

Joel 3:9-16

Joel 3:9 – “Proclaim this among the nations: Consecrate for war; stir up the mighty men. Let all the men of war draw near; let them come up.

5066 [e]	1368 [e]	5782 [e]	4421 [e]	6942 [e]	1471 [e]	2063 [e]	7121 [e]
yig-gə-šū	hag-gib-bō-w-rîm,	hā-ʿî-rū	mil-hā-māh;	qad-də-šū	bag-gō-w-yim,	zōt	qir-ʿū-
— יִגְשׁוּ	הַגְּבוּרִים	הַעִירֵנוּ	מִלְחָמָה	קַדְשׁוּ	— בְּגוֹיִם	זֹאת	קְרְאוּ 9
let draw near	the mighty men	Wake up	for war	Prepare	among the nations	this	Proclaim
V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Art Adj-mp	V-Hifil-Imp-mp	N-fs	V-Piel-Imp-mp	Prep-b, Art N-mp	Pro-fs	V-Qal-Imp-mp

4421 [e]	582 [e]	3605 [e]	5927 [e]
ham-mil-hā-māh.	ʿan-šê	kōl	ya-ʿā-lū,
· הַמִּלְחָמָה:	אֲנָשֵׁי	כֹּל	— יַעֲלוּ
of war	the men	all	let them come up
Art N-fs	N-mpc	N-msc	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp

1. God calls the nations to battle.
 - a. The nations may think God is calling them to battle to be victorious.
 - b. But, the Lord is calling the nations to march into battle to be defeated.
 - c. Revelation 16:13-16 (Read 16:12-21 with earthquake the splits Jerusalem into three parts) – “And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. . . . And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.”
 - d. Zechariah 12:9 – “And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.”
 - e. Zechariah 14:2-3 – “For I will gather all the nations for battle against Jerusalem, and the city will be captured, the houses looted, and the women ravished. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be removed from the city. Then the LORD will go out to fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle.”
2. “Nations” mentioned 3x times in these verses :
 - a. 3:9 – “Proclaim among the nations: Consecrate for war...draw near...come up.””
 - b. 3:11 – “Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather...”
 - c. 3:12 – “Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat...”
3. Those announcing the proclamation are likely angels.

3:10 – “Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, “I am a warrior.”

589 [e]	1368 [e]	559 [e]	2523 [e]	7420 [e]	4211 [e]	2719 [e]	855 [e]	3807 [e]
ʿā-nî.	gib-bō-wr	yō-mar	ha-ḥal-laš,	lir-mā-ḥîm;	ū-maz-mə-rō-tê-ḵem	la-ḥā-rā-bō-wt,	ʿit-tê-ḵem	kōt-tū
· אָנִי:	גְּבוּר	יֹאמֵר	הַחֲלָשׁ	— לְרִמְתֵּימ	וּמִזְמַרְתֵּיכֶם	לְחַרְבֹת	אֲתֵיכֶם	כִּתּוּ 10
I [am]	strong	let say	the weak	into spears	and your pruning hooks	into swords	your plowshares	Beat
Pro-1cs	Adj-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Art Adj-ms	Prep-l N-mp	Conj-w N-fpc 2mp	Prep-l, Art N-fp	N-mpc 2mp	V-Qal-Imp-mp

1. In verse 3:9 and 3:10 the preparations are made including using everything possible as a military weapon. Likely, every man available is armed for this battle by the nations.

2. Joel (360 BC) mimics a verse used by Micah (750-686 BC) and Isaiah (740-681 BC) 300 years earlier by reversing the order:

MICAH 4:3 - “He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

ISAIAH 2:4 - “He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”

 - a. Psalm 46:9 – “He makes wars to cease throughout the earth; He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; He burns the shields in the fire.” (Read Psalm 46)
 - b. Psalm 110:6 – “He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead; He will crush the leaders far and wide.” (Read Psalm 110)
 - c. Isaiah 17:12-14 – “Ah, the thunder of many peoples; they thunder like the thundering of the sea! Ah, the roar of nations; they roar like the roaring of mighty waters! The nations roar like the roaring of many waters, but he will rebuke them, and they will flee far away, chased like chaff on the mountains before the wind and whirling dust before the storm. At evening time, behold, terror! Before morning, they are no more! This is the portion of those who loot us, and the lot of those who plunder us.” (Read Isaiah 17 “An oracle concerning Damascus”)
3. “Weak” are converted into “warriors” just like farming equipment is converted into their “weapons”.
 - a. These weak may be common, untrained men.
 - b. A sense of “haste” and unpreparedness is in these verses.
 - c. Is this the result of universal disarmament under the leadership of the anti-Christ
 - i. “Peace, peace” had been the political position, but the Lord calls them out of their *hamas* (social violence and political oppression) instated peace to gather for war.
 - ii. 1 Thessalonians 5:3 – “While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.”
4. Joel’s wording is short, hurried and staccato giving even the reading of these verses a sense of disorder and rush in an attempt to prepare for something they were not expecting.

3:11 – “Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves there. Bring down your warriors, O LORD.

1368 [e]	3068 [e]	5181 [e]	8033 [e]	6908 [e]	5439 [e]	1471 [e]	3605 [e]	935 [e]	5789 [e]
gib·bō·w·re·kā.	Yah·weh	han·ḥat	šām·māh	wə·niq·bā·šū;	mis·sā·bīḇ	hag·gō·w·yim	kāl	wā·bā·'ū	'ū·šū
גִּבּוֹרֵי־ךָ׃	יְהוָה	הַחַת	שָׁמָּה	וְנִקְבְּצוּ	מִסָּבִיב	הַגּוֹיִם	כָּל־	וּבָאוּ	עֲשׂוּ׃
Your mighty ones	Yahweh	Cause to go down	there	and gather together	all around	you nations	all	and come	Assemble
Adj-mpc 2ms	N-proper-ms	V-Hifil-Imp-ms	Adv 3fs	Conj-w V-Nifal-ConjPerf-3cp	Prep-m Adv	Art N-mp	N-msc	Conj-w V-Qal-Imp-mp	V-Qal-Imp-mp

1. The nations had earlier in history attacked, destroyed and dispersed Judah. Now the nations are being drawn in to the same location with the same intentions, but this time the outcome will be different.
 - a. The difference between the nations invading to disperse Judah and the nations invading to be judged for having dispersed Judah is even seen in Jesus end times teaching in Luke (and, in Matthew):

- i. Luke 21:20-24 (70 AD) – “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.
- ii. Luke 21:25-28 (Valley of Jehoshaphat) - “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

3:12 – “Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.

3427 [e]	8033 [e]	3588 [e]	3092 [e]	6010 [e]	413 [e]	1471 [e]	5927 [e]	5782 [e]
'ê-šêḇ	šām,	kī	ye-hō-wō-šā-pāt;	'ê-meq	'el-	hag-gō-w-yim,	wə-ya-'ā-lū	yê-'ō-w-rū
אֲשֶׁב	שָׁם	כִּי	יְהוֹשָׁפָט	עִמָּק	אֶל-	הַגּוֹיִם	וַיַּעֲלוּ	יִעֲלוּ 12
I will sit	there	for	of Jehoshaphat	the Valley	to	the nations	and come up	Let be wakened
V-Qal-Imperf-1cs	Adv	Conj	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Prep	Art N-mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjImperf-3mp	V-Nifal-Imperf-3mp

5439 [e]	1471 [e]	3605 [e]	853 [e]	8199 [e]
mis-sā-bīb.	hag-gō-w-yim	kāl-	'et-	liš-pōt
מִסְבִּיב:	הַגּוֹיִם	כָּל-	אֶת-	לְשַׁפֵּט
surrounding	the nations	all	-	to judge
Prep-m Adv	Art N-mp	N-msc	DirObjM	Prep-I V-Qal-Inf

1. “Jehoshaphat” a name made from two word *YHWH* (the Name of the Lord) and *shaphat* which means “judge” or “govern”. This word *jehoshaphat* means “the LORD has judged”
2. If this location is not able to be identified it may simply be referring to the valley where the LORD will judge the nations which will be “the valley where the Lord judges”

3:13 – “Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great.

1660 [e]	4390 [e]	3588 [e]	3381 [e]	935 [e]	7105 [e]	1310 [e]	3588 [e]	4038 [e]	7971 [e]
gat,	mā-le-'āh	kī-	re-dū	bō-'ū	qā-šîr;	bā-šal	kī	mag-gāl,	šil-ḥū
גֶּת	מְלֵאָה	כִּי	רְדוּ	בָּאוּ	קָצִיר	בָּשֵׁל	כִּי	מְגָל	שִׁלְחוּ 13
the winepress	is full	for	go down	come	The harvest	is ripe	for	in the sickle	Put
N-fs	V-Qal-Perf-3fs	Conj	V-Qal-Imp-mp	V-Qal-Imp-mp	N-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms	Conj	N-ms	V-Qal-Imp-mp

7451 [e]	7227 [e]	3588 [e]	3342 [e]	7783 [e]
rā-'ā-tām.	rab-bāh	kī	hay-qā-bīm,	hē-šî-qū
רָעָתָם:	רַבָּה	כִּי	הַיָּקְבִים	הִשְׁקִיפוּ
their wickedness [is]	great	for	the vats	overflow
N-fsc 3mp	Adj-fs	Conj	Art N-mp	V-Hifil-Perf-3cp

1. The “sickle” and the “winepress” along with the eschatological timing seems to have a clear connection with Revelation 14, particularly 14:14-20 when “gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God’s wrath. They were trampled in the winepress outside the city”
 - a. The winepress could be the Valley of Jehoshaphat formed in Zechariah 14
 - b. The city the winepress is outside of could be Jerusalem
 - c. The blood flowing 1,600 stadia (or, 180 miles) could be the 214 miles (driving), 155 miles (by air), or 150-180 miles (flowing in wadi’s to the Dead Sea and cutting a river bed to Gulf of Aqaba) from Jerusalem to Gulf of Aqaba

3:14 – “Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

2742 [e]	6010 [e]	3068 [e]	3117 [e]	7138 [e]	3588 [e]	2742 [e]	6010 [e]	1995 [e]	1995 [e]
he·ḥā·rūṣ.	bə·'ê·meq	Yah·weh,	yō·wm	qā·rō·wḇ	kî	he·ḥā·rūṣ;	bə·'ê·meq	hā·mō·w·nîm,	hā·mō·w·nîm
הַחַרְוֹץ:	בְּעֵמֶק	יְהוָה	יוֹם	קָרוֹב	כִּי	הַחַרְוֹץ	בְּעֵמֶק	הַמְּוֹנִים	וְהַמְּוֹנִים
of decision	in the valley	of Yahweh	the day	[is] near	for	of decision	in the valley	multitudes	Multitudes
Art N-ms	Prep-b N-msc	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Adj-ms	Conj	Art N-ms	Prep-b N-msc	N-mp	N-mp

3:15 – “The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.

5051 [e]	622 [e]	3556 [e]	6937 [e]	3394 [e]	8121 [e]
nā·gə·hām.	'ā·sə·pū	wə·kō·w·kā·bîm	qā·dā·rū;	wə·yā·rê·aḥ	še·meš
נִגְהָם:	אֶסְפוּ	וְכּוֹכְבֵימ	קָדְרוּ	וַיִּרְחַ	שֶׁמֶשׁ
their brightness	will diminish	and the stars	will grow dark	and moon	The sun
N-msc 3mp	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Conj-w N-mp	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Conj-w N-ms	N-cs

3:16 – “The LORD roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But the LORD is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel.

8064 [e]	7493 [e]	6963 [e]	5414 [e]	3389 [e]	7580 [e]	6726 [e]	3068 [e]
šā·ma·yim	wə·rā·'ā·šū	qō·w·lōw,	yit·tên	ū·mî·rū·šā·lim	yiš·'āg,	miš·šî·yō·wn	Yah·weh
שָׁמַיִם	וַיִּרְעָשׁוּ	קוֹלוֹ	יִתֵּן	וּמִירוּשָׁלַיִם	יִשָּׁאֵג	מִצִּיּוֹן	וַיְהִי־הָ
The heavens	and will shake	His voice	utter	and from Jerusalem	will roar	from Zion	Also Yahweh
N-mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3cp	N-msc 3ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Conj-w, Prep-m N-proper-fs	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Prep-m N-proper-fs	Conj-w N-proper-ms

3478 [e]	1121 [e]	4581 [e]	5971 [e]	4268 [e]	3068 [e]	776 [e]
yiš·rā·'él.	lib·nê	ū·mā·'ō·wz	le·'am·mōw,	ma·ḥā·seh	Yah·weh	wā·'ā·reš;
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	לְבָנָי	וּמְעוֹז	לְעַמּוֹ	מַחְסֵה	וַיְהִי־הָ	וְאָרֶץ
of Israel	of the sons	and the strength	for His people	a shelter	but Yahweh will be	and earth
N-proper-ms	Prep-l N-mpc	Conj-w N-ms	Prep-l N-msc 3ms	N-ms	Conj-w N-proper-ms	Conj-w N-fs