

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] ū-bə-miš-pēd.	1065 [e] ū-bə-be-kī	6685 [e] ū-bə-šō-wm	3824 [e] lə-bab-kem;	3605 [e] be-kāl	5704 [e] 'ā-day	7725 [e] šu-bū	3068 [e] Yah-weh,	5002 [e] ne'-um-	6258 [e] 'at-tāh	1571 [e] we-ğam-
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] ḥan-nūn	3588 [e] ki-	430 [e] 'é-lō-hé-kem;	3068 [e] Yah-weh	413 [e] 'el-	7725 [e] wə-šū-əbū	899 [e] biğ-dē-kem,	408 [e] we'al-	3824 [e] lə-bab-kem	7167 [e] wə-qir-
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-msc | 2mp Conj-w | Adv N-msc | 2mp Conj-w | V-Qal-Imp-mp

7451 [e] hā-rā-'āh.	5921 [e] 'al-	5162 [e] wə-ni-ħām	2617 [e] ħe-sed,	7227 [e] wə-rab-	639 [e] 'ap-pa-yim	750 [e] 'e-rek	1931 [e] ħū,	7349 [e] wə-ra-ħūm
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-Prtcl-ms N-msc 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:

- 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.”
- 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.”
- Psalm 86:15 – “But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.”
- Psalm 103:8 – “The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”
- Psalm 145:8 – “The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”
- 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.’ ”
- 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:

- Gracious
- Merciful
- Slow to anger
- Abounding in steadfast love
- 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·ḥāh	bə·rā·kāh,	'a·ḥā·rāw	wə·hiš·'îr	wə·ni·ḥām;	yā·šūb	yō·w·dē·a'	mî
מְנַחָה	בָרֶךָה	אַחֲרֵי	וְהַשְׁאֵר	וּנְחַם	יִשְׁׁוֹב	יְדֻעַ	מַיִ
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-Prtcl-ms	Interrog

430 [e]	3068 [e]	5262 [e]
þ	'ě·lō·hē·kem.	Yah·weh
? פ	אֱלֹהִים:	לִיהְוָה
-	your God	for Yahweh
Punc	N-mpc 2mp	Prep-I N-proper-ms
		Conj-w N-ms

1. “Who knows?”

- Is *mi yowdea* in Hebrew:

- mi* - /me/ - means “who?”
- 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] ‘ă·šā·rāh.	7121 [e] qir·’ū	6685 [e] śō·wm	6942 [e] qad·dē·šū-	6726 [e] bē·šî·yō·wn;	7782 [e] śō·w·pār	8628 [e] tiq·’ū
— עֲשָׂרָה: קְרָאוּ זָמֵן קְדֻשָּׁה בְּצִיּוֹן שׁוֹפֵר תְּקֻעָה 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	

- Priest are addressed and told to blow the trumpet.
- Similar to the Lord sounding his trumpet in Joel 2:1 to either:
 - Organize his army for invasion
 - Or, telling the watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem to sound the alarm because the Lord's army is beginning their invasion of Jerusalem.
- This is a command for the priest to:
 - take the lead,
 - organize the community and
 - do their job
- 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] we·yō·ne·qē	5768 [e] 'ō·w-lā·līm,	622 [e] 'is·pū	2205 [e] ze·qē·nīm,	6908 [e] qib·šū	6951 [e] qā·hāl	6942 [e] qad·dē·šū	5971 [e] 'ām	622 [e] 'is·pū-
וַיּוֹנֶגֶת וּלְלוּלִים אָסְפָּה קָזָבְנִים קָבָצְוָה קָהָל קְדֻשָּׁה עַם אָסְפָּרִי and babes the sons Gather the elders Assemble the congregation Sanctify the people Gather	N-mp V-Qal-Imp-mp	Adj-mp V-Qal-Imp-mp	V-Qal-Imp-mp	N-ms	V-Piel-Imp-mp	N-ms	V-Qal-Imp-mp	

2646 [e] mē·hup·pā·tāh.	3618 [e] we·kal·lāh	2315 [e] mē·hed·rōw,	2860 [e] hā·tān	3318 [e] yē·shē	7699 [e] šā·dā·yim;	
מִתְחַפֵּתָה מִתְחַלֵּה מִתְחַדְּרוֹתָה חַתָּן נָאָזָן שָׁבָדִים 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·mə·rū and let them say Conj-w V-Qal-ConjImperf-3mp	3068 [e] Yah·weh; Yahweh N-proper-ms	8334 [e] mə ū·rə·tē who minister to V-Piel-Prtcpl-mpc	3548 [e] hak·kō·hā·nīm, the priests Art N-mp	1058 [e] yib·kū let Weep V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	4196 [e] we·lām·miz·bē·ah, and the altar Conj-w, Prep-l, Art N-ms	197 [e] hā·'ū·lām the porch Art N-ms	996 [e] bēn Between Prep
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bām בָם over them Prep 3mp	4910 [e] lim·šāl- that should rule Prep-I N-msc	2781 [e] le·her·pāh to reproach Prep-I N-fs	5159 [e] na·hā·lā·tē·kā Your heritage N-fsc 2ms	5414 [e] tit·tēn do give V-Qal-Imperf-2ms	408 [e] we·'al- and not Conj-w Adv	5971 [e] 'am·me·kā, Your people N-msc 2ms	5921 [e] 'al- upon Prep	3068 [e] Yah·weh Yahweh N-proper-ms	2347 [e] hū·sāh Spare V-Qal-Imp-ms 3fs
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? אֱלֹהֵיכֶם: their God N-mpc 3mp	430 [e] 'ě·lō·hē·hem. where [is] Interrog	346 [e] 'ay·yēh among Prep-b, Art N-mp	5971 [e] bā·'am·mîm, among the peoples Art N-mp	559 [e] yō·mē·rū should they say V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	4100 [e] lām·māh Outer Court Yard The Upper or North Gate	1471 [e] gō·w·yim, the nations N-mp
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Solomon's Temple as seen in Jerusalem

in Ezekiel's vision of 592 BC

in Ezekiel 8-10

