



Yet Even Now

A Study in Joel

PODCAST SERIES
COMPANION GUIDE

DAYTON
women
IN THE
Word

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|----|
| Welcome Letter | 2 |
| How to Prepare for this Study | 3 |
| Bible Study Tools | 4 |
| Read/Study/Listen Plan | 8 |
| Context Questions | 9 |
| Responding to the Text Questions | 10 |
| Attributes of God | 14 |
| Bible Timeline | 15 |
| Double-Spaced Text of the Book of Joel (ESV) | 16 |

DEAR SISTER,

We have been praying for you! Thank you for choosing to join Dayton Women in the Word for our podcast, “Yet Even Now: A Study in Joel.” We hope this podcast series will encourage and equip you to dig deeply into God’s Word.

This companion guide will serve as a helpful resource as you listen to Season 10 of the DWITW Podcast. In it, you will find an overview of the Bible study tools and resources we use in our network. If you are new to studying the Bible, these will be helpful tools to learn.

There is also a suggested reading and study plan to help you get more familiar with Joel.

Please feel free to use as little or as much of this guide as you like. Our hope is that it will encourage you.

Our prayer for you as you study is this: *that God would soften your heart and open your eyes as you consider the beautiful and challenging truths found in Joel.* We pray God gives you fresh awe and wonder; that He meets you in the text, and that He shows you Jesus there.

We are looking forward to studying His Word with you!

-The Dayton Women in the Word Team

CONTACT INFORMATION

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HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS STUDY

PRAY

This is our first and most valued step in preparing to study God's Word! Ask Him boldly to bless your study of the Scriptures. Pray for the many sisters who will also be listening and learning, in efforts to know and love Him more.

PREPARE YOUR MATERIALS

Print this Companion Guide, which includes the text for the book of Joel. We recommend storing this guide in a three ring binder or folder. You may also want to gather pencils, pens and highlighters to help you as you work through the text. Some helpful tabs you may like to add in your binder include: Tools, Context, Notes, Scripture, Attributes of God. Feel free to organize in a manner which works best for you.

GET FAMILIAR WITH THE TEXT

We recommend reading or listening to Joel 1-3 times straight through before starting your study. This will help you become familiar with the overall themes and structure of the book. We have included a reading and study plan to help guide your efforts. This is not required, but personal study, prior to listening to the teaching in the podcast episodes, will enrich your experience in His Word. You can find this reading plan on page 8 of the guide. Don't rush to commentary and notes just yet; simply read and pray, asking the Lord to help you know Him better through His Word.

GET FAMILIAR WITH THE STUDY TOOLS

As we study the Bible, we use various tools to facilitate our understanding of the text. We will delve more deeply into these tools during the conference, but you are welcome to explore and use them now. Please refer to the Bible Study Tools Handout on page 4 for a basic description of the tools. For more, refer to our [Bible Study Tools](#) or [At Home in the Word Videos](#), which cover the use of each tool in detail.

ENJOY YOUR STUDY

Time to dig into the Word! Connect with us on social media with the hashtag [#yetevennow2021](#) to share what you're learning.

BIBLE STUDY TOOLS

Part of our mission at Dayton Women in the Word is to give you tools to help you better understand and engage with the Word of God. While we believe the only essential for our Bible reading is the Holy Spirit, we have found many of these secondary tools helpful in engaging with the Scriptures. For further teaching on these tools, watch our “At Home in the Word” video series at <http://www.daytonwomenintheword.com/videos>.

PRAYER

Invite the Lord to work within you during your study and to illuminate the text. Pray before, during, and after your study time. Pray for help when you get stuck, and pray with thanksgiving when you read something particularly meaningful to you. Ask God questions. Lay your study at His feet. (See also PRAYER JOURNALING below.)

REPETITIVE READING

We recommend repetitive reading of the Biblical text; that is, reading the same passage multiple times as you study it. This allows you to become very familiar with the content of the passage. You can also listen to the passage repetitively with an audio Bible app.

CONTEXT

We find it extremely helpful to know the historical and literary context of the passage we are reading. These five context questions are helpful to ask before you begin studying a book of the Bible or longer passage of Scripture:

- Who wrote it?
- When was it written?
- To whom was it written?
- In what style was it written?
- Why was it written?

For a printable version of these questions for future use, visit daytonwomenintheword.com/study-tools. We typically use the introductory material in a study Bible or a trusted commentary to help answer these questions. It may also be helpful to explore the setting of the book, the major themes, how it fits into the bigger story of the Bible (metanarrative) and what the literary structure is like. For more information on Biblical genres, find our Quick Guide to Biblical Genres at daytonwomenintheword.com/more.

ANNOTATION (TAKING NOTES)

We find it helpful to print out a double-spaced copy of the text to make notes on. Here are some examples of things to take note of as you read:

- Repeated words, phrases, and ideas
- Specific attributes of God
- Promises of God
- Lists or several points in a row
- Words, phrases, or ideas you don't understand - to revisit later
- Key transition words such as "if/then," "likewise," "but," "because," or "in the same way." Try drawing an arrow to connect from one idea to the other.
- Definitions of words you don't know – to look up later. See LOOKING UP DEFINITIONS below.
- Any questions you have to revisit later

CROSS REFERENCING

By Verse: Verse cross references are the small letters following the words in a study Bible that match up with the list of references in your margins. They point us to other relevant Scriptures related to our primary text. If you don't have a study Bible, you can find them by looking up the passage online or using the free Crossway Bible Study app. There are many, many cross references, and you do not need to look them all up for every passage! Ask the Lord to focus you in on areas that you need a fuller understanding and follow that trail.

By Book: Cross referencing by book refers to reading whole books of the Bible that are written chronologically before, during, or after the time of the book you are studying. These are also called 'contemporary' books. An example of this is to read Esther while studying Ezra/Nehemiah.

LOOKING UP DEFINITIONS (WORD STUDY)

Looking up definitions is just like it sounds. When you come to a word you don't know or want to study more closely, look it up. You can start with an English dictionary or look the word up in the original language (Hebrew, Greek, or Aramaic) or in a concordance (we like using the Blue Letter Bible app). Looking up a definition can sometimes lead you on what we call a "word study," which means to look at one word in every place that it's used in the Bible. Looking up definitions helps us to clarify the author's original meaning and intent.

COMPARING TRANSLATIONS

It can be extremely helpful to read a difficult passage in a different translation of the Bible. Some of our suggestions outside the ESV include the New International Version (NIV), New American Standard Bible (NASB), Christian Standard Bible (CSB), New King James Version (NKJV), and Revised Standard Version (RSV). Try to stay away from paraphrases like the New Living Translation (NLT), and the Message (MSG) for study purposes (consider them more like commentaries, not direct translations). You can find all of these on the YouVersion app or biblegateway.com.

OUTLINING

An outline is an ordered list of the main topics and supporting ideas in a text. This can be as simple or as complex as the Spirit leads, and there's no "right way" to do it. You may use the headings in your Bible for help, but don't feel the need to follow them. Outline in a way that feels natural to you and helps you understand the passage more fully. Feel free to revise as you get a deeper understanding of the text.

PARAPHRASING

To paraphrase is to rewrite a passage in your own words. Take your time with this, and utilize the previous tools to get a fuller understanding of what the text is saying before you try to paraphrase. There is no right way to paraphrase. Just do your best to grasp what the author is trying to say and put it into your own words. It is often helpful to think about how you would explain the passage to a child or someone who is not familiar with the Bible.

READING COMMENTARY

We recommend saving this tool for the end of your study. Focus first on what God is revealing to you in his Word before you read what God has revealed to someone else. Sermons, lectures, blog posts, podcasts, and books are all considered commentary. When you're ready, choose a commentary from a trusted source. Ask your Bible teacher or pastor if you need help choosing a commentary.

RESPONDING TO THE TEXT

After you have studied and explored the passage in depth, ask yourself these questions to evaluate the text and apply it to your life.

- What does it say? (Comprehension)
- What does it mean? (Interpretation)
- How should it change me? (Application)

PRAYER JOURNALING

Prayer journaling is a method of reflecting on what you've read in the text. It is prayer in written form. This tool can help you to clarify your thoughts on the text as you put pen to paper. It can be a stream-of-consciousness style writing in which you write exactly what comes to mind at that given moment, or it can be a more organized compilation of thoughts - whatever works for you! You can praise the Lord for what He has taught you as you've studied; ask Him questions that have arisen as you've read, or petition the Lord to help you put into practice something you learned. This is your personal journal between you and God - how you use and organize it is up to you!

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

Memorizing Scripture simply means committing a passage of God's Word to memory. This is more of a practice than a tool, but it is similar to repetitive reading because it helps us to internalize the truths we are learning. We suggest starting with a shorter passage of 1-3 verses if you are just starting out, and working up toward longer passages. Choose a passage that has special meaning to you or hits on a main theme from the larger passage you are studying.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Women of the Word by Jen Wilkin

Dig Deeper by Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach

READ/STUDY/LISTEN PLAN

This is a suggested reading plan with study tools for Yet Even Now.
 For more information on how to use the tools, see the Bible Study Tools section or visit
www.daytonwomenintheword.com/study-tools.

| WEEK | READ | STUDY TOOLS (see pg 4) | LISTEN |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Joel 1:1-3 <i>Also try reading through Joel in one sitting at least once.</i> | Prayer and Context | EPISODE 1 Jillian Vincent |
| Week 2 | Joel 1:4-20 | Annotation (Taking Notes), Responding to the Text | EPISODE 2 Mary Thomas |
| Week 3 | Joel 2:1-17 | Cross Referencing, Responding to the Text | EPISODE 3 Laura Swain |
| Week 4 | Joel 2:18-32 | Looking Up Definitions (Word Study), Responding to the Text | EPISODE 4 Mandy Brewer |
| Week 5 | Joel 3 | Comparing Translations, Responding to the Text | EPISODE 5 Natalie Herr |

WEEKLY TOOLS:

We encourage the use of these tools repeatedly throughout the study:

- Prayer
- Repetitive Reading (of the passage for the week)
- Continued Annotation

CHALLENGES:

If you are looking for additional challenges in your study, try these tools:

- Outlining
- Paraphrasing
- Contemporary Books (Obadiah, Isaiah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, etc.)
- Attributes of God Handout (see page 14)
- Prayer Journaling
- Memorizing Scripture (Try Joel 2:12-13)

WEEK 1: CONTEXT QUESTIONS

Answer these five questions before reading each book of the Bible.

Who wrote it?

When was it written?

To whom was it written?

In **what style** was it written?

Why was it written?

Consider also:

Where does this book fall in the metanarrative (big story) of the Bible?

CREATION

FALL

REDEMPTION

RESTORATION

What are some central themes?

WEEK 2: RESPONDING TO THE TEXT

Answer these questions as often as you like as you study the Scriptures.

PASSAGE: Joel 1:4-20

What does it say?

Comprehension

What does it mean?

Interpretation

How does (or might) it change me?

Application

WEEK 3: RESPONDING TO THE TEXT

Answer these questions as often as you like as you study the Scriptures.

PASSAGE: Joel 2:1-17

What does it say?

Comprehension

What does it mean?

Interpretation

How does (or might) it change me?

Application

WEEK 4: RESPONDING TO THE TEXT

Answer these questions as often as you like as you study the Scriptures.

PASSAGE: Joel 2:18-32

What does it say?

Comprehension

What does it mean?

Interpretation

How does (or might) it change me?

Application

WEEK 5: RESPONDING TO THE TEXT

Answer these questions as often as you like as you study the Scriptures.

PASSAGE: Joel 3

What does it say?

Comprehension

What does it mean?

Interpretation

How does (or might) it change me?

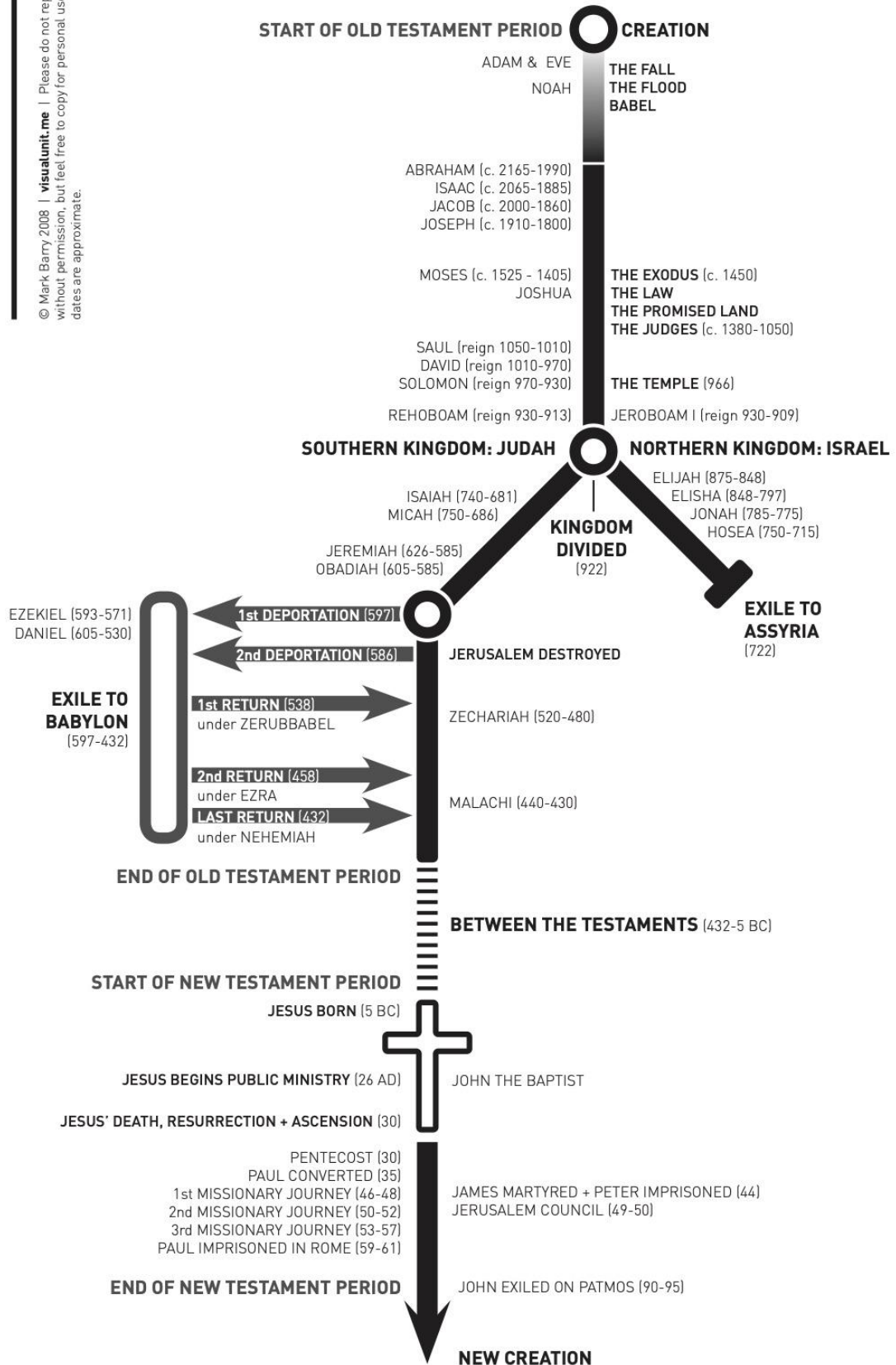
Application

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Use this handout to list the attributes of God that you find in the text. (An attribute is a quality or character trait. Examples include holy, righteous, loving, etc.)
Feel free to note the scripture references where you found each attribute.

BIBLE TIMELINE

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Joel 1 (ESV)

1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel:

An Invasion of Locusts

2 Hear this, you elders;

give ear, all inhabitants of the land!

Has such a thing happened in your days,

or in the days of your fathers?

3 Tell your children of it,

and let your children tell their children,

and their children to another generation.

4 What the cutting locust left,

the swarming locust has eaten.

What the swarming locust left,

the hopping locust has eaten,

and what the hopping locust left,

the destroying locust has eaten.

5 Awake, you drunkards, and weep,

and wail, all you drinkers of wine,

because of the sweet wine,

for it is cut off from your mouth.

6 For a nation has come up against my land,

powerful and beyond number;

its teeth are lions' teeth,
and it has the fangs of a lioness.

⁷It has laid waste my vine
and splintered my fig tree;
it has stripped off their bark and thrown it down;
their branches are made white.

⁸Lament like a virgin wearing sackcloth
for the bridegroom of her youth.

⁹The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off
from the house of the LORD.

The priests mourn,
the ministers of the LORD.

¹⁰The fields are destroyed,
the ground mourns,
because the grain is destroyed,
the wine dries up,
the oil languishes.

¹¹Be ashamed, O tillers of the soil;
wail, O vinedressers,
for the wheat and the barley,
because the harvest of the field has perished.

¹²The vine dries up;

the fig tree languishes.
Pomegranate, palm, and apple,
all the trees of the field are dried up,
and gladness dries up
from the children of man.

A Call to Repentance

¹³Put on sackcloth and lament, O priests;
wail, O ministers of the altar.
Go in, pass the night in sackcloth,
O ministers of my God!
Because grain offering and drink offering
are withheld from the house of your God.

¹⁴Consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly.
Gather the elders
and all the inhabitants of the land
to the house of the LORD your God,
and cry out to the LORD.

¹⁵Alas for the day!
For the day of the LORD is near,
and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.

¹⁶Is not the food cut off

before our eyes,
joy and gladness

from the house of our God?

¹⁷The seed shrivels under the clods;

the storehouses are desolate;

the granaries are torn down

because the grain has dried up.

¹⁸How the beasts groan!

The herds of cattle are perplexed

because there is no pasture for them;

even the flocks of sheep suffer.

¹⁹To you, O LORD, I call.

For fire has devoured

the pastures of the wilderness,

and flame has burned

all the trees of the field.

²⁰Even the beasts of the field pant for you

because the water brooks are dried up,

and fire has devoured

the pastures of the wilderness.

Joel 2 (ESV)

The Day of the LORD

2 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,

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ Their appearance is like the appearance of horses,

 and like war horses they run.

⁵ 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.

⁶Before them peoples are in anguish;

all faces grow pale.

⁷Like warriors they charge;

like soldiers they scale the wall.

They march each on his way;

they do not swerve from their paths.

⁸They do not jostle one another;

each marches in his path;

they burst through the weapons

and are not halted.

⁹They leap upon the city,

they run upon the walls,

they climb up into the houses,

they enter through the windows like a thief.

¹⁰The earth quakes before them;

the heavens tremble.

The sun and the moon are darkened,

and the stars withdraw their shining.

¹¹The 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?

Return to the LORD

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,

“return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ 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.

¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;

consecrate a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ 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?'"

The LORD Had Pity

¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land

and had pity on his people.

¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people,

"Behold, I am sending to you

grain, wine, and oil,

and you will be satisfied;

and I will no more make you

a reproach among the nations.

²⁰“I will remove the northerner far from you,

and drive him into a parched and desolate land,

his vanguard into the eastern sea,

and his rear guard into the western sea;

the stench and foul smell of him will rise,

for he has done great things.

²¹“Fear not, O land;

be glad and rejoice,

for the LORD has done great things!

²²Fear not, you beasts of the field,

for the pastures of the wilderness are green;

the tree bears its fruit;

the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

²³“Be glad, O children of Zion,

and rejoice in the LORD your God,

for he has given the early rain for your vindication;

he has poured down for you abundant rain,

the early and the latter rain, as before.

²⁴“The threshing floors shall be full of grain;

the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

²⁵ I will restore to you the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
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 again be put to shame.

²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

The LORD Will Pour Out His Spirit

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,
and your young men shall see visions.

²⁹ Even on the male and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

³⁰ “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. ³¹ The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ³² And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on

the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

Joel 3 (ESV)

The LORD Judges the Nations

3 “For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, **2** I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land, **3** and have cast lots for my people, and have traded a boy for a prostitute, and have sold a girl for wine and have drunk it.

4 “What are you to me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you paying me back for something? If you are paying me back, I will return your payment on your own head swiftly and speedily. **5** For you have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried my rich treasures into your temples. **6** You have sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks in order to remove them far from their own border. **7** Behold, I will stir them up from the place to which you have sold them, and I will return your payment on 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, to a nation far away, for the LORD has spoken.”

9 Proclaim this among the nations:

Consecrate for war;

stir up the mighty men.

Let all the men of war draw near;

let them come up.

¹⁰Beat your plowshares into swords,
and your pruning hooks into spears;
let the weak say, "I am a warrior."

¹¹Hasten and come,
all you surrounding nations,
and gather yourselves there.

Bring down your warriors, O LORD.

¹²Let the nations stir themselves up
and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;
for there I will sit to judge
all the surrounding nations.

¹³Put in the sickle,
for the harvest is ripe.

Go in, tread,
for the winepress is full.

The vats overflow,
for their evil is great.

¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes,
in the valley of decision!

For the day of the LORD is near
in the valley of decision.

¹⁵The sun and the moon are darkened,
and the stars withdraw their shining.

¹⁶The LORD roars from Zion,
and utters his voice from Jerusalem,
and the heavens and the earth quake.

But the LORD is a refuge to his people,
a stronghold to the people of Israel.

The Glorious Future of Judah

¹⁷“So you shall know that I am the LORD your God,
who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain.

And Jerusalem shall be holy,
and strangers shall never again pass through it.

¹⁸“And in that day

the mountains shall drip sweet wine,
and the hills shall flow with milk,

and all the streambeds of Judah
shall flow with water;

and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD
and water the Valley of Shittim.

¹⁹“Egypt shall become a desolation
and Edom a desolate wilderness,
for the violence done to the people of Judah,
because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

²⁰But Judah shall be inhabited forever,
and Jerusalem to all generations.

²¹I will avenge their blood,
blood I have not avenged,
for the LORD dwells in Zion.”

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