

# Joel 3:14-21

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-rūš.	bə-‘ê-meq	Yah-weh,	yō-wm	qā-rō-wḇ	kî	he-ḥā-rūš;	bə-‘ê-meq	hā-mō-w-nîm,	hā-mō-w-nîm
הַחַרְוֹץ:	בְּעֵמֶק	יְהוָה	יוֹם	קָרוֹב	כִּי	! הַחַרְוֹץ	בְּעֵמֶק	הַמְּוֹנִים	הַמְּוֹנִים 14
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

1. Three commentators say this:
  - a. "Their [the many multitudes] gathering against God shall be a token of His coming to judge them."
  - b. "Many preachers have appealed to verse 14 for an evangelistic thrust; their audiences are addressed as 'multitudes in the Valley of Decision' who must decide their fate. There is a problem with that use of this passage: in Joel the hordes do not gather to make a decision, but to hear one; they will not be deciding their fate, for God has already decreed it. The time for decisions is now past."
  - c. "It is the day of the Judge's decisions; not a time when men are being called upon to decide for Christ."
2. "Decision" refers to the Lord's decision against these people.
3. "Valley of Verdict"
4. "Near" from the perspective of the plan of the Lord
5. "Mobs of people, mobs of people, in the Valley of Verdict" is another way of translating this.
6. "Mobs" or "multitudes" indicates the vast number of people

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-ḡə-hām.	‘ā-se-pū	wə-kō-w-kā-bîm	qā-dā-rū;	wə-yā-rê-aḥ	še-meš
נֹגְהֵם:	אֶסְפּוּ	וְכֹכְבֵים	קָדְרוּ	וַיָּרַח	שֶׁמֶשׁ 15
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

1. Revelation 16:12-20 – “The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East. Then I saw three impure spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are demonic spirits that perform signs, and they go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. “Look, I come like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed, so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed.” Then they gathered the kings together to the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon. The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and out of the temple came a loud voice from the throne, saying, “It is done!” Then there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder and a severe earthquake. No earthquake like it has ever occurred since mankind has been on earth, so tremendous was the quake. The great city split into three parts, and the cities of the nations collapsed. God

remembered Babylon the Great and gave her the cup filled with the wine of the fury of his wrath. Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found.”

**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] šā·ma·yim	7493 [e] wə·rā·'ā·šū	6963 [e] qō·w·lōw,	5414 [e] yit·tên	3389 [e] ū·mī·rū·šā·lim	7580 [e] yiš·'āg,	6726 [e] miš·šī·yō·wn	3068 [e] Yah·weh
שָׁמַיִם	וְרָעָשׁוּ	קוֹלוֹ	יִתֵּן	וּמִירוּשָׁלַיִם	יִשָּׂאֵג	מִצִּיּוֹן	וַיְהוָה
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] yīś·rā·'êl.	1121 [e] lib·nê	4581 [e] ū·mā·'ō·wz	5971 [e] lə·'am·mōw,	4268 [e] ma·hā·seh	3068 [e] Yah·weh	776 [e] wā·'ā·reš;
יִשְׂרָאֵל:	לִבְנֵי	וּמְעוֹז	לְעַמּוֹ	מְחֻסָּה	וַיְהוָה	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

1. Shift from the Valley of Verdict to Mount Zion.
2. The Lord is in Zion, which is paralleled with Jerusalem. Zion is Jerusalem, and Zion is Mount Moriah in Jerusalem.
3. The shaking of the heavens and earth is a theophany, which is the arrival of the Lord to the earth.
4. When the Lord is in Zion, Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, he will (parallels):
  - a. Be a refuge to his people
  - b. Be a stronghold for the people of Israel

**3:17 – “So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain. And Jerusalem shall be holy, and strangers shall never again pass through it.**

6944 [e] qāḏ·šī	2022 [e] har-	6726 [e] bə·šī·yō·wn	7931 [e] šō·kên	430 [e] 'ē·lō·hē·kəm,	3068 [e] Yah·weh	589 [e] 'ā·nī	3588 [e] kī	3045 [e] wī·da·'tem,
קִדְשִׁי	הַר	בְּצִיּוֹן	שְׁכֵן	אֱלֹהֵיכֶם	יְהוָה	אֲנִי	כִּי	וַיִּדְעֻתֶם
My holy	mountain	in Zion	Dwelling	your God	Yahweh	I [am]	that	So you shall know
N-msc   1cs	N-msc	Prep-b   N-proper-fs	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	N-mpc   2mp	N-proper-ms	Pro-1cs	Conj	Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-2mp

s	5750 [e] 'ō·wḏ.	bāh	5674 [e] ya·'ab·rū-	3808 [e] lō-	2114 [e] wə·zā·rīm	6944 [e] qō·deš,	3389 [e] yə·rū·šā·lim	1961 [e] wə·hā·yə·tāh
ס	עוֹד:	בָּהּ	יַעֲבֹרוּ-	לֹא	וְזָרִים	קִדְשׁ	יְרוּשָׁלַיִם	וְהָיְתָה
-	ever again	her	shall pass through	no	and aliens	holy	Jerusalem	and shall be
Punc	Adv	Prep   3fs	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Adv-NegPrt	Conj-w   Adj-mp	N-ms	N-proper-fs	Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-3fs

1. Israel will know without a doubt that the LORD is in Jerusalem.
2. Isaiah 8:18 YHWH dwells on Mount Zion

3:18 – “And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Shittim.

1389 [e]	6071 [e]	2022 [e]	5197 [e]	1931 [e]	3117 [e]	1961 [e]
we·hag·gə·bā·'ō·wt	'ā·sis,	he·hā·rīm	yit·tə·pū	ha·hū	bay·yō·wm	we·hā·yāh
וְהִגְבְּעוֹת	עִסִּים	הַהָרִים	יִטְפוּ	הַהוּא	בַּיּוֹם	וְהָיָה 18
and the hills	with new wine	the mountains	[That] shall drip	that	in day	And it will come to pass
Conj-w, Art   N-fp	N-ms	Art   N-mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Art   Pro-3ms	Prep-b, Art   N-ms	Conj-w   V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms

1004 [e]	4599 [e]	4325 [e]	1980 [e]	3063 [e]	650 [e]	3605 [e]	2461 [e]	1980 [e]
mib·bêt	ū·ma'·yān,	mā·yim;	yê·lə·kū	ye·hū·dāh	'ā·pî·qê	wə·kāl	hā·lāb,	tê·lak·nāh
מִבֵּית	וּמַעְיָן	מַיִם	יִלְכוּ	יְהוּדָה	אֶפְיָקָי	וְכֹל־	חֵלֶב	תִּלְכְּנָה
from the house	and a fountain	with water	shall be flooded	of Judah	the brooks	and all	with milk	shall flow
Prep-m   N-msc	Conj-w   N-ms	N-mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	N-proper-ms	N-mpc	Conj-w   N-msc	N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3fp

7851 [e]	5158 [e]	853 [e]	8248 [e]	3318 [e]	3068 [e]
haš·šit·tīm.	na·ḥal	'et-	wə·hiš·qāh	yê·šê,	Yah·weh
הַשִּׁטִּים:	נַחַל	אֶת־	וְהִשְׁקָה	יָצָא	יְהוָה
of Acacias	the Valley	-	and water	shall flow	of Yahweh
Art   N-proper-fs	N-msc	DirObjM	Conj-w   V-Hifil-ConjPerf-3ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	N-proper-ms

1. Joel moves from the Tribulation and Second Coming to the Kingdom Age in verse 18
2. The land of Israel will produce:
  - a. Vineyards with abundant wine
  - b. Herds of cattle on the hills with abundant milk
  - c. The dry wadis that are occasionally full of water with flow continuously with water from the river from the temple making Israel and the wilderness full of flowing rivers like Eden.
3. The source of the water is a fountain from the temple on Mount Moriah that fills the Kidron Valley
  - a. The Valley of Shittim is the Valley of Acacia Trees which is probably the Kidron Valley moving towards the Dead Sea

3:19 – “Egypt shall become a desolation and Edom a desolate wilderness, for the violence done to the people of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land.

2555 [e] mê·ḥā·mas	1961 [e] tih·yeh;	8077 [e] šə·mā·māh	4057 [e] lə·mid·bar	123 [e] we·'ē·dō·wm	1961 [e] tīh·yeh,	8077 [e] liš·mā·māh	4714 [e] miš·ra·yim	
מִחַמַּס	תִּהְיֶה	שָׁמָּה	לְמִדְבָּר	וְאֶדוֹם	תִּהְיֶה	לְשָׁמָּה	מִצְרַיִם	19
because of violence	shall be	desolate	a wilderness	and Edom	shall be	a desolation	Egypt	
Prep-m   N-msc	V-Qal-Imperf-3fs	N-fs	Prep-l   N-msc	Conj-w   N-proper-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-3fs	Prep-l   N-fs	N-proper-fs	

776 [e] bə·'ar·šām.	5355 [e] nā·qī	1818 [e] dām-	8210 [e] šā·pə·kū	834 [e] 'ā·šer-	3063 [e] ye·hū·dāh,	1121 [e] bə·nē
בְּאַרְצָם:	נָקִיא	דָּם	שָׁפְכוּ	אֲשֶׁר	יְהוּדָה	בְּנֵי
in their land	innocent	blood	they have shed	for	of Judah	[against] the sons
Prep-b   N-fsc   3mp	Adj-ms	N-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	Pro-r	N-proper-ms	N-mpc

1. Egypt and Edom may represent:

- a. Egypt an example of Gentile nations around the earth
- b. Edom an example of local Semetic nations around Israel

2. It is hard to imagine all the nations being desolate since the nations will be part of the kingdom age. It may be that the nations that had not been judged in time for their sins against Israel will be dealt with at this time

3:20 – **“But Judah shall be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem to all generations.”**

1755 [e] wā·dō·wr.	1755 [e] lə·dō·wr	3389 [e] wī·rū·šā·lim	3427 [e] tê·šêb;	5769 [e] lə·'ō·w·lām	3063 [e] wī·hū·dāh
וְדוֹר:	לְדוֹר	וִירוּשָׁלַם	תֵּשֵׁב	לְעוֹלָם	וַיְהוּדָה
and to generation	from generation	and Jerusalem	shall abide	forever	But Judah
Conj-w   N-ms	Prep-l   N-ms	Conj-w   N-proper-fs	V-Qal-Imperf-3fs	Prep-l   N-ms	Conj-w   N-proper-ms

1. All will be restored and historical justice distributed.

3:21 – **“I will avenge their blood, blood I have not avenged, for the LORD dwells in Zion.”**

6726 [e] bə·šī·yō·wn.	7931 [e] šō·kén	3068 [e] Yah·weh	5352 [e] niq·qê·tī;	3808 [e] lō-	1818 [e] dā·mām	5352 [e] we·niq·qê·tī
בְּצִיּוֹן:	שָׁכַן	יְהוָה	נִקֵּיתִי	לֹא	דָמָם	וְנִקֵּיתִי
in Zion	dwells	for Yahweh	whom I had acquitted	not	them of the [guilt] of bloodshed	For I will acquit
Prep-b   N-proper-fs	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	Conj-w   N-proper-ms	V-Piel-Perf-1cs	Adv-NegPrt	N-msc   3mp	Conj-w   V-Piel-ConjPerf-1cs