

## 16. Joel/Yo'el

(V.3) - 8-9-16

### Chapter 1

1:1 The word of YAHWEH which existed toward Yo'el,  
son of Pethu'el.

Yo'el means YAHWEH is El (God).  
Pethu'el means enlarged by El.

1:2 "Listen attentively to this, elders!  
And open your ears, all who are dwelling in the land!  
Has this existed in your days  
or even in the days of your forefathers?

1:3 For this reason relate it to your children,  
and by your children to their children,  
and by their children to the next generation!

1:4 What the gnawing locust has left  
the swarming locust has eaten,  
and what the swarming locust has left  
the crawling locust has eaten,  
and what the crawling locust has left  
the consuming locust has eaten.

1:5 Wake up drunkards and weep!  
And wail, all you drinkers of wine, over of the new wine  
because it has been cut off from your mouth!

1:6 Indeed a nation has come up against My land,  
strong and without number.  
Its teeth are the teeth of a lion  
and it has the jawbones of a lioness.

1:7 It has established My vine as a ruin  
and My fig tree as splinters, stripped bare.  
She has been stripped bare and thrown away!  
White are Its branches!

1:8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth  
for the husband of her youth!

1:9 The grain offering and the drink offering  
have been cut off from The House of YAHWEH!  
The priests, those serving YAHWEH, have mourned!

1:10 The field has been ravaged!  
The soil has mourned!  
Indeed the grain has been ravaged!  
The new wine has been caused to dry up!  
The oil has failed!

1:11 The farmers have been put to shame!  
The vinedressers wail over the wheat and over the barley  
because the harvest of the field has been destroyed!

1:12 The vine has dried up.  
and the fig languishes.  
Pomegranate, also palm, and apple,  
all the trees of the field have dried up.  
Indeed joy has dried up from the sons of human beings!

1:13 Gird yourselves and lament, priests!  
Wail, you who are attending the slaughter site!  
Come, lie all night in sackcloth,  
you who are attending to my Elohim,  
because the grain offering and the drink offering  
have been withheld from The House of your Elohim!

1:14 Consecrate a fast!  
Call an assembly!  
Gather the elders,  
all the inhabitants of the land,  
to The House of YAHWEH, your Elohim!  
And cry out to YAHWEH!

1:15 Alas for the sake of the day!  
Indeed The Day of YAHWEH is near!  
And as destruction from The Almighty it will come!

1:16 Has the food not been cut off before our eyes,  
joy and gladness from The House of our Elohim?

1:17 The seed has rotted under its clods.  
The storehouses have been destroyed.  
The storehouses have been torn down  
because the grain has dried up.

1:18 How the animals have groaned!  
The herds of cattle have wandered aimlessly  
because there is no pasture for the sake of them.  
The flocks of sheep also have perished.

1:19 To You, YAHWEH, I call out  
because fire has consumed the pastures of the wilderness  
and a flame has burned up all the trees of the field!

1:20 Even the animals of the field long for You  
because the streams have dried up  
and fire has consumed the pastures of the wilderness.

## **Chapter 2**

2:1 Blow a shofar in Tziyon!  
And sound an alarm on My set apart mountain!  
Let all those dwelling on the earth tremble,  
because The Day of YAHWEH is coming!  
Indeed it is near,  
2:2 a day of darkness and gloominess,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like the dawn spreading over the mountains  
*is* a people great and powerful!  
There has been none like them from eternity *past!*  
And afterward it will not *happen* again  
to the years of generation after generation!

2:3 Before their faces fire has devoured!  
And behind them flames will blaze!

The land is like the Garden of Eden before their faces.  
But behind them is a wilderness of devastation.  
And from it there will be no escape!

2:4 Like the appearance of horses is their appearance.  
And they run like horsemen,  
2:5 with the noise of chariots.  
On the tops of the mountains they dance  
like the noise of a flaming fire consuming stubble,  
like a mighty people set in battle array.

2:6 By their faces peoples are grieved!  
All faces gather blackness!  
2:7 Like mighty men they run.

Like men of battle they ascend the wall.  
And each one goes on his path.  
And they do not deviate from their routes.  
2:8 And they do not crowd one another.  
Each one goes in his path.  
With the weapons they will fall.  
But they will not be cut off.  
2:9 They will rush against the city.  
They will run on the wall.  
They will go up into the houses.  
They will go through the windows,  
entering like a thief.

2:10 The earth will be shaken before their faces!  
The skies will be shaken!  
Sun and moon will be darkened!  
And the brightness of stars will be withdrawn!

2:11 And YAHWEH will give forth His voice  
before the faces of His forces!  
Indeed exceedingly great is His encampment!  
Indeed mighty is the one doing His word!

Indeed great is The Day of YAHWEH,  
and exceedingly awesome!  
And who can contain it?

2:12 "But even now,"  
- An Utterance of YAHWEH. -  
"return to Me,  
including all your heart,  
and with fasting,  
and with weeping,  
and with mourning!

2:13 And tear your heart,  
and not your garments!  
And return to YAHWEH, your Elohim,  
because He shows favor and is compassionate!



because the tree shall bear its fruit!  
The fig tree and the vine will yield their strength!

2:23 And children of Tziyon,  
be glad and rejoice in YAHWEH, your Elohim,  
because He will give to you  
the early rain *itself* **אני** for the sake of justice!  
And He will cause the rain to come down for your sake,  
the early rain and the latter rain, as at the beginning!

2:24 And the threshing floors will be filled with grain!  
And the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

2:25 And I will make restitution to you  
for the years *themselves* **אני**  
which have been eaten by the locust,  
the swarming locust,  
and the crawling locust,  
and the consuming locust,  
and the gnawing locust,  
My great *plague* which I sent among you.

2:26 And you will eat,  
eating and being satisfied!  
And you will praise the Name of YAHWEH *itself* **אני**,  
your Elohim, Who has done with you people wondrously!  
And My people will not be put to shame for eternity!  
2:27 And you will know that I am in the midst of Yisra'el,  
I Myself,  
and that I am YAHWEH, your Elohim!  
And there is no other!  
And My people will not be put to shame to eternity!

### Chapter 3 begins here in the Hebrew text.

2:28 (H 3.1) And after this it will be  
that I will pour out My Divine Nature *itself* **אני** on all flesh!  
And your sons and your daughters will prophesy,  
your elders will dream dreams,  
your young men *will see* visions.

**ruach** occurs here once again. This word means breath or wind. Literally the text would read: "... will pour out My breath/wind on all flesh." However, this fails to account for the Hebrew manner of thinking. The breath is conceived as the "inner man" since it flows in and out of a person. To the Hebrew it represents one's fundamental "nature". With this in view the text portrays the outpouring of "The Divine Nature" itself. This Divine Nature is traditionally translated as "The Holy Spirit". But it is not a separate "person". It is the very essence of YAHWEH Himself, The Divine Nature. It is this "new nature" that is given to sinful human beings. It is the "new man" of Paul's writings.

Notice the use of **אני** here as a means to drawing special attention to this concept. This is one of the most important teachings in all of Scripture.

2:29 (H 3.2) And also upon the male slaves

and on the female slaves  
in those days  
I will pour out My Divine Nature *itself* **נא**.

2:30 (H 3.3) And I will set wonders in the skies  
and upon the earth,

blood, and fire, and columns of smoke!

2:31 (H3.4) the sun will be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood

before the coming of The Day of YAHWEH,  
the great and the frightening *day*!

2:32 (H3.5) And it will be that everyone who calls  
in the Name of YAHWEH will be delivered  
because on Mount Tziyon and at Yerushalaim  
there will be deliverance  
according to what YAHWEH has said,  
even with the survivors whom YAHWEH is calling!

**Note:** This is Joel 3.5 in the Hebrew text.  
There's a very subtle difference in this version  
from the traditional texts that's important to  
recognize. It has to do with a single letter at the  
beginning of a Hebrew word which can mean in,  
with, at, or on among other things. What's  
important to recognize is the reality that simply  
calling ON the name of YAHWEH means **nothing!**  
Many use His name as some kind of a magical  
wand to get them out of a mess. But He will not  
listen to them!  
The important thing is to call IN His Name -  
meaning to call as one who has placed their  
complete trust IN His name, which represents He  
Himself. This is the Hebrew concept of a "name". It  
represents the person, even so far as to mean that  
person is directly in their presence when they  
speak one's name. The name "is the person" in  
Hebrew thought.  
To call IN His name is to call as one who belongs  
to Him. One can only belong to Him if they have  
surrendered control of their life to Him. Then they  
are living IN His name - and can call out "IN His  
name!"  
This is a vital concept to understand.

### Chapter 3

**Note: This is Chapter 4 in the Hebrew text.**

3:1 (H 4.1) "Indeed behold!  
In those days and at that time,  
when I turn back the captivity *itself* **נא**  
of Yahudah and Yerushalaim,

3:2 (H 4.2) then I will gather all the nations *themselves* **נא**.

And I will cause them to go down to The Valley of  
Yahoshaphat.

And I will pronounce sentence against them there  
on account of My people and My inheritance, Yisra'el,  
whom they have scattered among the nations!

My land *itself* **נח** they have divided by lot.

**Yahoshaphat means YAHWEH is judge.**

3:3 (H 4.3) And for My people they have cast lots.

And they have given a young boy for a prostitute.

And a young girl they have sold for wine.

Then they drank it.

3:4 (H 4.4) And also, what are *you yourselves* **נח** to Me,

Tzor and Tzidon, and all the regions of Philistia?

Are you repaying Me?

Will *you yourselves* **נח** repay Me,

make restitution to Me?

And if *you yourselves* **נח** repay Me

I will swiftly, instantly,

return your payback on your heads!

3:5 (H 4.5) Because you have taken My silver, and My gold,

and My precious things you have caused

to go to your temples,

3:6 (H 4.6) and the children of Yahudah

and the children of Yerushalaim

you have sold to the children of Greece

for the sake of causing them

to be far from their borders,

3:7 (H 4.7) behold!

I am stirring them up from the place

to which you have sold them!

And I will return your recompense upon your head!

3:8 (H 4.8) And I will sell *your sons themselves* **נח**

and *your daughters themselves* **נח**

into the hand of the people of Yahudah!

And they will sell them to the Sabeans,

to a nation far away!

Indeed YAHWEH has spoken!

3:9 (H 4.9) Proclaim this among the nations!

"Sanctify a war!

Stir up the mighty men!

Let them approach!

Let them go up, all the men of the battle!

3:10 (H 4.10) Hammer your ploughshares

for the sake of swords

and your pruning hooks for the sake of spears!

Let the weak say, 'I am mighty!'

3:11 (H 4.11) Hurry and come,

all the nations, and gather there!

Cause your mighty ones to come down YAHWEH!

3:12 (H 4.12) Let the nations be stirred up!

And let them go up to The Valley of Yahoshaphat

because there I will sit to pronounce sentence upon

all the nations themselves **נח** from all around!

3:13 (H 4.13) Send forth in the sickle

because the harvest is ripe!  
Come, rule, because the winepress is filled.  
The vats overflow.  
Indeed their badness is great!"

3:14 (H 4.14) Multitudes, multitudes  
in The Valley of The Decision!  
Indeed near is The Day of YAHWEH  
in The Valley of The Decision!

3:15 (H 4.15) Sun and moon will be darkened!  
And stars will withdraw their brightness!  
3:16 (H4 16) And YAHWEH will roar from Tziyon!  
And from Yerushalaim He will give forth His voice!  
And the skies and the earth will be shaken!

But YAHWEH is a refuge for His people,  
and a fortress for the sake of the children of Yisra'el!

3:17 (H4.17) And you will know  
that I Myself, YAHWEH, your Elohim,  
am dwelling in Tziyon, My set apart mountain!  
And Yerushalaim will be set apart!  
And strangers will not pass over in her any longer!

3:18 (H 4.18) And it will exist in that day *that*  
the mountains will drip with new wine,  
and the hills flow with milk!  
And all the streams of Yahudah will flow with water!  
And a spring will flow from The House of YAHWEH!  
And it will go forth to water The Valley of Shittim *itself* **nx**.

3:19 (H 4.19) Egypt will exist as a devastation,  
and Edom as a desolated wilderness  
because of the violence *done to* the children of Yahudah,  
whose innocent blood they poured out on their land.

3:20 (H 4.20) But Yahudah will dwell to eternity,  
and Yerushalaim to generation after generation!

3:21 (H 4.21) And I will purify their blood  
which I have not purified!

And YAHWEH will be dwelling in Tziyon!"