

Joel 3

1 "For behold, in those days and at that time,
When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also gather all nations,
And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
And I will enter into judgment with them there
On account of My people, My heritage Israel,
Whom they have scattered among the nations;
They have also divided up My land.

3 They have cast lots for My people,
Have given a boy *as payment* for a harlot,
And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.

4 "Indeed, what have you to do with Me,
O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia?
Will you ^[a]retaliate against Me?
But if you ^[b]retaliate against Me,
Swiftly and speedily I will return your ^[c]retaliation upon your own head;

5 Because you have taken My silver and My gold,
And have carried into your temples My ^[d]prized possessions.

6 Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem
You have sold to the Greeks,
That you may remove them far from their borders.

7 "Behold, I will raise them
Out of the place to which you have sold them,
And will return your ^[e]retaliation upon 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,^[f]
To a people far off;
For the LORD has spoken."

9 Proclaim this among the nations:
"Prepare for war!
Wake up the mighty men,
Let all the men of war draw near,
Let them come up.

10 Beat your plowshares into swords
And your ^[g]pruning hooks into spears;
Let the weak say, 'I *am* strong.' "

11 Assemble and come, all you nations,
And gather together all around.
Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD.

12 "Let the nations be wakened, 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.

Come, go down;

For the winepress is full,

The vats overflow—

For their wickedness *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 moon will grow dark,

And the stars will diminish their brightness.

16 The LORD also will roar from Zion,

And utter His voice from Jerusalem;

The heavens and earth will shake;

But the LORD will be a shelter for His people,

And the strength of the children of Israel.

17 "So you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God,

Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain.

Then Jerusalem shall be holy,

And no aliens shall ever pass through her again."

God Blesses His People

18 And it will come to pass in that day

That the mountains shall drip with new wine,

The hills shall flow with milk,

And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water;

A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD

And water the Valley of ^[h]Acacias.

19 "Egypt shall be a desolation,

And Edom a desolate wilderness,

Because of violence *against* the people of Judah,

For they have shed innocent blood in their land.

20 But Judah shall abide forever,

And Jerusalem from generation to generation.

21 For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not
acquitted;

For the LORD dwells in Zion

**The battle of Armageddon is preceded by God's call to the nation to
turn to Him. (Joel 2)**

Now, therefore," says the LORD,
"Turn to Me with all your heart,
With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning."

13 So rend your heart, and not your garments;
Return to the LORD your God,
For He *is* gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and of great kindness;
And He relents from doing harm.

14 Who knows *if* He will turn and relent,
And leave a blessing behind Him—
A grain offering and a drink offering
For the LORD your God?

15 Blow the ^{tr}trumpet in Zion,
Consecrate a fast,
Call a sacred assembly;

16 Gather the people,
Sanctify the congregation,
Assemble the elders,
Gather the children and nursing babes;
Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber,
And the bride from her dressing room.

17 Let the priests, who minister to the LORD,
Weep between the porch and the altar;
Let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD,
And do not give Your heritage to reproach,
That the nations should ^{ru}rule over them.
Why should they say among the peoples,
'Where *is* their God?' "

The Land Refreshed

18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land,
And pity His people.

19 The LORD will answer and say to His people,
"Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil,
And you will be satisfied by them;
I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.

20 "But I will remove far from you the northern *army*,
And will drive him away into a barren and desolate land,
With his face toward the eastern sea
And his back toward the western sea;
His stench will come up,
And his foul odor will rise,
Because he has done thmonstrous things."

21 Fear not, O land;
 Be glad and rejoice,
 For the LORD has done ^[u]marvelous things!
22 Do not be afraid, you beasts of the field;
 For the open pastures are springing up,
 And the tree bears its fruit;
 The fig tree and the vine yield their strength.
23 Be glad then, you children of Zion,
 And rejoice in the LORD your God;
 For He has given you the ^[u]former rain faithfully,
 And He will cause the rain to come down for you—
 The former rain,
 And the latter rain in the first *month*.
24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat,
 And the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.
25 "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming ^[k]locust has eaten,
 The crawling locust,
 The consuming locust,
 And the chewing locust,
 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 be put to shame.
27 Then you shall know that I *am* in the midst of Israel:
 I *am* the LORD your God
 And there is no other.
 My people shall never be put to shame.

God's Spirit Poured Out

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,
 Your young men shall see visions.
29 And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants
 I will pour out My Spirit in those days.
30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth:
 Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.
31 The sun shall be turned into darkness,
 And the moon into blood,
 Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.
32 And it shall come to pass

That whoever calls on the name of the LORD
Shall be saved.
For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance,
As the LORD has said,
Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.