

### Joel 3 The Nations Will Be Judged

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. Then I will enter into judgment with them there On behalf of my people and my inheritance, Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; and they have divided up my land.

3 They have also cast lots for my people, traded a boy for a prostitute, and sold a girl for wine so that they may drink. 4 Moreover, what are you to Me, Tyre, Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you repaying me with retribution? But if you are showing Me retribution, swiftly and speedily I will return your retribution on your head!

5 Since you have taken My silver and My gold, brought My precious treasures to your temples, 6 and sold the sons of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks in order to remove them far from their territory, 7 behold, I am going to stir them up from the place where you have sold them, and return your retribution on your head.

8 I will also sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the sons of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a distant nation," for the LORD has spoken.

9 Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for holy war; stir up the warriors! Have all the soldiers come forward, have them come up! 10 Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; Let the weak man say, "I am a warrior." 11 Hurry and come, all you surrounding nations, And gather yourselves there. Bring down, LORD, Your warriors.

12 Let the nations be awakened and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat, For there I will sit to judge

All the surrounding nations. 13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread the grapes, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.

14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

15 The sun and moon have become dark, and the stars have lost their brightness.

16 The LORD roars from Zion and utters His voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But the LORD is a refuge for His people, and a stronghold for the sons of Israel. 17 Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, Dwelling on Zion, My holy mountain. So Jerusalem will be holy, and strangers will no longer pass through it.

### Judah Will Be Blessed

18 And on that day the mountains will drip with sweet wine, and the hills will flow with

milk, And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water; And a spring will go out from the house of the LORD  
And water the Valley of Shittim.

19 Egypt will become a wasteland; And Edom will become a desolate wilderness, Because of the violence done to the sons of Judah, in whose land they have shed innocent blood.

20 But Judah will be inhabited forever, And Jerusalem for all generations. 21 And I will avenge their blood which I have not avenged,  
For the LORD dwells in Zion.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. What is it to recompense – pay back?
2. Who can dare say anything once the Lord has spoken?
3. What is the value of decision – judgement?
4. What are the springs that will go out from the Lord – the word?
5. God is going to restore Israel as His people, along with the gentiles, who have come through Jesus.
6. What does it mean to behold something – see?
7. God will call all the nations of the earth to Judgement.
8. Because of Israel's rebellion to God they were scattered throughout the earth.
9. Why does God disregard the nations of Tyre and Sidon and the surrounding nations.
10. Because God's people have been desecrated God takes it personally, as if He has been desecrated, meaning disregarded, lack of respect.
11. God's judgement on the nations who treated Israel badly, will be to do to them what they have done to Israel!
12. How can the weak in God be called strong?
13. At the end of the age there is going to be a great battle, a world war, Armageddon!
14. What does the term 'the harvest is white' mean?

15. The evil nations, having been judged, go into the eternal suffering.
16. The term 'the day of the Lord' is the judgement of all things, it is when God's anger and retribution is revealed.
  
17. What could make the whole earth tremble?
18. What could dim the light of the sun and the moon?
19. All people who take refuge in God will be protected by the Lord in the judgement, either through the law kept or the gospel received.
20. It would seem, for Jerusalem, there is coming a time period of peace and blessing for Israel.
  
21. Eden and Egypt will become a wilderness. Has that ever happened in history before?
22. Judea and Jerusalem will be places that prosper for God's people.
23. God will avenge unrighteousness.