Chapter 2. Sound the alarm in Jerusalem! Raise the battle cry on my holy mountain! Let everyone tremble in fear because the day of the LORD is upon us. Verse 2. It is a day of darkness and gloom, a day of thick clouds and deep blackness. Suddenly, like dawn spreading across the mountains, a great and mighty army appears. Nothing
like it has been seen before or will ever be seen again. Verse 3. Fire burns in front of them, and flames follow after them. Ahead of them the land lies as beautiful as the Garden of Eden. Behind them is nothing but desolation; not one thing escapes. Verse 4. They look like horses; they charge forward like war horses.
Verse 5. Look at them as they leap along the mountaintops. Listen to the noise they make — like the rumbling of chariots, like the roar of fire sweeping across a field of stubble, or like a mighty army moving into battle. Verse 6. Fear grips all the people; every face grows pale with terror.
Verse 7. The attackers march like warriors and scale city walls like soldiers. Straight forward they march, never breaking rank. Verse 8. They never jostle each other; each moves in exactly the right position. They break through defenses without missing a step. NLT
Verse 9. They swarm over the city and run along its walls. They enter all the houses, climbing like thieves through the windows. Verse 10. The earth quakes as they advance, and the heavens tremble. The sun and moon grow dark, and the stars no longer shine. NLT
Verse 11. The LORD is at the head of the column. He leads them with a shout. This is his mighty army, and they follow his orders. The day of the LORD is an awesome, terrible thing. Who can possibly survive? Verse 12. That is why the LORD says, "Turn to me now, while there is time."
Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Verse 13. Don’t tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry.

NLT
and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish. Perhaps he will give you a reprieve, sending you a blessing instead of this curse. Perhaps you will be able to offer grain and wine to the LORD your God as before.

NLT
Verse 15. Blow the ram's horn in Jerusalem! Announce a time of fasting; call the people together for a solemn meeting. Verse 16. Gather all the people -- the elders, the children, and even the babies. Call the bridegroom from his quarters and the bride from her private room.
Verse 17. Let the priests, who minister in the LORD'S presence, stand and weep between the entry room to the Temple and the altar. Let them pray, "Spare your people, LORD! Don't let your special possession become an object of mockery." NLT
Don't let them become a joke for unbelieving foreigners who say, "Has the God of Israel left them?" Verses 17-18. Then the LORD will pity his people and jealously guard the honor of his land.

NLT
Verse 19. The LORD will reply, "Look! I am sending you grain and new wine and olive oil, enough to satisfy your needs. You will no longer be an object of mockery among the surrounding nations. Verse 20. I will drive away these armies from the north." NLT
I will send them into the parched wastelands. Those in the front will be driven into the Dead Sea, and those at the rear into the Mediterranean. The stench of their rotting bodies will rise over the land."
Verse 21. Surely the LORD has done great things! Don't be afraid, my people. Be glad now and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things. Verse 22. Don't be afraid, you animals of the field, for the wilderness pastures will soon be green. The trees will again be filled with fruit; fig trees and grapevines will be loaded down once more. NLT
Verse 23. Rejoice, you people of Jerusalem! Rejoice in the LORD your God! For the rain he sends demonstrates his faithfulness. Once more the autumn rains will come, as well as the rains of spring.  

Verse 24. The threshing floors will again be piled high with grain, NLT
and the presses will overflow with new wine and olive oil. Verse 25. The LORD says, “I will give you back what you lost to the swarming locusts, the hopping locusts, the stripping locusts, and the cutting locusts. It was I who sent this great destroying army against you.”

NLT
Verse 26. Once again you will have all the food you want, and you will praise the LORD your God, who does these miracles for you. Never again will my people be disgraced.

Verse 27. Then you will know that I am among my people Israel, that I am
the LORD your God, and there is no other. Never again will my people be disgraced.

Verse 28. Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your
young men will see visions.
Verse 29. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike. Verse 30. And I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth—blood and fire and columns of smoke.

NLT
Verse 31. The sun will become dark, and the moon will turn blood red before that great and terrible day of the LORD arrives. Verse 32. But everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved, for some on Mount Zion in Jerusalem will escape,
just as the LORD has said. These will be among the survivors whom the LORD has called.

NLT