

Joel 3

1.1-15 A Call to the Nation of Judah

Judges 20.26: **Then all the people of Israel, the whole army, went up and came to Bethel and wept. They sat there before the LORD and fasted that day until evening, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.**

gazam – ‘cut off’; *arbeh* – general word for locust from Hebrew *raba* (‘be many’); *yeleq* – refers to larval form of locust, a wingless jumping insect; *hasil* – ‘to finish or consume’ -

Exodus 29.38-40 and Numbers 28.3-8 directed the priests in the Temple to offer a daily sacrifice of a lamb to God every morning and evening. It was accompanied by an offering of meal moistened with oil and by a libation of wine.

11 -12 No Wheat and barley, No vines, pomegranates, dates, or *tappuah* (perhaps apple, apricot)

13-15: Calling for a Special Service

No harvest festival, but penitential plea with Sackcloth – (2 Kings 19; Lament. 2.10)

1.15-2.11: The Day of YHWH

Isaiah 3.6: Wail, because the day of YHWH will soon be here, it is coming with mighty ruin from the Almighty; also Ezekiel 30.2-3; Amos 5.18; Ezekiel 7.8; Zephaniah 1.17

10-11 Isaiah 13.(10,) 13: *Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.*

2.12-17: The Call to Repent

Amos 5.4-6; Isaiah 32.11; 2 Kings 19.1; 22.11; call for a contrite heart – Ps. 51.17

‘Do not love in word and speech but in deed and truth’ (1 John 3.18)

Psalm 79.9: Help us, O God our savior . . . Rescue us and forgive our sins’

3.1-21: The Judgment of the Nations

Jehoshaphat – ‘YHWH judges or YHWH has judged’

There is no J Valley in Israel. Since the time of Eusebius and the Pilgrim of Bordeaux in the early 4C AD, people have referred to the Kidron Valley east of Jerusalem by this nickname and associated it with the Final Judgment of God. This is obviously a very old tradition.

Matthew 25.31-46: The Judgment of All the Nations

3.1-12: Charges and a Summons to Judgment

A 'scattering of Judah' – likely refers to the Babylonian deportations in 597 and 587 B.C. (Ezekiel 12.15; 22.15; 36.19) Obadiah 11 – enslavement of Judah

'The hope of Judah's destiny was degraded into currency for debauchery and drunkenness' (Allen 110)

'All the nations' – notably those who participated in the conquest of Judah – Chaldean, Aramean, Moabite, Edomite, Assyrian, Babylonian, et al – 2 Kings 24.2; Psalm 137.7f

4-8 Amos 1.6-9 - the Philistine city of Gaza and Phoenecian state of Tyre are condemned for slave trading; also Ezekiel 25.15-17; Ezekiel 28.20-24 names Sihon as an enemy. Gaza, Tyre, and Sidon were substantial ancient port cities west and NW of Judah and Israel, respectively

Charges: (1) they took YHWH's gold; (2) they slave-traded the people of God

Sabeans – traders of Sheba in SW Arabia who controlled the trade routes through Arabia

Prophecy fulfilled!: Sihon enslaved by Antiochus III in 345 B.C.; Tyre and Gaza enslaved by Alexander in 332 B.C.

3.13-21: The Nations' Fate and the Future of Judah

The prophetic Day of YHWH will one day be unleashed

Judah will receive the blessing of the Lord

Jehoshaphat Valley is renamed – Verdict Valley

Revelation 14.15-20 describes the harvest of God's judgment

Mark 4.26-29: And Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

15-17 Never Again!

Revelation 21.1-4: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."