

The Voices of God to Israel: The Minor Prophets

9 – REPENTANCE AND THE DIVINE RESPONSE (JOEL 2:12-3:21)

I. The Call to Repentance (Joel 2:12-17)

A. Turn Back (Joel 2:12-13a)

- The Lord personally calls them to turn back to him with all of their hearts.
- They were to express outwardly the breaking of their hearts.

B. The Lord's Character (Joel 2:13b-14)

- The Lord is described as gracious and merciful.
- The Lord is slow to anger and his character is one of great kindness.
- The Lord is described as relenting from doing harm.

C. The Sacred Assembly (Joel 2:15-17)

- The priests are told to consecrate a fast and call a sacred assembly.
- All of the people, from babies to elders, are to gather for this assembly.
- The priests were to weep and intercede before the Lord concerning sparing Israel.

II. The Divine Response (Joel 2:18-3:21)

A. Forgiveness and Restoration (Joel 2:18-27)

- In response to their cries, the Lord will be zealous for the land and pity the people.
- The Lord will bless them agriculturally and no longer make them a reproach to others.
- The Lord will drive their enemies far from them and the stench of their bodies will fill the air.
- The Lord calls the land not to fear because he will restore what the locusts have eaten.
- The Lord affirms that his people will never be shamed again and will know that he is God.

B. Divine Promises (Joel 2:28-3:21)

1. Renewal and Deliverance (Joel 2:28-32)

- The Lord will pour out his Spirit on all people.
- This will be followed by the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

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- The Day of the Lord will be preceded by threatening signs in the heavens.
- Those, who call on the name of the Lord, will be saved.

2. The Judgment of the Nations (Joel 3:1-16)

- The Lord will bring back the exiles of Israel and Judah.
- The Lord will gather all of the nations in the Valley of Jehoshaphat for judgment.
- The Lord will judge the nations for their treatment of Israel.
- The Lord will require that they repay Israel for their offenses against God's people.
- Israel will be granted superiority over the nations.

3. Israel's Restoration (Joel 3:17-21)

- Israel will know that the Lord is their God and that he dwells with them.
- Jerusalem will be holy and no foreigner will ever pass through her again.
- The Land will be productive and Israel's ancient enemies will be desolate.
- Judah and Jerusalem will abide forever because the Lord has acquitted them of their sin.