

16. Joel/Yo'el

(Version 4) - 1-20-17

Chapter 1

1:1 The word of **YAHWEH** which existed to 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!
Indeed, 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 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 Tzion!
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!

Indeed He will show favor and is compassionate!
He is slow to anger and abundant with kindness!
And He will relent concerning the harm!

2:14 Who knows,
He might turn back and relent
and cause a blessing to remain behind Him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for YAHWEH, your Elohim?

2:15 Blow a shofar in Tzion!
Consecrate a fast!
Call an assembly!

2:16 Gather the people!
Consecrate the assembly!
Gather the elders!
Collect the children and those sucking at the breasts!
Let a bridegroom come forth from his chamber
and a bride from her bridal chamber!

2:17 Between the porch and the slaughter site
let the priests serving YAHWEH weep!
And let them say,
'Have compassion upon Your people, YAHWEH!

And do not give Your inheritance to reproach,
for the sake of the nations ruling over them!
Why should they say among the peoples,
"Where is their Elohim?" "

2:18 And **YAHWEH** will be zealous for His land!

And He will pity His people!

2:19 And **YAHWEH** will respond!

And He will say to His people,

'Behold!

I am sending to you

the grain *itself* **nx**, and the new wine, and the oil!

And you will be satisfied with *it* *itself* **nx**!

And I will no longer make *you yourselves* **nx**

a reproach among the nations!

2:20 And the Northern *army itself* **nx**

I will cause to go far away from you!

And I will drive him to a land parched and devastated,

with his face *itself* **nx** toward the eastern sea

and his rear toward the western sea.

And his stench will go up!

And his foul smell will go up!"

Indeed, He has become great for the sake of doing!

2:21 Do not fear, soil!

Be glad and rejoice!

Indeed, **YAHWEH** has become great for the sake of doing!

2:22 Do not fear, animals of the field!

Indeed, the pastures of the wilderness will sprout forth!

Indeed, the tree will bear its fruit!

The fig tree and the vine will yield their strength!

2:23 And children of Tzion,

be glad and rejoice in **YAHWEH**, your Elohim!

Indeed, He will give to you

the early rain *itself* **nx** 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* **nx**

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 *itself* **nx** of **YAHWEH**,

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 exist
that I will pour out My Divine Nature *itself* **nx** 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 I "... 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 **nx** 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* **nx**.

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 (H 3.4) 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 (H 3.5) And it will exist that everyone who calls
in the name of YAHWEH will be delivered!

Indeed, on Mount Tzion 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* תנ
of Yahudah and Yerushalaim,

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

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* תנ 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* תנ to Me,
Tzor and Tzidon, and all the regions of Philistia?

Are you repaying Me?

Will you *yourselves* תנ repay Me,
make restitution to Me?

Even if you *yourselves* תנ 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* תנ

and your daughters *themselves* תנ

into the hand of the people of Yahudah!

And they will sell them to the Sebeans,

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 to swords
and your pruning hooks to 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!
Indeed, there I will sit to pronounce sentence upon
all the nations *themselves* **nx** from all around!

3:13 (H 4.13) Send in the sickle!
Indeed, the harvest is ripe!

Come, rule!
Indeed, 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 (H 4.16) And **YAHWEH** will roar from Tzion!
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 (H 4.17) And you will know
that I Myself, **YAHWEH**, your Elohim,
am dwelling in Tzion, 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 Tzion!"