



Unlocked Dynamic Bible

Joel

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an unrestricted Bible intended for translation into any language

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Table of Contents

Unlocked Dynamic Bible	1
Copyrights & Licensing	1
JOEL	4
Chapter 1	4
Chapter 2	5
Chapter 3	8

JOEL

Chapter 1

¹ I am Joel son of Pethuel. This is a message that Yahweh gave to me.

² You leaders of Israel, and everyone else who lives in this country, listen to this message!

Nothing like this has ever happened during the time that we have lived

or during the time when our ancestors lived.

³ Tell your children about it,
and tell your children to tell it to their children,

and tell your grandchildren to tell it to their children.

⁴ I am talking about the locusts that have eaten our crops.

The first swarm of locusts came and cut many of the leaves of the crops;

then another swarm came and ate the rest of the leaves,

then another swarm came hopping along,

and finally another swarm came
and they destroyed everything else.

⁵ You people who are drunk, wake up!

Wake up and wail loudly,
because all the grapes are ruined,

and so there will be no new wine!

⁶ Huge swarms of locusts have entered our country.

They are like a powerful army
that has very many soldiers;

no one can count them.

The locusts have teeth that are as sharp as the teeth of lions!

⁷ They have destroyed our grapevines and our fig trees

by stripping off and eating all the bark,

with the result that the branches are white and bare.

⁸ Cry and wail as a young woman does when the young man to whom she was engaged has died.

⁹ There is no more flour or wine for us to offer to be sacrifices at the temple,

so the priests who serve Yahweh are mourning.

¹⁰ The crops in the fields have been ruined;

it is as though the ground itself had died.

The grain has been destroyed,

there are no grapes to make wine,
and there is no more olive oil.

¹¹ You farmers, grieve!

You who take care of grapevines, wail,
because the grain has been destroyed;
there is no wheat or barley growing.

¹² The grapevines and the fig trees have withered,

and the pomegranate trees, palm trees,
and apricot trees have also dried up.

The people are no longer joyful.

¹³ You priests, put on rough sack clothes and wail.

You who serve God by offering sacrifices on the altar,

wear those sack clothes all night to show that you are mourning,

because there is no flour or wine to be offered at the temple of your God.

¹⁴ Set apart a day for when the people should go without food.

Tell the leaders and the other people to gather at the temple

and to cry out to Yahweh there.

¹⁵ Terrible things are happening to us!

It will soon be the time when Yahweh, who is the Almighty God, will punish us,

when he will cause us to experience more disasters.

¹⁶ Our crops are already gone,

and no one is rejoicing at all at the temple of our God.

¹⁷ When we plant seeds, they do not grow;

they dry up in the ground,

so there are no crops to harvest.

Our barns are empty;

there is no grain to store in them.

¹⁸ Our cattle groan, searching for a pasture with some grass to eat,

and the sheep bleat because they are suffering.

¹⁹ Yahweh, I cry out to you,

because our pastures and our forests have dried up in the hot sunshine.

²⁰ It is as though even the wild animals cry out to you

because all the streams have dried up.

The dryness is like a fire burning up the wilderness pastures.

God's sacred hill in Jerusalem!

Tell the people of Judah that they should be afraid and tremble,

because it will soon be the time for Yahweh to punish us further.

² That will be a very dark and gloomy day;

there will be black clouds and it will be very dark.

A huge swarm of locusts has covered the mountains like a black cloud.

Nothing like this has ever happened before,

and nothing like this will ever happen again.

³ It is as though they bring flames of fire from which no one can escape.

In front of them, the land was as beautiful as the garden of Eden,

but behind them the land is like a desert,

and nothing survives.

⁴ The locusts resemble horses,

and they run like soldiers on horses.

⁵ Leaping over the mountaintops,

they make a noise like rumbling chariots,

like a mighty army that is preparing for a battle,

or like the roar of a fire that burns up stubble in a field.

⁶ When people see them coming,

they become very pale and frightened.

⁷ The locusts climb over walls like soldiers do;

they march along in columns

and never turn aside from their lines.

Chapter 2

¹ Blow trumpets on Mount Zion,

⁸ They rush straight ahead
without pushing each other.

Even though people throw spears and
javelins at them,

that will not cause them to stop.

⁹ They swarm over the city walls and
enter our houses;

they enter through our windows as
thieves do.

¹⁰ It is as though they cause the earth to
shake and the sky to tremble.

The sun and the moon become dark,
and the stars do not shine

because there are so many locusts in
the sky.

¹¹ Yahweh leads this army of countless
locusts,

and they obey his commands.

This time when he is judging and pun-
ishing us is very terrible,

with the result that it seems that no
one can survive it.

¹² But Yahweh says,

”In spite of these disasters that you have
experienced,

you can return to me with all your
inner being.

Weep, and mourn, and fast to show that
you are sorry that you have abandoned
me.

¹³ Do not tear only your clothes

to show that you are sorry;

more importantly, show in your inner
being that you are sorry.”

Yahweh is merciful and kind;

he does not quickly become angry;

he faithfully loves people.

He does not quickly become angry;
instead, he greatly and faithfully loves
you,

and he does not like to punish us.

¹⁴ No one knows if he will change his
mind about punishing you

and instead act mercifully toward
you.

If he does that, he will bless you

by giving you plenty of grain and wine

in order that you can offer some of
those things for sacrifices to him.

¹⁵ Blow the trumpets on Mount Zion!

Gather the people together!

Set apart time to fast, to show that you
are sorry for your sins.

¹⁶ Perform the rituals to cause your-
selves to be acceptable to Yahweh.

Come apart and join together as a
group with a purpose—

the old people and the children, even
the babies,

and summon brides and bridegrooms
from their rooms.

¹⁷ Tell the priests who serve Yahweh to
cry between the altar and the entrance to
the temple

and to pray this:

”Yahweh, rescue us, your people;

do not allow people from other na-
tions to despise us;

do not allow them to ridicule us and say,

”Why has their God abandoned
them?”

¹⁸ But Yahweh showed that he was con-
cerned about his people

and that he would act mercifully to-
ward them.

¹⁹ When the people prayed,
Yahweh answered and said,

”I will give you plenty of grain and wine
and olive oil,

and you will be satisfied.

I will no longer allow other nations to
insult you.

²⁰ Another army of locusts will come
from the north to attack you,

but I will force them to continue past
Jerusalem

into the desert.

Some will go into the Dead Sea in the
east,

and some will go into the Mediter-
ranean Sea in the west.

There they will all die, and their bodies
will stink.”

God will certainly do wonderful
things.

²¹ Yahweh will indeed do wonderful
things!

So even the ground should rejoice!

²² And the wild animals should not be
afraid,

because the meadows will soon be-
come green again;

the fig trees and other trees will be full
of fruit,

and the grapevines will be covered
with grapes.

²³ You people of Jerusalem,

rejoice about what Yahweh, your God,
will do for you.

He will send abundant rain at the right
time—

in the spring and in the autumn,

as he did previously.

²⁴ The ground where you thresh the
grain will be covered with grain,

and your vats where you store the
fresh grape juice and olive oil will over-
flow.

²⁵ Yahweh said, ”I will repay you for
everything that was destroyed by those
great swarms of locusts,

that enormous army that I sent to
attack you.

²⁶ You, my people, will eat until your
stomachs are full.

Then you will praise me, Yahweh,
your God,

for the wonderful things that I have
done for you.

And never again will I let others shame
you.

²⁷ When that happens, you will know
that I am always among you,

that I am Yahweh, your God,

and that there is no other God.

Never again will I let others shame
you.”

²⁸ ”Some time later, I will give my Spirit
to many people.

You sons and daughters will proclaim
messages that come directly from me.

Your old men will have dreams that
come from me,

and your young men will have visions
that come from me.

²⁹ At that time, I will give my Spirit even
to servants, both men and women.

³⁰ I will do unusual things on the earth
and in the sky.

On the earth, there will be much blood
shed,

and there will be very large fires and
smoke that resembles huge clouds.

³¹ In the sky, the sun will become dark, and the moon will become as red as blood.

Those things will happen before that great and terrible day when I, Yahweh, come to judge all people.

³² But at that time I will save everyone who worships me.

I promise that some people in Jerusalem will escape those disasters;

those whom I have chosen will survive.”

Chapter 3

¹ Yahweh says this:

”At that time, I will bring back the people whom their enemies took away from Jerusalem and from other places in Judah.

² Then in the Valley of Jehoshaphat I will gather together the people of all the other nations;

I will judge and punish them

because they scattered my Israelite people

and forced them to go to other countries,

and because they divided up my land among themselves.

³ They played games of chance to determine who would get each of my people.

Then they sold some of the Israelite boys and girls

to get money to pay for prostitutes and wine to drink.

⁴ You people of the cities of Tyre and Sidon, and you people of Philistia—you are angry at me, but you have no reason to be. If you are trying to get revenge on me, I will very quickly get revenge on you. ⁵ You

took the silver and gold and other valuable things from my temple and put them into your own temples. ⁶ You dragged away the people of Jerusalem and other places in Judah, and you took them far away and sold them to Greek traders.

⁷ But I will make it possible for my people to return from the places to which you sold them, and I will do to you what you did to them. ⁸ Then I will cause some of your sons and your daughters to be sold to the people of Judah! And they will be sold to the Sabea people group, who live far away. That will certainly happen because I, Yahweh, have said it.”

⁹ Proclaim to the people of all nations,

”Prepare for a war!

Summon your soldiers;

tell them to stand in their battle positions.

¹⁰ Take your plows and make swords from them;

take your pruning knives and make spears from them.

Even the weak people must also say they are strong soldiers.

¹¹ All you people from the nations that are near Judah

must come quickly and gather there.”

But Yahweh, when that happens, send your army of angels to attack them!

¹² Yahweh says, ”The people in the nations near Judah must get ready and come to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.

There I will sit as a judge, and I will punish them.

¹³ They are like crops that are ready to be harvested;

so strike them as a farmer swings his sickle to cut the grain.

They are like grapes that are piled high
in the pits where they will be pressed;

because they are very wicked,
punish them severely now,

as a farmer tramples on the grapes
until the pits overflow with juice.”

¹⁴ There will be the noise of huge crowds
of people in that Valley of Judgment.

It will soon be the time that Yahweh
will punish them.

¹⁵ At that time there will be no light from
the sun or moon,

and the stars will not shine.

¹⁶ From Mount Zion in Jerusalem Yah-
weh will shout;

his voice will be like thunder,

and his voice will cause the sky and
the earth to shake.

But Yahweh will protect his people;

he will be like a strong wall be-
hind which the people of Israel will be pro-
tected.

¹⁷ Yahweh says, ”At that time, you Is-
raelite people will know that I am Yahweh,
your God.

I live on Zion, the hill I have set apart
for myself.

Jerusalem will be a city very special to
me,

and soldiers from other countries will
never conquer it again.

¹⁸ At that time, there will be vineyards
covering the hills,

and your cattle and goats on those
hills will produce plenty of milk.

The streams in Judah will never dry
up,

And a stream will flow from my temple
into the Valley of Acacia northeast of the
Dead Sea.

¹⁹ The armies of Egypt and Edom at-
tacked the people of Judah

and killed many people who had not
done anything that was wrong.

So now those countries will be ruined,
with no one living there any longer.

²⁰ But there will always be people living
in Jerusalem and in other places in Judea.

²¹ I, Yahweh, live on Mount Zion in
Jerusalem,

and I will get revenge on the people
of Egypt and Edom who killed many of my
people.”