### Joel 2:12-17

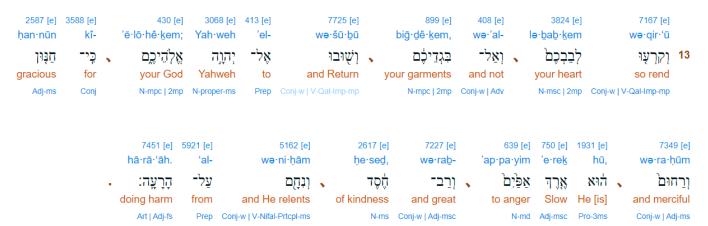
- 2:12-13a The declaration that it is time to repent and the necessary level of repentance required
- 2:13b-14 the character of God that would allow a chance to repent, though not guaranteed it
  is a possibility
- 2:15-16 the priest are told to call an assembly for the whole nation to gather for national repentance
- 2:17 a form of a lament to pray during the community repentance service is provided and the liturgy is demonstrated.

# Joel 2:12 – ""Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

4553 [e]		1065 [e]		6685 [e]		3824 [e]	3605 [e]	5704 [e]	7725 [e]		3068 [e]	5002 [e]		6258 [e]	1571 [e]	
ū·bౖə·mis·pêdౖ.		ū·bə·bə·kî		ū·bə·ṣō·wm		lə·bab·kem;	b <b>ə</b> ∙ <u>k</u> āl	'ā·₫ay	šu∙bū		Yah·weh,	nə·'um-		'at∙tāh	wə∙ğam-	
וּבְמָסְפֵּד: –	•	וּבְרָכֻי	,	וּבְצָוֹם	,	לְבַּבְּכֶמ	בְּכָל־	עָדַי	יעבו	,	יְהֹלָה	נָאָם־	•	עַתָּה	וְגַם־	12
and with mourning		and with weeping		and with fasting		your heart	with all	to Me	Turn		Yahweh	says		now	Therefore	
Conj-w, Prep-b   N-ms		Conj-w, Prep-b   N-ms		Conj-w, Prep-b   N-ms		N-msc   2mp	Prep-b   N-msc	Prep   1cs	V-Qal-Imp-mp		N-proper-ms	N-msc		Adv	Conj-w   Conj	

- 1. The Lord, YHWH, himself declares, "IT IS TIME" and "THERE IS STILL TIME"
- 2. Repentance includes (2:12 and 2:13) both:
  - a. Sincere heart repentance "rend your hearts" and "return with all your heart"
  - b. Ritual activities such as:
    - i. Fasting
    - ii. Weeping
    - iii. Mourning
    - iv. Community gathering

# Joel 2:13 – "and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.



- 1. The formula and typical character of God that allows repentance:
  - a. Num.14:18 "The Lord is <u>slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression</u>, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation."
  - b. Nehemiah 9:17 "They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God <u>ready to forgive</u>, <u>gracious and merciful</u>, <u>slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love</u>, and did not forsake them."
  - c. Psalm 86:15 "But you, O Lord, are a God <u>merciful and gracious, slow to anger and</u> abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."
  - d. Psalm 103:8 "The Lord is <u>merciful and gracious</u>, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
  - e. Psalm 145:8 "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love."
  - f. Jonah 4:2 "And he prayed to the Lord and said, 'O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that <u>you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger</u> and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster."
  - g. Nahum 1:3 "The Lord is <u>slow to anger and great in power</u>, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet."
- 2. YHWH's character:
  - a. Gracious
  - b. Merciful
  - c. Slow to anger
  - d. Abounding in steadfast love
  - e. Relents over disaster

### Joel 2:14 – "Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?



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• 'ĕ·lō·hê·kem. Yah·weh wā·ne·sek,

• 'Yaḥ·weh yah·weh yah·weh yah·weh and a drink offering

• your God for Yahweh and a drink offering

• Punc N-mpc | 2mp | Prep-l | N-proper-ms Conj-w | N-ms

#### 1. "Who knows?"

- a. Is mi yowdea in Hebrew:
  - i. *mi* /me/ means "who?"
  - ii. *yowdea* from *yada* /yaw-dah/ means "to know". This form yowdea means "knows"

- b. "Who knows", or *me yowdea*, is a clear indication that:
  - i. YHWH is not an automatic machine or Canaanite God
  - ii. YHWH is a free agent and is free to respond as he desires. Maybe he will, maybe he won't. We do not know.
- 2. Consider Hosea 6:1-3 is being quoted by an unrepentant Israel who believe they can manipulate and predict YHWH like he is some kind of mechanical, self-serving Pagan deity:

"Come, let us return to the Lord. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence. Let us acknowledge the Lord; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth." – Hosea 6:1-3

#### Joel 2:15 – "Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;

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'ă·ṣā·rāh.	qir·'ū		ṣō·wm	qad·də·šū-		bə·şî·yō·wn;	šō⋅w⋅pār	tiq·'ū	
עַצָרָה:	7	•		• •	•		שוֹפָר the trumpat	הִקְעָוּ הִקְעָוּ	15
a sacred assembly	Call		a iast	Consecrate		in Zion	the trumpet	Blow	
N-fs	V-Qal-Imp-mp		N-ms	V-Piel-Imp-mp		Prep-b   N-proper-fs	N-ms	V-Qal-Imp-mp	

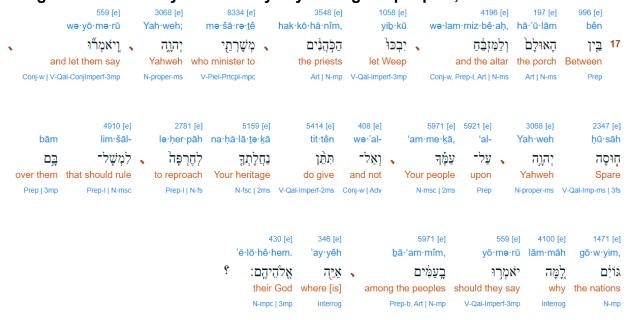
- 1. Priest are addressed and told to blow the trumpet.
- 2. Similar to the Lord sounding his trumpet in Joel 2:1 to either:
  - a. Organize his army for invasion
  - b. Or, telling the watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem to sound the alarm because the Lord's army is beginning their invasion of Jerusalem.
- 3. This is a command for the priest to:
  - a. take the lead,
  - b. organize the community and
  - c. do their job
- 4. Notice the need for full public repentance. All the people are to join in the assembly of repentance including elders, children, infants, bride and bridegroom... "all the people" are to gather.

## Joel 2:16 – "gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.



1. "Consecrate" or "Sanctify" from qadash - /kaw-dash/- means "to be set apart"

Joel 2:17 – "Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, "Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"



### Solomon's Temple as seen in Jerusalem

in Ezekiel's vision of 5 92 BC in Ezekiel 8-10 Outer Court Yard NORTH The Upper or North Gate Inner Court Yard EAST Side Rooms Pillars "Jakin" Most Holy Place East Gate Bronze Altar Holy Portico Altar of Burnt Offering Place Covenant Bronze Basin SOUTH