

CHAPTER 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.

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.

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.

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,

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.

CHAPTER 2

BLOW ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for *it is* nigh at hand;

2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, *even* to the years of many generations.

3 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.

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

5 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.

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

7 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:

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

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

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

11 And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp *is* very great: for *he is* strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD *is* great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

12 ¶ Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye *even* to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he *is* gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

14 Who knoweth *if* he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; *even* a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?

15 ¶ Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

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

17 Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where *is* their God?

18 ¶ Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.

19 Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:

20 But I will remove far off from you the northern *army*, and will

drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things.

21 ¶ Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the LORD will do great things.

22 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 the vine do yield their strength.

23 Be glad then, ye children 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 rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first *month*.

24 And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.

25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

26 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 And ye shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel, and *that I am* the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

28 ¶ 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 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

32 And it shall come to pass, *that* whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

CHAPTER 3

FOR, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring

again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also 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.

3 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.

4 Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, 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;

5 Because ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodly pleasant things:

6 The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border.

7 Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your recompence upon your own head:

8 And I will sell your sons and

your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: for the LORD hath spoken *it*.

9 ¶ Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up:

10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I *am* strong.

11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD.

12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats overflow; for their wickedness *is* great.

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision.

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: but the LORD *will be* the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

17 So shall ye know that I *am* the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

18 ¶ And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* 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.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Hosea's message grew out of personal heartbreak in his own family, while Joel's message grew out of national calamity.

Joel's book records two plagues—that of the locusts and the terrible drought. The combination of the two brought the land to a place of famine. Joel saw in these calamities the disciplining hand of God upon the people for their sins. But Joel looked far beyond the locusts and saw another army, a literal Gentile army, attacking Jerusalem and the Jewish people. Joel used the immediate judgment of God (the locusts) as an illustration of the ultimate judgment in the Day of the Lord.

The Book of Joel is divided into two parts—the present message about the plague of locusts (chapter 1:1—2:27) and the future message about the Day of the Lord (chapter 2:28—3:21). Joel uses the phrase, “Day of the Lord,” five times in these three chapters. This time of tribulation will take place after the Church has been taken to heaven, and during the period known as the Tribulation Period. It is described in more detail in Revelation 6—19. It will end with the Battle of Armageddon, and Jesus Christ returning to the earth to defeat His enemies and establish His Kingdom.

There is a personal application of Joel's message

for believers today. God does send natural calamities when nations refuse to obey Him. Wars, poor crops, epidemics, earthquakes, storms, recessions—all or any of these can be used of God to bring people to their knees. God can even use little insects to do His will if man will not obey Him! Our lives can become dry and fruitless if we are out of the will of God. But, praise be to God, He is faithful and true to forgive us and again bless us when we come to Him and experience sincere repentance.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked” (Proverbs 24:19).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 29: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1519

MAGELLAN LEFT TO GO AROUND THE WORLD.

History says that he perhaps was the first man who circled the globe. Let us thank God for modern conveyances which make it so commonplace today.

THE FIRST SABBATH.

Tradition and the almanac say that God rested on this day.

1873

THE NEW YORK PANIC OVER BANK FAILURES.

Why not pause to thank God today for the advantages of our banks. Let us thank God for their strength and for the privileges we enjoy through them.

1921

DR. JOHN R. RICE WAS ORDAINED.

Dr. Rice was the famous author and founder and editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. For many years he was a leading evangelist. Some attribute to Dr. Rice the bringing back of city-wide revivals in America.

Dr. Rice related that his call to preach was very simple and yet, certainly was of God. Before he was born, his mother dedicated him to be a preacher and as a little boy called him John, the Baptist Preacher. This fact was not revealed to Dr. Rice until after his mother's death. She passed away when he was only six, and sang on her deathbed,

*"How firm a foundation,
Ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith
In His excellent Word."*

Dr. Rice became a college professor and a football coach. It was while attending the University of Chicago, doing graduate work, that Dr. Rice visited Pacific Garden Rescue Mission. One night he won a drunken man to the Lord Jesus Christ. The next night this man came back cleaned up and happy in the Lord. Dr. Rice said, "This sure beats college English teaching." Then and there he felt that if God could use him to be a preacher he would surrender.

Let us thank God today for Dr. Rice, for THE SWORD OF THE LORD, and the tremendous contri-

bution made to our generation. Dr. Rice's favorite Scripture verse was Psalm 126:6, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1664

MARYLAND ENACTED FIRST ANTIAMALGAMATION LAW to prevent widespread intermarriage of English women and black men. Other colonies passed similar laws: Virginia, 1691; Massachusetts, 1705; North Carolina, 1715; South Carolina, 1717; Delaware, 1721; Pennsylvania, 1725.

1830

FIRST NATIONAL BLACK CONVENTION MET at Philadelphia's Bethel AME church and elected Richard Allen president. Thirty-eight delegates from eight states attended the first national meeting of blacks. This convention, also known as the first Negro Convention of Free Men, agreed to boycott slave-produced goods.

1847

WILLIAM A. LEIDESDORF ELECTED TO SAN FRANCISCO TOWN COUNCIL receiving the third highest vote. Leidesdorf, who was one of the first black elected officials, became the town treasurer in 1848.

1958

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. STABBED IN CHEST by a deranged black woman while he was autographing books in a Harlem department store. Woman was placed under mental observation.

1962

GOVERNOR BARNETT PERSONALLY DENIED JAMES H. MEREDITH ADMISSION to the University of Mississippi.

The Story of the Psalms

PSALMS 89

PSALM 89

AUTHOR: Ethan

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:

Basically the story is the same as Psalm 88, with one exception. In Psalm 88 Heman was praying in the dark. In Psalm 89 Ethan is singing in the dark. Psalm 89 is not as mournful as Psalm 88. Actually, both men were looking at the same tragedy. Both were heart-broken. Heman lamented; Ethan sang.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE:

This Psalm was also used when God's people were at the very bottom. However, it was used for them that they might see the bright side during a calamity such as a division of the kingdom.

It might be worth noting to remind ourselves that Rehoboam, though the son of Solomon, was also the son of an Ammonitess woman. The careful Bible student traces the Ammonites back to Ammon, who was the son of Lot by one of his daughters. When Lot and his family had fled Sodom, his wife looked back and became a pillar of salt, and his daughters fled with him to a little city called Zoar. While there, Lot was made drunken by his daughters and he committed incest with each of them. From this unholy union came two boys—one named Moab and one named Ammon. From these boys came godless races of people. Solomon should not have taken one of them to be his wife, but he did, and no doubt Rehoboam's wickedness was caused at least in part because of Solomon's disobedience in marriage, because of the general wickedness of the Ammonite people.

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION: PROPHETIC DETAILS OF CHRIST'S DEATH

(Assignment 29)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning” link back on the DailyKJV page.)

Identified with a rich man in His death (712 B.C.)

() Isaiah 53:9

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence neither was any deceit in his mouth. (Fulfilled—Matthew 27:57-60)

Beaten and spit upon (700 B.C.)

() Isaiah 50:6

I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. (Fulfilled—Matthew 26:67)

Silent in His own defense (712 B.C.)

() Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. (Fulfilled—Matthew 27:12-14)

Condemned on the basis of a false testimony (1000 B.C.)

() Psalms 35:11

False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. (Fulfilled—Matthew 26:59)

His Body resurrected and saw no corruption (1000 B.C.)

() Psalms 16:10

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. (Fulfilled—Acts 2:27-32)