

# 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·bē·mis·pēd.	ū·bē·bē·kī	ū·bē·šō·wm	le·bab·kem;	bē·kāl	'ā·day	šū·bū	Yah·weh,	nē·'um-	'at·tāh	we·gam-
– וּבְמִסְפַּד׃	וּבְבְכִי	וּבְצוּם	לְבַבְכֶם	בְּכָל־	עָדִי	שׁוּבוּ	יְהוָה	נֹאֵם־	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.

2587 [e]	3588 [e]	430 [e]	3068 [e]	413 [e]	7725 [e]	899 [e]	408 [e]	3824 [e]	7167 [e]
han·nūn	kī-	'ē·lō·hē·kem;	Yah·weh	'el-	wə·šū·bū	biḡ·dē·kem,	wə·'al-	le·bab·kem	wə·qir·ū
חַנּוּן	כִּי־	אֱלֹהֵיכֶם	יְהוָה	אֶל־	וּשׁוּבוּ	בְּגָדֵיכֶם	וְאֶל־	לְבַבְכֶם	וְקִרְעוּ 13
gracious	for	your God	Yahweh	to	and Return	your garments	and not	your heart	so rend
Adj-ms	Conj	N-mpc   2mp	N-proper-ms	Prep	Conj-w   V-Qal-Imp-mp	N-mpc   2mp	Conj-w   Adv	N-msc   2mp	Conj-w   V-Qal-Imp-mp

7451 [e]	5921 [e]	5162 [e]	2617 [e]	7227 [e]	639 [e]	750 [e]	1931 [e]	7349 [e]
hā·rā·'āh.	'al-	wə·ni·hām	he·sed,	wə·rab-	'ap·pa·yim	'e·rek	hū,	wə·ra·hūm
הַרְעָה׃	עַל־	וְנִחַם	חֶסֶד	וְרַב־	אֲפִים	אָרַךְ	הוּא	וְרַחוּם
doing harm	from	and He relents	of kindness	and great	to anger	Slow	He [is]	and merciful
Art   Adj-fs	Prep	Conj-w   V-Nifal-Prtcpl-ms	N-ms	Conj-w   Adj-msc	N-md	Adj-msc	Pro-3ms	Conj-w   Adj-ms

1. The formula and typical character of God that allows repentance:
  - a. Num.14:18 – “The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, 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 ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them.”
  - c. Psalm 86:15 – “But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”
  - d. Psalm 103:8 – “The Lord is merciful and gracious, 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 you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster.’ ”
  - g. Nahum 1:3 – “The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, 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?**”

4503 [e]	1293 [e]	310 [e]	7604 [e]	5162 [e]	7725 [e]	3045 [e]	4310 [e]
min·hāh	bə·rā·kāh,	'a·hā·rāw	wə·hiš·'îr	wə·ni·hām;	yā·šūb	yō·w·dê·a'	mî
מִנְחָה	בְּרָכָה	אַחֲרָיו	וְהִשָּׁאִיר	וְנָחֵם	יָשׁוּב	יֹדֵעַ	מִי
a grain offering	a blessing	behind Him	and leave	and relent	[if] He will turn	knows	Who
N-fs	N-fs	Prep   3ms	Conj-w   V-Hifil-ConjPerf-3ms	Conj-w   V-Nifal-ConjPerf-3ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	Interrog

	430 [e]	3068 [e]	5262 [e]
פ	'ē·lō·hē·kēm.	Yah·weh	wā·ne·seḵ,
-	אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:	לַיהוָה	וְנִסָּךְ
	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;**

	6116 [e]	7121 [e]	6685 [e]	6942 [e]	6726 [e]	7782 [e]	8628 [e]	
	‘ā-ṣā-rāh.	qir·’ū	ṣō-wm	qad-dē-šū-	bə-ṣī-yō-wn;	šō-w-pār	tiq·’ū	
—	עֲצֵרָה:	קראו	צום	קדשו	בציון	שופר	תקעו	15
	a sacred assembly	Call	a fast	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.**

3243 [e]	5768 [e]	622 [e]	2205 [e]	6908 [e]	6951 [e]	6942 [e]	5971 [e]	622 [e]	
wə-yō-ne-qé	‘ō-w-lā-lfm,	‘is-pū	ze-qé-nīm,	qib-šū	qā-hāl	qad-dē-šū	‘ām	‘is-pū-	
וינקו	עוללים	אספו	זקנים	קבצו	קהל	קדשו	עם	אספו	16
and babes	the sons	Gather	the elders	Assemble	the congregation	Sanctify	the people	Gather	
Conj-w   V-Qal-Prctpt-mpc	N-mp	V-Qal-Imp-mp	Adj-mp	V-Qal-Imp-mp	N-ms	V-Piel-Imp-mp	N-ms	V-Qal-Imp-mp	

  

2646 [e]	3618 [e]	2315 [e]	2860 [e]	3318 [e]	7699 [e]	
mê-ḥup-pā-tāh.	wə-ka-lāh	mê-ḥed-rōw,	hā-tān	yē-šé	šā-dā-yim;	
מחפתה:	וכלה	מחדרו	חתן	יצא	שדים	
from her dressing room	and the bride	from his chamber	the bridegroom	let go out	nursing	
Prep-m   N-fsc   3fs	Conj-w   N-fs	Prep-m   N-msc   3ms	N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	N-md	

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?'"

559 [e] we-yō-me-rū	3068 [e] Yah-weh;	8334 [e] me-šā-re-tê	3548 [e] hak-kō-hā-nīm,	1058 [e] yib-kū	4196 [e] we-lam-miz-bé-ah,	197 [e] hā-'ū-lām	996 [e] bên
וַיֹּאמְרוּ	יְהוָה	מְשָׁרְתָי	הַכֹּהֲנִים	יִבְכוּ	וְלַמְזִבְחַ	הַאֲוֵלָם	בֵּין
and let them say	Yahweh	who minister to	the priests	let Weep	and the altar	the porch	Between
Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjImperf-3mp	N-proper-ms	V-Piel-Prtcpl-mpc	Art   N-mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Conj-w, Prep-l, Art   N-ms	Art   N-ms	Prep

4910 [e] lim-šāl-	2781 [e] le-her-pāh	5159 [e] na-hā-lā-tē-kā	5414 [e] tit-tēn	408 [e] we-'al-	5971 [e] 'am-me-kā,	5921 [e] 'al-	3068 [e] Yah-weh	2347 [e] hū-sāh
לְמַשְׁלֵ-	לְהַרְפֹּה	נַחֲלֶתְךָ	תִּתֵּן	וְאֶל-	עַמְּךָ	עַל-	יְהוָה	הַיּוֹסֵף
over them	that should rule	to reproach	Your heritage	do give	and not	Your people	upon	Yahweh
Prep   3mp	Prep-l   N-msc	Prep-l   N-fs	N-fsc   2ms	V-Qal-Imperf-2ms	Conj-w   Adv	N-msc   2ms	Prep	N-proper-ms

430 [e] 'ē-lō-hé-hem.	346 [e] 'ay-yēh	5971 [e] bā-'am-mīm,	559 [e] yō-me-rū	4100 [e] lām-māh	1471 [e] gō-w-yim,
אֵלֵהֶם:	אֵי	בְּעַמִּים	יֹאמְרוּ	לְמָה	גוֹיִם
their God	where [is]	among the peoples	should they say	why	the nations
N-mpc   3mp	Interrog	Prep-b, Art   N-mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Interrog	N-mp

**Solomon's Temple as seen in Jerusalem**  
*in Ezekiel's vision of 5 92 BC*  
*in Ezekiel 8-10*

