

JOEL CHAPTER 3

Chapter 3

3:1 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, *[see notes below]*

3:2 I will also gather all nations *[Zeph 3:8 and Rev 16:16]*, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat *[Judgment-Rev 14:6]*, and will plead with them there for my people and [for] my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land. *[see notes below]*

3:3 And they have cast lots for my people; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink. *[see notes below]*

3:4 Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompense? and if ye recompense me, swiftly [and] speedily will I return your recompense upon your own head; *[see notes below]*

3:5 Because ye have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried into your temples my goodly pleasant things:

3:6 The children also of Judah and the children of Jerusalem have ye sold unto the Grecians, that ye might remove them far from their border.

3:7 Behold, I will raise them out of the place whither ye have sold them, and will return your recompense upon your own head: *[see notes below]*

3:8 And I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the children of Judah, and they shall sell them to the Sabeans, to a people far off: for the LORD hath spoken [it]. *[see notes below]*

3:9 Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war *[“Sanctify war”]*, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: *[the Lords battle and the finishing of the great controversy]* *[see notes below]*

3:10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I [am] strong. *[see notes below]*

3:11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen *[This verse has a dual application, however, because the word “heathen” which usually means “nation”, or “anyone who is not of the literal children of Israel”, can also mean, figuratively speaking, “a flight of locusts”. This definition can be found in Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance with Vine’s Dictionary.]*, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD. *[Ezek 32:20 The final call of the judgment hour message to come out of Babylon;*

VALLEY OF DECISION/ JUDGMENT

Vs 1-2: *See notes below*

Vs 3-4: Anciently, when the children of Israel were taken captive they were enslaved and treated very cruel. This passage has a spiritual application today.

The name “Palestine” in verse 4 is rendered “Philistines” in the Septuagint. Tyre and Zidon are today located in Lebanon, and the land of the Philistines is now known as the Gaza Strip. All are held by Islamists today. The Lord will soon return their doings back upon their own head. But even these cities and lands will not be held as guilty as most who claim to be God’s people. *Isaiah 34:4, 5, 8-10* *[see notes below]*

Vs 5: True riches belong to those who hold the true word of God. The very foundation of the truth that was given to the last day remnant church was taken from them by Babylon, and they offered it up willingly in exchange for a bowl of pottage. *See notes on verses 3 & 4*

Vs 6: When the nation of Israel began sending their young scholars to Alexandria in Egypt, which was the center of higher education in the Grecian world, **they ended up crucifying their own Redeemer**. Greece represents higher reasoning - putting the wisdom of men above the wisdom of God. The church is repeating this tragic scenario, and crucifying Jesus afresh in the person of the true remnant.

“So, I saw, that those who had no experience in **the first and second angels’ messages must receive them from those who had an experience**, and followed down through the messages. **As Jesus was crucified, so I saw that these messages have been crucified**. And as the disciples declared that there was salvation in no other name under heaven, given among men; so, also, should the servants of God **faithfully and fearlessly declare that those who embrace but a part of the truths connected with the third message must gladly embrace the first, second and third messages as God has given them, or have no part nor lot in the matter.**” {1SG 75.1}

Vs 7-8: The Lord in His great mercy will rescue His honest children from the devices of the enemy. The Sabena’s, which are said to be from Arabia, are mentioned in **Job 1:15** and are the people who robbed Job and cruelly murdered his servants. Job represents the 144,000. Those who oppose the true remnant will be sold by the Lord into the hand of the Sabeans, the Arab nations of today.

Vs 9, 10, 11: *See notes below*

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equivalent to the **Loud Cry of Revelation 18:1-4** [see notes below]

3:12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat ["judgment"- **Rev 14:6-12**]: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

3:13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness [is] great. [This is describing the harvest of the grapes of wrath, the same as in **Revelation 14:19-20**. This harvest is overflowing, showing that the vast majority will be lost.]

3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD [is] near in the valley of decision. [It is time to make our decision for the Lord!]

3:15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. [Compare this verse with **Isaiah 13:9-13** and **Revelation 16:10**. Will be fulfilled during the 5th plague] [see notes below]

3:16 The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD [will be] the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

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3:17 So shall ye know that I [am] the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

3:18 And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim. [see notes below]

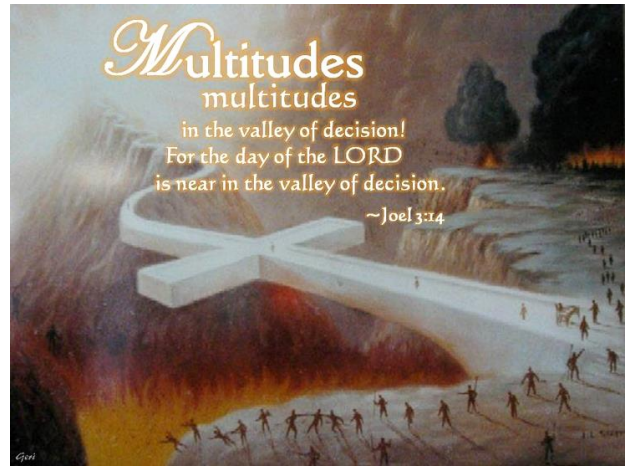
3:19 Egypt shall be a desolation, and Edom shall be a desolate wilderness, for the violence [against] the children of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land. [see notes below]

3:20 But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation. [see notes below]

3:21 For I will cleanse their blood [that] I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion. [see notes below]



Vs 12: This verse also has another application because it uses the same word "heathen" with the same double meaning. Here God is telling the Islamic nations to wake up, which is what we are seeing right now, and come up to the battle and receive their judgment. In other words, He is telling them to go ahead and declare global jihad and then He will bring them to their end.



Verse 15: See notes below

Vs 16-17: This is the second coming of our Lord. Jesus is telling us to put our hope, our trust, and our faith in Him, and He will be our strength, and our salvation. Sin and sinners will be cut off, but the righteous will dwell with the Lord forever.

Vs 18-21: See notes below

I Will Gather All Nations And
Bring Them Down To The Valley
Of Jehoshaphat. There I Will Enter
Into Judgment Against Them
Concerning My Inheritance, My
People Israel, For They Scattered
My People Among The Nations
And Divided Up My Land.

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Vs 1-2: The context of *Joel* Chapters 1 and 2 strongly suggests that the Loud Cry of Chapter 3 cannot be effectively given until we have the proper understanding of The King of the North and his work of destruction. Seeing this prophecy beginning to be fulfilled will wake up the true remnant and bring them to revival and reformation. This will prepare them for the time of trouble and give them vital information that has been overlooked, information they need, to effectively give the last warning message to the world.

God's heritage has again been taken captive to Babylon, but our Lord will deliver the honest in heart who wish to be delivered. Babylon's treachery will be recompensed back upon her own head. The name "Jehoshaphat" in verse 2 means judgment. "Every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" will be brought to judgment (Revelation 14:6). Notice also in verse 2, **all nations** will be gathered together to answer for their crimes against God's elect and to receive their punishment. Consider [Zephaniah 3:8](#) and [Revelation 16:16](#)

Vs 3-4: Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. *Matthew 11:20-22.*

Who is it today who claim to be God's people, but are not, and when will they be recompensed?

And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling [fig] from the fig tree. For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. ... **For [it is] the day of the LORD's vengeance, [and] the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion.** And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the **smoke** thereof shall go up for ever: **from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.** [Isaiah 34:4, 5, 8-10.](#)

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"Idumea" is the Greek form of Edom, the land of Esau. Esau was the twin brother of Israel, representing the division in the church today. He was the elder sibling and would have received the birthright but he sold it for a bowl of pottage. **The professed church today at first held the birthright but they too sold it** (to the Evangelicals in 1956 and 57) **for a bowl of pottage.** **Now the curse of God is upon them and the birthright has passed to the true and faithful remnant.**

Vs 9-10: This is the beginning of the Loud Cry message to the world. This is the Lord speaking and telling His people to wake up and prepare for war. **This is the opposite of [Isaiah 2:2-4](#), and [Micah 4:1-3](#) where the people and nations are speaking and giving the message of peace.**

The marginal reading for "Prepare war" is "Sanctify war". This is the Lord's battle and the finishing of the great controversy. Only those who realize their weakness and their great need of Jesus will stand in that day.

Vs 11: This is the call out message in the book of *Joel*. **This is the final call of the judgment hour message to come out of Babylon.** **This is equivalent to the Loud Cry of [Revelation 18:1-4](#).** Those who teach that the King of the North is the papacy will try to tell you that [Daniel 11:41](#) is the call out message. It is a far stretch to get the call out message from that verse. They insist that the literal understanding of [Daniel 11:40-45](#) destroys the call out message, but on the contrary, **God's people will not be able to effectively give the Loud Cry message until they understand the literal application of the King of the North.**

This verse has a dual application, however, because the word "heathen" which usually means "nation", or "anyone who is not of the literal children of Israel", can also mean, figuratively speaking, "a flight of locusts". This definition can be found in *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance with Vine's Dictionary*.

In *Revelation* Chapter 9 the locusts have been proved to be Islam, or more precisely, the restored Ottoman Empire. So in this verse the Lord is telling the King of the North, who is ultimately Satan, to assemble his people and come up to the battle.

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Vs 15: We will compare this verse with [Isaiah 13:9-13](#) and Revelation [16:10](#);

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for [their] evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger. [Isaiah 13:9-13](#).

And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, [Revelation 16:10](#).

By comparing these verses we see that the passage in [Joel 3:15](#) will be fulfilled during the fifth plague. Before probation closed the remnant were completely refined and purified and are now considered by God to be "more precious than fine gold". We know these passages will be fulfilled literally because of the comment in *Early Writings*, page 41;

The powers of heaven are the sun, moon, and stars. They rule in the heavens. The powers of earth are those that rule on the earth. The powers of heaven will be shaken at the voice of God. Then the sun, moon, and stars will be moved out of their places. They will not pass away, but be shaken by the voice of God. *Early Writings*, page 41.

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Vs 18-21: This is a description of Heaven and the Earth made new. All traces of the curse will be removed, and the earth will be recreated into a perfect paradise. **Egypt represents those who refuse to acknowledge God and Edom corresponds to those who claim to be God's people but sold their birthright.** Condemnation for both classes comes from the fact that they have shed innocent blood. The wicked have always persecuted the righteous. All sin and sinners will be brought to ashes together and will be lost for all eternity. The righteous, all those who have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus, will dwell with the Lord in perfect peace, and ever increasing joy and happiness, throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Amen



It is the hope and prayer that this commentary on the book of *Joel* will be profitable and a comfort to all who study it. It behooves us to have an intelligent faith, not merely for our own benefit, but **that we might come into unity and give the last message of warning to the world.**

[I Will Stand Upon My Watch - Habakkuk's Tables](#)