

**JOEL: A TRANSLATION,  
IN METRICAL  
PARALLELISMS, WITH  
NOTES AND REFERENCES**

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Joel: a translation, in metrical parallelisms, with notes and references by Adam Clarke  
Rowley

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**ADAM CLARKE ROWLEY**

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J O E L .

A METRICAL TRANSLATION.

WITH

NOTES AND REFERENCES.



J O E L .

A TRANSLATION, IN METRICAL PARALLELISMS,

ACCORDING TO THE

HEBREW METHOD OF PUNCTUATION;

WITH

NOTES AND REFERENCES.

BY

ADAM CLARKE ROWLEY, M.A.

INCUMBENT OF ST. MATTHIAS, BRISTOL.



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## P R E F A C E .

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THE Prophecy of Joel is eminently distinguished for that vivid and poetic style which marks the writings on the prophetic pages. It is certainly not easy to determine the laws of Hebrew versification ; and yet there are points of difference which mark with sufficient plainness the poetical structure of the books of Job, the Psalms, and the Prophets, and distinguish them from the prose compositions of the Bible. Besides the variety of imagery, the richness and beauty of language, and the sublimity of thought, there is a certain construction of Lines and Stanzas having relation or proportion to one another, not accidental, but continuous, and greatly assisting in many instances, as Bishop Lowth has shown, the interpretation of the sacred writings ; containing in fact, as the Bishop expresses it, " a Rythmus of propositions, and a harmony of sentences." Before the time of Bp. Lowth, many fanciful theories were propounded as to the laws of Hebrew verse ; but it was reserved for this Prelate to supply the true key to its construction. To him we are indebted for bringing into notice the system of Parallelism, according to which he translated and arranged the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. In his Preface to this work the learned Bishop observes—" Hebrew verse certainly did not consist in Rhymes, or similar sounds at the ends of verses ; but there are evident marks of a certain correspondence of the verses with one another, and of a certain relation between the composition of the verses and the composition of the sentences, so that generally Periods coincide with Stanzas, Members with Verses, and Pauses of the one with Pauses of the other ; which peculiar form of composition is so observable, as plainly to discriminate in general the parts of the Hebrew Scripture which were written in Verse from those which were written in Prose." " The correspondence of one Line or Verse with another," he adds, " I call Parallelism."

It is according to this system that the present translation has been arranged. Each word has been carefully weighed, and collated with the Septuagint and Vulgate Versions, and the endeavour has been to convey the full sense of the original in a metrical form, which has not, so far as I know, been attempted before. The Poetry is in the sacred Text, and the expansion of the Hebrew words in the translation has not been adopted for the sake of euphony, but to unfold the latent force and beauty of the original expression, and also to furnish the literal root meaning of the word. For example, the expressions "pale moon" and "spher'd stars" are so rendered because "yaraiaoh" moon, in Hebrew, signifies in its first meaning "pale," and "kokavim" stars, signifies globes or round balls.

It should be observed that the lines are divided according to the masoretic accents or stops, and as these frequently occur where there is no pause in the sense, they cannot be regarded in any other light than as pointing to the harmony of the Period, and as dividing the verses into their proper members. The Accents thus employed, and which indicate this poetic division, are Tiphcha and Revia, which supply the (,) Comma; Sakaiph katon, the (;) Semicolon; Athnach, the (:) Colon; and Sillook, or Pasook, at the end of the verse, the (.) Period. It is hoped that by thus presenting to the eye of the Reader the sublime language of the Prophet in a form and structure corresponding to that which it bears in the original—not indeed attempting to paint the lily, or gild the most fine gold, or add anything to the divine and unapproachable beauty of the inspired original, but rendering it in the style and after the manner which the Prophet has adopted—additional interest may be imparted to the reading of those precious words by which we may be made wise unto salvation.

In reference to the notes appended, I have been greatly assisted by the "Critici Sacri," by Dr. PUSEY's Commentary, and by that of my grandfather, Dr. ADAM CLARKE.

**J O E L.**

A METRICAL TRANSLATION.