

<sup>1</sup> 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, <sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses they run. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale. <sup>7</sup> Like warriors they charge; like soldiers they scale the wall. They march each on his way; they do not swerve from their paths. <sup>8</sup> They do not jostle one another; each marches in his path; they burst through the weapons and are not halted. <sup>9</sup> They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls, they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief. <sup>10</sup> The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. <sup>11</sup> 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?

<sup>12</sup> "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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? <sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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?'"

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## 'The Pentecostal Prophet'

### 2. Return to the Lord

Joel 2:1-17

## Introduction

- God speaks (v12)

## 1. No softening of the language

- the plague of locusts (v1-11)

## 2. No softening of the message

- the coming day of the Lord (v11)

## 3. No softening of the remedy

- repentance (v12-14)

## 4. No softening of the universality

- everyone is involved (v15-17)

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*Next week*

*The Pentecostal Prophet*

*3. The promise of the Spirit*

*Joel 2:18-32*

**Bible references:** Amos 5:18, Romans 3:23, 1 John 1:9