

JOEL LESSON 20

REFERENCES TO GOD IN THE BOOK OF JOEL

- 1** The word of the **LORD** that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel:
- 2** Hear this, you elders;
give ear, all inhabitants of the land!
Has such a thing happened in your days,
or in the days of your fathers?
- 3** Tell your children of it,
and let your children tell their children,
and their children to another generation.
- 4** What the cutting locust left,
the swarming locust has eaten.
What the swarming locust left,
the hopping locust has eaten,
and what the hopping locust left,
the destroying locust has eaten.
- 5** Awake, you drunkards, and weep,
and wail, all you drinkers of wine,
because of the sweet wine,
for it is cut off from your mouth.
- 6** For a nation has come up against **my land**,
powerful and beyond number;
its teeth are lions' teeth,
and it has the fangs of a lioness.
- 7** It has laid waste **my vine**
and splintered **my fig tree**;
it has stripped off their bark and
thrown it down;
their branches are made white.
- 8** Lament like a virgin wearing sackcloth
for the bridegroom of her youth.
- 9** The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off
from the house of the **LORD**.
The priests mourn,
the ministers of the **LORD**.
- 10** The fields are destroyed,
the ground mourns,
because the grain is destroyed,
the wine dries up,
the oil languishes.
- 11** Be ashamed, O tillers of the soil;
wail, O vinedressers,
for the wheat and the barley,
because the harvest of the field has perished.
- 12** The vine dries up;
the fig tree languishes.
Pomegranate, palm, and apple,
all the trees of the field are dried up,
and gladness dries up
from the children of man.
- 13** Put on sackcloth and lament, O priests;
wail, O ministers of the altar.
Go in, pass the night in sackcloth,
O ministers of my **GOD**!
- Because grain offering and drink offering
are withheld from the house of your **GOD**.
- 14** Consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly.
Gather the elders
and all the inhabitants of the land
to the house of the **LORD** your **GOD**,
and cry out to the **LORD**.
- 15** Alas for the day!
For the day of the **LORD** is near,
and as destruction from the **ALMIGHTY** it comes.
- 16** Is not the food cut off
before our eyes,
joy and gladness
from the house of our **GOD**?
- 17** The seed shrivels under the clods;
the storehouses are desolate;
the granaries are torn down
because the grain has dried up.
- 18** How the beasts groan!
The herds of cattle are perplexed
because there is no pasture for them;
even the flocks of sheep suffer.
- 19** To you, O **LORD**, I call.
For fire has devoured
the pastures of the wilderness,
and flame has burned
all the trees of the field.
- 20** Even the beasts of the field pant
for you
because the water brooks are dried up,
and fire has devoured
the pastures of the wilderness.
- 2** Blow a trumpet in Zion;
sound an alarm on **my holy mountain**!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the **LORD** is coming; it is near,
2 a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness there is spread
upon the mountains
a great and powerful people;
their like has never been before,
nor will be again after them
through the years of all generations.
- 3** Fire devours before them,
and behind them a flame burns.
The land is like the garden of Eden
before them,
but behind them a desolate wilderness,
and nothing escapes them.
- 4** Their appearance is like the appearance of horses,
and like war horses they run.
- 5** As with the rumbling of chariots,
they leap on the tops of the mountains,
like the crackling of a flame of fire
devouring the stubble,
like a powerful army
drawn up for battle.
- 6** Before them peoples are in anguish;
all faces grow pale.
- 7** Like warriors they charge;
like soldiers they scale the wall.
They march each on his way;
they do not swerve from their paths.
- 8** They do not jostle one another;
each marches in his path;
they burst through the weapons
and are not halted.
- 9** They leap upon the city,
they run upon the walls,
they climb up into the houses,
they enter through the windows like a thief.
- 10** The earth quakes before them;
the heavens tremble.
The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.
- 11** The **LORD** utters his voice
before his army,
for his camp is exceedingly great;
he who executes his word is powerful.
For the day of the **LORD** is great
and very awesome;
who can endure it?
- 12** "Yet even now," declares the **LORD**,
"return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and
with mourning;
13 and rend your hearts and not your garments."
Return to the **LORD** your **GOD**,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
- 14** Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the **LORD** your **GOD**?
- 15** Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
16 gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.
- 17** Between the vestibule and the altar

let the priests, the ministers
of the **LORD**, weep
and say, "Spare your people, O
LORD,
and make not your heritage
a reproach,
a byword among the
nations.
Why should they say among the
peoples,
'Where is their **GOD**?' "

¹⁸ Then the **LORD** became jealous
for his land
and had pity on his people.
¹⁹ The **LORD** answered and said to
his people,
"Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the
nations.

²⁰ "I will remove the northerner
far from you,
and drive him into a
parched and desolate
land,
his vanguard into the eastern sea,
and his rear guard into the
western sea;
the stench and foul smell of him
will rise,
for he has done great things.

²¹ "Fear not, O land;
be glad and rejoice,
for the **LORD** has done great
things!

²² Fear not, you beasts of the field,
for the pastures of the
wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit;
the fig tree and vine give
their full yield.

²³ "Be glad, O children of Zion,
and rejoice in the **LORD**
your **GOD**,
for he has given the early rain for
your vindication;
he has poured down for you
abundant rain,
the early and the latter rain,
as before.

²⁴ "The threshing floors shall be
full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with
wine and oil.

²⁵ I will restore to you the years
that the swarming locust
has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the
cutter,
my great army, which I sent
among you.

²⁶ "You shall eat in plenty and be
satisfied,
and praise the name of the
LORD your **GOD**,
who has dealt wondrously
with you.

And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the
midst of Israel,

and that I am the **LORD** your
GOD and there is none
else.

And my people shall never again
be put to shame.

²⁸ "And it shall come to pass
afterward,
that I will pour out my
Spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters
shall prophesy,
your old men shall dream
dreams,
and your young men shall
see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female
servants
in those days I will pour out
my **Spirit**.

³⁰ "And I will show wonders in
the heavens and on the earth,
blood and fire and columns of
smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to
darkness, and the moon to blood,
before the great and awesome day
of the **LORD** comes. ³² And it shall
come to pass that everyone who
calls on the name of the **LORD** shall
be saved. For in Mount Zion and in
Jerusalem there shall be those who
escape, as the **LORD** has said, and
among the survivors shall be those
whom the **LORD** calls.

3 "For behold, in those days and at
that time, when I restore the
fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,
² I will gather all the nations and
bring them down to the Valley of
Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into
judgment with them there, on
behalf of my people and my
heritage Israel, because they have
scattered them among the nations
and have divided up my land, ³ and
have cast lots for my people, and
have traded a boy for a prostitute,
and have sold a girl for wine and
have drunk it.

⁴ "What are you to me, O Tyre
and Sidon, and all the regions of
Philistia? Are you paying me back
for something? If you are paying
me back, I will return your
payment on your own head swiftly
and speedily. ⁵ For you have taken
my silver and my gold, and have
carried my rich treasures into your
temples. ⁶ You have sold the people
of Judah and Jerusalem to the
Greeks in order to remove them far
from their own border. ⁷ Behold,
I will stir them up from the place to
which you have sold them, and
I will return your payment on your
own head. ⁸ I will sell your sons and
your daughters into the hand of
the people of Judah, and they will
sell them to the Sabeans, to a
nation far away, for the **LORD** has
spoken."

⁹ Proclaim this among the nations:
Consecrate for war;
stir up the mighty men.
Let all the men of war draw near;
let them come up.

¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into
swords,

and your pruning hooks
into spears;
let the weak say, "I am a
warrior."

¹¹ Hasten and come,
all you surrounding nations,
and gather yourselves there.
Bring down your warriors, O
LORD.

¹² Let the nations stir themselves
up
and come up to the Valley of
Jehoshaphat;
for there I will sit to judge
all the surrounding nations.

¹³ Put in the sickle,
for the harvest is ripe.
Go in, tread,
for the winepress is full.
The vats overflow,
for their evil 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 are
darkened,
and the stars withdraw
their shining.

¹⁶ The **LORD** roars from Zion,
and utters his voice from
Jerusalem,
and the heavens and the
earth quake.
But the **LORD** is a refuge to his
people,
a stronghold to the people of
Israel.

¹⁷ "So you shall know that I am the
LORD your **GOD**,
who dwells in Zion, my holy
mountain.
And Jerusalem shall be holy,
and strangers shall never
again pass through it.

¹⁸ "And in that day
the mountains shall drip sweet
wine,
and the hills shall flow with
milk,
and all the streambeds of Judah
shall flow with water;
and a fountain shall come forth
from the house of the
LORD
and water the Valley of
Shittim.

¹⁹ "Egypt shall become a desolation
and Edom a desolate
wilderness,
for the violence done to the people
of Judah,
because they have shed
innocent blood in their
land.

²⁰ But Judah shall be inhabited
forever,
and Jerusalem to all
generations.

²¹ I will avenge their blood,
blood I have not avenged,
for the **LORD** dwells in
Zion."

FIRST PERSON

SECOND PERSON

THIRD PERSON