

**Joel**  
**Chapter 3**

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**God Judges the Nations**

*1 “For behold, in those days and at that time,  
When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem,*

“God will return the captives of Judah and Jerusalem! This occurred after the Babylonian captivity, but its fulfillment will be complete when the Messiah returns and unites His people at Jerusalem.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1396

*2 I will also gather all nations,  
And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat;  
And I will enter into judgment with them there  
On account of My people, My heritage Israel,  
Whom they have scattered among the nations;  
They have also divided up My land.*

“The valley of Jehoshaphat location is mentioned only in Joel (See also 3:12). Some have suggested this is the Kidron Valley that lies beneath Jerusalem’s eastern gate, the place where the judgment of the nations will occur at the return of Messiah. While there will be a judgment of the nations in Jerusalem (separation of sheep from goats and wheat from tares; see Matthew 13:36-42; 25:31-33), this verse is linked to God bringing the nations against Jerusalem at the climax of the Tribulation (See: Zech. 14:1-2). Recent theories attempt to identify the valley of Jehoshaphat with a valley, Khirbet Tequ’a, located about twelve miles from Jerusalem, where in Jehoshaphat’s day God defeated Edom, Moab, and Ammon in a major battle (See: II Chron. 20). Fourth century historical records from pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land and from early church fathers, (Jerome and Eusebius) indicate they believed Joel was referring to the Kidron Valley. According to Joel 3:12, at this valley the Lord will ‘sit to judge all the heathen round about’. This will be Jerusalem; thus, the Kidron

Valley is the best choice for the valley of Jehoshaphat.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1397, p. 1397.

*3 They have cast lots for My people,  
Have given a boy as payment for a harlot,  
And sold a girl for wine, that they may drink.*

*4 “Indeed, what have you to do with Me,  
O Tyre and Sidon, and all the coasts of Philistia?  
Will you retaliate against Me?  
But if you retaliate against Me,  
Swiftly and speedily I will return your retaliation upon your own head;*

*5 Because you have taken My silver and My gold,  
And have carried into your temples My prized possessions.*

*6 Also the people of Judah and the people of Jerusalem  
You have sold to the Greeks,  
That you may remove them far from their borders.*

*7 “Behold, I will raise them  
Out of the place to which you have sold them,  
And will return your retaliation upon your own head.*

*8 I will sell your sons and your daughters  
Into the hand of the people of Judah,  
And they will sell them to the Sabeans,  
To a people far off;  
For the Lord has spoken.”*

*9 Proclaim this among the nations:  
“Prepare for war!  
Wake up the mighty men,*

*Let all the men of war draw near,  
Let them come up.  
10 Beat your plowshares into swords  
And your pruning hooks into spears;  
Let the weak say, 'I am strong.' ”*

“This well-known passage refers to a time of universal peace, but this peace will never develop until the “Prince of Peace’ returns to rule all nations ‘with a rod of iron’.

“6 For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace**.  
7 Of the increase of His government and peace  
There will be no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice  
From that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” Isaiah 9:6-7

“15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND  
LORD OF LORDS.” Revelation 19:15

During Christ’s thousand-year reign, there will be no war on earth, as Isaiah wrote: “4 He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

*11 Assemble and come, all you nations,*

*And gather together all around.*

*Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O Lord.*

*12 “Let the nations be wakened, 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, go down;*

*For the winepress 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 will grow dark,*

*And the stars will diminish their brightness.*

*16 The Lord also will roar from Zion,*

*And utter His voice from Jerusalem;*

*The heavens and earth will shake;*

*But the Lord will be a shelter for His people,*

*And the strength of the children of Israel.*

*17 “So you shall know that I am the Lord your God,*

*Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain.*

*Then Jerusalem shall be holy,*

*And no aliens shall ever pass through her again.”*

*God Blesses His People*

*18 And it will come to pass in that day*

*That the mountains shall drip with new wine,*

*The hills shall flow with milk,*

*And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water;*

*A fountain shall flow from the house of the Lord*

*And water the Valley of Acacias.*

“The common method of harvesting barley and wheat in the OT involved the aid of a hand tool called a sickle. This same image is used in Revelation 14:14-19 to depict the way the wicked will be harvested: an angel will place his sickle into grape vines, indicating the final season of God’s wrath during the Tribulation. This action will be followed by a great battle, as it is written, “20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.” Revelation 14:20. These are the ‘multitudes’ Joel saw in the ‘valley of decision’ (3:14).

Joel also witnessed at that time the darkening of the sun (3:15), which will occur at the end of the Tribulation (See: Matthew 24:29). The shaking of earth at Christ’s return (3:16) is described in Zechariah 14:4, which says the Mount of Olives will be split into two halves when Christ touches it.

“4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,

Which faces Jerusalem on the east.

And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,

From east to west,

Making a very large valley;

Half of the mountain shall move toward the north

And half of it toward the south.” Zechariah 14:4

Then at the beginning of the millennial reign, Jerusalem shall be holy (3:17). The fountain coming from the house of the Lord (3:18) can refer to the river Ezekiel saw coming from under the altar in the millennial temple (See: Ezekiel 47:1-12). How amazing that so many Messianic predictions are recorded in these seven verses!” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1397

19 *“Egypt shall be a desolation,  
And Edom a desolate wilderness,  
Because of violence against the people of Judah,  
For they have shed innocent blood in their land.  
20 But Judah shall abide forever,  
And Jerusalem from generation to generation.*

“At the conclusion of the Tribulation, much of Egypt will lie desolate for forty years (See: Ezekiel 29:10-13), and the mountains of Edom will have experienced the judgment of the Messiah after He fights the battle in Bozrah (See: Isaiah 34:6; 63:1-3).

However, Judah, which was part of Jerusalem, will be saved at Christ’s return. According to Zechariah 13:1-6, the Tribulation survivors shall see the wounds in the Messiah’s hands, and a fountain of redemption will be opened in Jerusalem.” Perry Stone, OT Hebraic Study Bible, p. 1398

21 *For I will acquit them of the guilt of bloodshed, whom I had not acquitted;  
For the Lord dwells in Zion.”*