

JOÉL

THE ARGUMENT.

The Prophet Joél first rebuketh them of Judáh, that being now punished with a great plague of famine, remain stil obstinate. Secondly he threateneth greater plagues, because they grew daily to a more hardness of heart, and rebellion against God notwithstanding his punishments. Thirdly he exhorteth them to repentance, shewing that it must be earnest, and procede from the heart because they had grievously offended God. And so doing, he promiseth, that God will be merciful, and not forget his covenant that he made with their fathers but will send his Christ who shal gather the scattered sheep, & restore them to life, and libertie, though they seemed to be dead.

Chapter 1

1 A prophecie against the Jewes. 2 He exhorteth the people to prayer, and fasting for the miserie that was at hand.

The word of the Lord that came to Joél the son of Pethuél. 2 Hear ye this, ô ^aElders, and hearken ye all inhabitants of the land, whether ^bsuch a thing hath been in your dayes, or yet in the dayes of your fathers.

3 Tell you your children of it, and let your children *shewe* to their children, and their children to another generacion.

4 That which is left of the palmer worm, hath the grasshopper eaten, & the residue of the grasshopper hath the canker worm eaten, and the residue of the canker worm hath the caterpillar eaten.

5 Awake ye ^cdrunkardes, & weep, & houle all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine: for it shalbe pulled from your mouth.

6 Yea, ^aa nation cometh upon my land, mightie, and without nomber, whose teeth *are like* the teeth of a lyon, and he hath the jaws of a great lyon.

7 He maketh my vine waste, and pillesh off the bark of my figtre: he maketh it bare, and casteth it down: the branches thereof are made white.

8 Mourn like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the housband of ^eher youth.

9 The meat offering, and the drink offering is ⁱcut 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 destroyed: ^othe new wine is dried up, *and* the oil is decayed.

11 Be ye ashamed, ô housband men: houle, ô ye vine dressers for the wheat, and for the barley, because the harvest of the field is perished.

12 The vine is dried up, and the figtre is decayed: the pomegranate tre and the palm tre, and the apple tre, *even* all the trees of the field are withered: surely the joy is withered away from the sons of men.

13 ^hGird your selves and lament, ye Priests: houle ye ministers of the altar: come, *and* lye all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering, and the drink offering is taken away from the House of your God.

14 Sanctify you 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 ⁱday of the Lord is at hand, and it cometh as a destruction from the Almighty.

16 Is not the meat cut off before our eyes? *and* joy, and gladness

2 a Signifying, the Princes, the Priests, and the governors.

2 b He calls the Jews to the consideration of God's judgements, who had now plagued the fruits of the ground for the space of four year, which was for their sins, and to call them to repentance.

5 c Meaning, that the occasion of their excess and drunkenness was taken away.

6 d This was another plague wherewith God had punished them, when he stirred up the Assyrians against them.

8 e Mourn grievously as a woman, which has lost her husband, to whom she has been married in her youth.

9 f The tokens of God's wrath did appear in his Temple in so much, as God's service was left off.

10 g All comfort and substance for nourishment is taken away.

13 h He shows that the only means to avoid God's wrath, and to have all things restored is unfeigned repentance.

15 i We see by these great plagues that utter destruction is at hand.

from the House of our God?

17 The seed is rotten under their clods: the garners are destroyed: the barns are broken down, for the corn is withered.

18 How did the beasts mourn? the herds of cattle pine away, because they have no pasture, & the flocks of sheep are destroyed.

19 O Lord, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burnt up 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 ^kfire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

Chapter 2

He prophecieth of the coming and crueltie of their enemies. 13 An exhortation to move them to convert. 18 The love of God toward his people.

Blow ^athe trumpet in Zión, and shout in mine holie Mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the daie of the Lord is come: for it *is* at hand.

2 A ^bdaie of darkness, and of blackness, a daie of clouds, and obscurity, as the morning spread upon the mountains, *so is* there a ^cgreat people, and a mighty: there was none like it from the beginning, neither shall be any more after it, unto the years of many generations.

3 A fire devoureth before him, and behind him a flame burneth up: the land *is* as the garden of ^dEden before him, and behind him a desolate wilderness, so that nothing shall escape him.

4 The beholding of him *is* like the sight of horses, and like the horse men, so shall they run.

5 Like the noise of charets in the tops of the mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, *and* as a mighty people prepared to the battle.

6 Before his face shall the people tremble: all faces ^eshall gather blackness.

7 They shall run like strong men, and go up to the wall like men of war, and every man shall go forward in his ways, and they shall not stay in their paths.

8 Neither shall one ^fthrust another, *but* every one shall walk in his path: & 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 clime up upon the houses, *and* enter in at the windows like the thief.

10 The earth shall tremble before him, the heavens shall shake, the ^gsun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining,

11 And the Lord shall ^hutter his voice before his hoste: for his hoste is very great: for *he is* strong that doeth his work: ⁱfor the

20 k That is, drought.

Chapter 2

1 a He shows the great judgements of God which are at hand except they repent.

2 b Of affliction and trouble.

2 c Meaning the Assyrians.

3 d The enemy destroys our plentiful country wheresoever he comes.

6 e They shall be pale and black for fear, as Nahum 2.10.

8 f For none shall be able to resist them.

10 g Read Is. 13.10, Ezek. 32.7, Ch.2.31 and 3.15, Mat. 24.29.

11 h The Lord shall stir up the Assyrians to execute his judgements.

11 ⁱ*Jer. 30.7, Amos 5.18, Zeph. 1.15.

daie of the Lord is great & very terrible, and who can abide it!
 12 Therefore also now the Lord saith, Turn you unto me with all your heart, and with fasting, & with weeping, and with mourning,
 13 And 'rent your heart, and not your clothes: 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 ^kreturn 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 Zión, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly.
 16 Gather the people: sanctify the congregation, gather the Elders: assemble the ^lchildren, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her bride chamber.
 17 Let the Priests, the ministers of the Lord weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, ô Lord, and give not thine heritage into 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 ^mjelouse over his land and spare his people.
 19 Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, & wine, and oil, & you shalbe satisfied therewith: & I will nomore make you a reproach among the heathen,
 20 But I will remove farreof from you the ⁿNorthern *army*, and I will drive him into a land, barren and desolate with his face toward the ^oEast sea, and his end to the utmost sea, and his stink shal come up, and his corruption shal ascend, because he hath exalted him self to do *this*:
 21 Fear not, ô land, *but* be glad and rejoyce: for the Lord will do great things.
 22 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness are green: for the tre beareth her fruit: the figtre and the vine do give their force.
 23 Be glad then, ye children of Zión, and rejoyce in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the rain of ^prighteousness, *and he will cause to come down for you the rain, *even* the *first* rain, and the later rain in the first *month*.
 24 And the barns shalbe ful of wheat, and the presses shal abound with wine and oil.
 25 And I will render you the years that the grashopper hath eaten, the canker worm and the caterpillar and the palmer worm, my great hoste which I sent among you.
 26 So you shal eat and be satisfied and praise the Name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt marvelously with you: and my people shal never be ashamed.
 27 Ye shal also know, that I am in the middes of Israél, and that I am the Lord your God and none other, and my people shal never be ashamed.

13 i Mortify your affections and serve God with pureness of heart and not with ceremonies.

14 k He speaks this to stir up their slothfulness, and not that he doubted of God's mercies, is they did repent. How God repents, read Jer. 18.8.

16 l That as all have sinned, so all may show forth sings of their repentance, that men seeing the children, which are not free from God's wrath, might be the more lively touched with the consideration of their own sins.

17 *Ps. 79.10.

18 m If they repent, he shows that God will preserve and defend them with a most ardent affection.

20 n That is, the Assyrians your enemies.

20 o Called the salt sea, or Persian sea: meaning that though his army were so great, that it filled all from this sea to the sea called mediterraneum, yet he would scatter them.

23 p That is, such as should come by just measure and as was wont to be sent when God was reconciled with them.

23 *Lev. 26.4, Deut. 11.14.

28 And afterward will I pour ^qout my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shal prophecie: your old men shal dream ^rdreams, *and* your young men shal see visions,

29 And also upon the servants, and upon the maids in those daies will I pour my Spirit.

30 And I will shewe ^swonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire, and pillars of smoke.

31 The ^tsun shalbe turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible daie of the Lord come.

32 But whosoever shal call ^uon the Name of the Lord, shal be saved: for in mount Zión, and in Jerusalém shal be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, & in the ^xremnant, whom the Lord shal call.

Chapter 3

Of the judgement of God against the enemies of his people.

For behold, in ^athose daies and in that time, when I shal bring again the captivity of Judáh and Jerusalém, 2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the ^bvalley of Jehoshaphát, and will plead with them there for my people, and for mine heritage Israél, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

3 And they have cast lots for my people, and have given the child ^cfor the harlot, and sold the girl for wine, that they might drink.

4 Yea, and what ^dhave you to do with me, ô Tyrus and Zidón and all the coasts of Palestina? will ye render me ^ea recompense? and if ye recompense me, swiftly *and* speedily, will I render your recompense upon your head:

5 For ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodlie *and* pleasant things.

6 The children also of Judáh and the children of Jerusalém have you sold unto the Grecians, that ye might send them far from their border.

7 Behold, I will raise them out of the place where ye have sold them, and will render your reward upon your own head,

8 And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judáh, and they ^fshal sell them to the Sabeans, to a people farreof: for the Lord him self hath spoken it.

28 q That is, in greater abundance and more generally then in time past: and this was fulfilled under Christ, when as God's graces, and his Spirit under the Gospel was abundantly given to the Church, Is. 44.3, Acts 2.17, John 7.38.

28 r As they had visions, and dreams in old time, so shall they now have clearer revelations.

30 s He warns the faithful what terrible things should come, to the intent that they should not look for continual quietness in this world, and yet in all these troubles he would preserve them.

31 t The order of nature shall seem to be changed for the horrible afflictions that shall be in the world, Is. 13.10, Ezek. 32.7, ch. 3.15, Mat. 24.29.

32 u God's judgements are for the destruction of the infidels, & to move the godly to call upon the Name of God, who will give them salvation.

32 x Meaning hereby the Gentiles, Rom. 10.13

Chapter 3

1 a When I shall deliver my Church, which stands of the Jews, and of the Gentiles.

1 b It appears that he alludes to that great victory of Jehoshaphat, when as God without man's help destroyed the enemies, 2 Chron. 20.6-29, also he has respect to this word, Jehoshaphat, which signifies pleading or judgement, because God would judge the enemies of his Church as he did there.

3 c That which the enemy got for the sale of my people, he bestowed it upon harlots and drink.

4 d He takes the cause of his Church in hand against the enemy, as though the injury were done to himself.

4 e Have I done you wrong, that you will render me the like?

8 f For afterward God sold them by Nebuchad-nezzar, and Alexander the great, for the love he bare to his people, and thereby they were comforted as though the price had been theirs.

9 Publish this among the Gentiles: prepare war, wake up the mightie men: let all the men of war draw near *and* come up.

10 ^gBreak your plowshares into swords, and your sieths into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

11 Assemble your selves, and come all ye heathen and gather your selves together round about: there shal the Lord cast down thy mightie men.

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

13 Put in your ^hsieths, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down, for the winepress is full: yea, the winepresses run over, for their wickedness is great.

14 O multitude, ô multitude, *come* into the valley of threshing: for the daie of the Lord *is* near in the valley of threshing.

15 The sun and moon shalbe darkened, and the stars shal withdraw their light.

16 The Lord also shal roar out of Zión, and utter his voice from Jerusalém, and the heavens, and the earth shal shake, but the

10 g When I shall execute my judgements against mine enemies, I will cause every one to be ready, and to prepare their weapons to destroy one another, for my Church sake.

13 h Thus he shall encourage the enemies when their wickedness is full ripe to destroy one another, which he calls the valley of God's judgement.

Lord wilbe the hope ⁱof his people, and the strength of the children of Israél.

17 So shal ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zión, mine holie Mountain: then shal Jerusalém be holy, and there shal no strangers go ^kthrough her any more.

18 And in that daie shal the mountains ^ldrop down new wine, and the hills shal flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judáh shal run with waters, and a fountain shal come forth of the House of the Lord, and shal water the valley of Shittim.

19 ^mEgypt shalbe waste, and Edóm shalbe a desolate wilderness, for the injuries of the children of Judáh, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

20 But Judáh shal dwell for ever, and Jerusalém from generation to generation.

21 For I will ⁿcleanse their blood, that I have not cleansed, and the Lord will dwell in Zión

16 i God assures his against all troubles, that when he destroys his enemies, his children shall be delivered.

17 k The strangers shall no more destroy his Church: which if they do, it is the people which by their sins make the breach for the enemy.

18 l He promises to his Church abundance of graces, read Ezek. 47.1, which should water and comfort the most barren places, Amos 9.13.

19 m The malicious enemies shall have no part of this grace.

21 n He had suffered his Church hitherto to lie in their filthiness, but now he promises to cleanse them and to make them pure unto him.