

**November 7–13: Hosea 1–6; 10–14; Joel, “I Will Love Them Freely”**

Warning to Israel

Joel was a prophet serving in the Southern Kingdom (Judah). He predates Isaiah by about 50 years. So, like Isaiah, he is a voice of warning to Judah that they will be destroyed if they do not repent.

Hosea seems to have been the last prophet of the Northern Kingdom (Ephraim) before they were taken captive by Syria. This would have made him a contemporary with Isaiah who was serving in the Southern Kingdom.

Joel uses the metaphor of a husbandmen neglecting his crop (the source of his support) to emphasize that Judah has forgotten their God

Joel 1:9-13

9 The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD’s ministers, mourn.

10 The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth.

11 Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.

12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.

13 Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.

What does Joel warn Judah that they will lose if they don’t turn again to the Lord?

(the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD  
the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of  
your God)

Hosea also warns Ephraim that they will lose the temple ordinances.

Hos 4:6-10

6 ¶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame.

8 They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity.

9 And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings.

10 For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the LORD.

What does Hosea state is the reason that the priest-performed ceremonies are lost?

(My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge because they have left off to take heed to the LORD)

Hos 6:6-7

6 For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

7 But they like men have transgressed the covenant: there have they dealt treacherously against me.

What does the Lord state that He desires more than burnt offerings?

(the knowledge of God)

Marion D. Hanks

“Hundreds of years before Christ, God confronted the willful ignorance of Israel in these words: ‘My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee ... seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God. ...’

“The knowledge for lack of which they suffered is plainly explained by Hosea:

‘... the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

‘For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.’” (CR, April 1972)

The Army of the Lord

Joel 2:1-3,9-11

1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

2 A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

3 A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and

nothing shall escape them.

9 They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief.

10 The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

11 And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?

According to verse 2, what will be the state of the world when this army advances?

(for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand  
A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness)

Neal A. Maxwell

“We must not underestimate, however, the difficulty of the last days. Joel and Zephaniah both speak of the last days as being ‘a day of ... gloominess.’ The coming decades will be times of despair. Why? Because, as Moroni said, despair comes of iniquity. The more iniquity, the more despair. And unless there is widespread repentance, despair will both deepen and spread—except among those who have gospel gladness.” (CR, Oct. 1982)

What “army” do you think is being referenced in these verses?

D&C 105:31-32

30 ... I will hold the armies of Israel guiltless... scattering their watchmen, and avenging me of mine enemies unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.

31 But first let my army become very great, and let it be sanctified before me, that it may become fair as the sun, and clear as the moon, and that her banners may be terrible unto all nations;

32 That the kingdoms of this world may be constrained to acknowledge that the kingdom of Zion is in very deed the kingdom of our God and his Christ...

John Taylor

“We will stretch out further and further. Zion's cords shall be lengthened and her stakes shall be strengthened until her armies shall become mighty and numerous and until God shall say to the Gentiles, it is enough.” (JD, 21:111)

Hos 11:10-11

10 They shall walk after the LORD: he shall roar like a lion: when he shall roar, then

the children shall tremble from the west.

11 They shall tremble as a bird out of Egypt, and as a dove out of the land of Assyria: and I will place them in their houses, saith the LORD.

What effect will the gathering of the army of Zion have on the rest of the world?

(then the children shall tremble from the west)

### Approaching Armageddon

We will learn more about Armageddon in the next few weeks as we study the words of other Old Testament prophets

Joel describes the perpetration of this great battle

Joel 3:1-2,9-12

1 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,

2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, 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.

9 ¶ Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare 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 pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

11 Assemble yourselves, and come, all ye heathen, and gather yourselves together round about: thither cause thy mighty ones to come down, O LORD.

12 Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

Why do you think Joel is admonishing the gentiles to prepare for battle?

(let the weak say, I am strong  
for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about)

Dean L. Larsen

“The Savior himself said that conditions toward the end of this dispensation would very much resemble those that existed just before the Flood. ‘As the days of Noe were,’ he said, ‘so shall also the coming of the Son of man be’ (Matt 24:37).

“Joel saw the period of time in which we live as a great battleground for the souls of men....

“Joel saw that this great battle would not be regarded in a casual way. It would be no time for weakness nor weaklings.” (CR, April 1983)

While other nations prepare physically, the righteous are to prepare spiritually

Joel 3:13-17

13 Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe: come, get you down; for the press is full, the fats 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 the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

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.

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.

The Lord states that He will fight for the people of Israel

Joseph Fielding Smith

“We find Joel, Zephaniah, Zechariah, all proclaiming that in this last day, the day when the sun shall be darkened and the moon turned to blood and the stars fall from heaven, that the nations of the earth would gather against Jerusalem. All of them speak of it; and when that time comes, the Lord is going to come out of His hiding place.” (Signs of the Times, pg. 170)

What do you think he means by “the valley of decision”?

Wilford Woodruff

“He has... called upon the inhabitants of the world to prepare themselves for the great day of his second advent and coming, which is at hand. He is calling upon them loudly today; and, as I have said to some of my brethren lately, the Lord now wants to know whether the Latter-day Saints are willing to work with him or not. It is a day of decision.” (JD, 18:109)

Our actions will show what whether or not we have made that decision

Joel 2:12-16

12 ¶ Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

14 Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?

15 ¶ Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the

children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

What do you think he means by “rend your heart, and not your garments”?

Maybe repent and have your heart changed rather than have fear and anguish when we see the signs of the times

He promises that the Lord will “pour out [his] Spirit upon all flesh.”

Moroni quoted these verses to Joseph Smith:

“He also quoted the second chapter of Joel, from the twenty-eighth verse to the last. He also said that this was not yet fulfilled, but was soon to be.” (JSH 1:41)

Joel 2:28-29,32

28 ¶ And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.

What evidence do we see that the Lord is fulfilling this promise?

Gordon B. Hinckley

“The vision of Joel has been fulfilled....

“There has been more of scientific discovery during these years than during all of the previous history of mankind. Transportation, communication, medicine, public hygiene, the unlocking of the atom, the miracle of the computer, with all of its ramifications, have blossomed forth, particularly in our own era. During my own lifetime, I have witnessed miracle after wondrous miracle come to pass. We take it for granted.

“And, with all of this, the Lord has restored His ancient priesthood. He has organized His Church and kingdom during the past century and a half. He has led His people. They have been tempered in the crucible of terrible persecution. He has brought to pass the wondrous time in which we now live.

“We have seen only the foreshadowing of the mighty force for good that this Church will become. And yet I marvel at what has been accomplished.” (CR, Oct. 2001)

Wilford Woodruff

“The day has already dawned when the light of heaven is to fill the earth; the day in which the Lord has said that nothing should be kept hidden, . . . the day in which everything that has been kept from the knowledge of man ever since the foundation of the earth, must be revealed; . . . It is a day in which the gospel is to be preached to every nation, tongue and people for a witness of what shall follow.” (JD, 24:51)

### After Armageddon

The Lord will appear to end battle and save Israel

Joel 3:18-21

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.

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.

20 But Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem from generation to generation.

21 For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed: for the LORD dwelleth in Zion.

Hosea 14:5-8

5 I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon.

6 His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the olive tree, and his smell as Lebanon.

7 They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon.

8 Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him

How will Israel be changed after the end of the battle of Armageddon?

The land will be safe and bountiful

(Judah shall dwell for ever, and Jerusalem

I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed

Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him)