkness and gloom,a day of clouds and thick darkness.Like the dawn that spreads on the mountains,a large and mighty army is approaching.There has never been an army like it,and there never will be again,even after many generations.

3A fire is consuming everything in front of it,and behind it a flame is burning.The land is like the garden of Eden in front of it,but behind it there is a ruined wilderness.Indeed, nothing will escape from it.4The army's appearance is like horses,and they run like horsemen.5They jump with a noise like that of chariotson the tops of the mountains,like the sound of fiery flames that devour the stubble,like a mighty army ready for battle.

6At their presence people are in anguishand all their faces become pale.7They run like mighty warriors;they climb the walls like soldiers;they march, every one in step,and do not break their ranks.8Neither does one thrust another aside;they march, each in his path;they break through the defensesand do not fall out of line.9They rush on the city,they run on the wall,they climb in the houses,and they go through the windows like thieves.

10The earth shakes in front of them,the heavens tremble,the sun and the moon are darkened,and the stars stop shining.11Yahweh raises his voicein front of his army,for his warriors are very numerous;for they are strong,those who carry out his commands.For the day of Yahweh is greatand very terrible.Who can endure it?

12"Yet even now"—this is Yahweh's declaration—"Return to me with all your heart.Fast, weep, and mourn."13Tear your heartand not only your garments,and return to Yahweh your God.For he is gracious and merciful,slow to anger and abounding in steadfast loveand relenting from inflicting punishment.14Who knows? Will he perhaps turn and relent,and leave a blessing behind him,a grain offering and a drink offeringfor Yahweh your God?

15Blow the ram's horn in Zion,call for a holy fast,and call a holy assembly.16Gather the people;call for the holy assembly.Assemble the elders;gather the childrenand the nursing infants.Let the bridegrooms come out of their rooms,and the brides out of their bridal chambers.17Let the priests, the servants of Yahweh,weep between the porch and the altar.Let them say, "Spare your people, Yahweh,and do not make your inheritance into an object of scorn,that the nations mock them.Why should they say among the nations,'Where is their God?'"

18Then Yahweh was zealous for his landand had pity on his people.19Yahweh answered his people,"Look, I will send you grain, new wine, and oil.You will be satisfied with them,and I will no longer make youa disgrace among the nations.

20I will remove the northern attackers far from you,and will drive them into a dry and desolate land.The front of their army will go into the eastern sea,and the rear into the western sea.Its stench will rise,and its bad smell will rise."

Indeed, he has done great things.21Do not fear, land; be glad and rejoice,for Yahweh will do great things.22Do not fear, you wild animals!For the pastures of the wilderness will sprout,the trees will bear their fruit,and the fig trees and the vines will yield their full harvest.23Be glad, people of Zion,and rejoice in Yahweh your God.For he will give you the autumn rainas vindicationand bring down showers for you,the autumn rain and the spring rain as before.24The threshing floors will be full of wheat,and the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

25"I will restore to you the years of cropsthat the swarming locust has eaten—the great locust, the devouring locust, and the destroying locust—my mighty army that I sent among you.26You will eat plentifully and be satisfied,and praise the name of Yahweh your God,who has done wonders among you,and I will never again bring shame on my people.27You will know that I am among Israel,and that I am Yahweh your God,and there is none else,and I will never bring shame on my people.

28It will come about afterwardthat 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.29Also on servants and female servants,in those days I will pour out my Spirit.30I will show wonders in the heavensand on the earth,blood, fire, and pillars of smoke.31The sun will turn into darknessand the moon into blood,before the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes.32It will be that everyone who callson the name of Yahweh will be saved.For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalemthere will be an escaped remnant,as Yahweh has said,and among the survivors,those whom Yahweh calls.

31Behold, in those days and at that time,when I reverse the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,2I will gather all the nations,and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.I will judge them there,because of my people and my inheritance Israel,whom they scattered among the nations,and because they divided up my land.3They cast lots for my people,traded a boy for a prostitute,and sold a girl for wine so they could drink.

4Now, why are you angry at me,Tyre, Sidon and all the regions of Philistia?Will you repay me?Even if you do repay me,I will immediately return your repayment on your own head.5For you took my silver and my gold,and you brought my precious treasures into your temples.6You sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks,in order to send them far away from their territory.

7Look, I am about to stir them up,out of the place where you sold them,and will return payment on your own head.8I will sell your sons and your daughters,by the hand of the people of Judah.They will sell them to the Sabeans,to a nation far off,for Yahweh has spoken."

9Proclaim this among the nations:"Prepare yourselves for war;rouse the mighty men;let them come near;let all the men of battle come up.10Beat your plowshares into swordsand your pruning knives into spears.Let the weak say,'I am mighty.'11Hurry and come,all you nearby nations;gather yourselves together there.

Yahweh, bring down your mighty warriors.

12Let the nations wake themselves upand come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.For there will I sit to judgeall the surrounding nations.13Put in the sickle,for the harvest is ripe.Come, crush the grapes,for the winepress is full.The vats overflow,for their wickedness is great."

14There is a tumult, a tumultin the Valley of Judgment.For the day of Yahweh is nearin the Valley of Judgment.15The sun and the moon become dark,the stars keep back their brightness.16Yahweh will roar from Zion,and raise his voice from Jerusalem.The heavens and earth will shake,but Yahweh will be a shelter for his people,and a fortress for the people of Israel.

17"So you will know that I am Yahweh your Godwho lives in Zion, my holy mountain.Then Jerusalem will be holy,and foreigners will not pass through her again.

18It will come about on that daythat the mountains will drip with sweet wine,the hills will flow with milk,all the brooks of Judah will flow with water,and a fountain will come from the house of Yahwehand water the Valley of Shittim.19Egypt will become an abandoned devastation,and Edom will become an abandoned wilderness,because of the violence done to the people of Judah,because they shed innocent blood in their land.20But Judah will be inhabited forever,and Jerusalem will be inhabited from generation to generation.21I will avenge their blood that I have not yet avenged,for Yahweh lives in Zion."