

Joel 3:16

We now start the final blessings to Israel. First, we find God's response regarding the people coming to the valley – Joel 3:16

- I. We see his response to the enemies of His people
 - a. Notice it says that the Lord will roar from Zion
 - i. This is very interesting in connection with what we know about God
 - ii. We see in Revelation 5:5¹ that Jesus is called the Lion of the Tribe of Judah
 1. Let us take a moment to think about this from a zoological perspective (info gathered off of whycenter.com)
 2. Male Lions patrol the borders of their territory, especially at night. During the patrol, the lion will roar to give the females in the pride security knowing that they are protected
 3. They also may roar to call out intruding male lions to come and fight.
 4. A roar also signifies the taking down of prey (fits with what we know is going to happen)
 5. What have we been studying! They are coming to war, but also their own destruction!
 6. This is why we can cross this with Isaiah 51:5-6
 - iii. We have also shown, or at least made the best connections possible to Jesus throughout this whole discussion of judgment
 - iv. The reason for this is because Jesus is going to be the judge – John 5:22
 1. The one who's name right now is hated and spit upon will be the one who will judge
 2. The one who's name is used for a curse word will be the name being cried out on multitudes for forgiveness
 3. The name of Jesus is the name that will bring all men to their knees – Philippians 2:10²
 - b. It also says that He will utter His voice from Jerusalem
 - i. This, if we are looking at it from the defense, is where God has chosen to put His name...in fact, while Jerusalem is called the city of David, it is also called the City of God – Psalm 48:1, 8
 - ii. God's name is in the city – Daniel 9:19 (they are His people, and His own name sake and His city)
 - iii. The Bible says that it is the city of the great King – Matthew 5:35³
 - c. three views of the voice vs the roaring

¹ Revelation 5:5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

² Philippians 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

³ Matthew 5:35 nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

- i. The first view: The roaring and voice is different to whom is listening
 - 1. The roaring is what the enemies hear -It is the sound of a victor over the defeated – Amos 3:4 (Lion is an example)
 - 2. The uttering is softer
 - a. It is geared for those who are His children
 - b. this also fits in with the fact that in this verse there is a transition.
 - c. Everything from Joel 3:2-15 it has been judgment after judgment (a blessing to God's people) against the nations
 - d. But now the transition will be seen in the last part of this verse
 - e. This is that transition
 - ii. The second view: The voice and the roar are the same thing - What they hear is a voice that comes out as a roar and it speaks of God coming upon His prey for destruction on them – Hosea 5:14
 - iii. The third view: Yes!
 - 1. We find that both views, I believe are accurate.
 - 2. To the enemy of God and God's people, it is going to be a voice that sounds like a roar of coming vengeance
 - 3. For His people, however, it is the voice of solitude and respite from their enemies! hence we will see the ending verse
- II. We see Creation responding to God
- a. Notice what Creation does!
 - i. When God speaks, the heavens and earth shake! –Isaiah 13:13⁴
 - ii. This is the same word as found in Joel 2:10
 - b. The creation knows who God is...It knows how to respond. – Habakkuk 3:10-16
 - i. Sadly, the highest pinnacle of creation, mankind, refuses to do so as well.
 - ii. Many say that there is no evidence that God exists. I say the fact that they are able to put together a cognitive sentence is about as good of evidence there will be.
 - iii. Instead, notice what the Bible says about mankind in connection to God – Psalm 14:1
- III. We find His response to His people
- a. Again, we have been dealing with the world and the enemies of God
 - i. Everything up to this is indeed judgment.
 - ii. This is not the same though starting here to the end of the book.
 - b. Notice what it says about God's people...God is a shelter!
 - i. This word brings to mind many great pictures of shelter
 - ii. But in the KJV, this word also carries the idea of hope! (Notice the hope of HIS people). Not all people.

⁴ Isaiah 13:13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, And the earth will move out of her place, In the wrath of the LORD of hosts And in the day of His fierce anger.

- c. God is the shelter to His people...a fact that He has made clear throughout the O.T. (We can see this several times in Psalms, proverbs, Isaiah and even here in Joel.
 - d. It is in God that they are to find their security.
 - i. This would make sense, even to us today
 - 1. Israel is not the largest nation in the world
 - 2. It is not the most militarily equipped or powerful nation in the world
 - 3. But it is the place where God has chosen to have His name in the world!
 - ii. In their weakness, they are to rest in God and allow God to work for them
 - iii. On their own, they would not stand a chance...hence the call to them to realize that God is their shelter.
- IV. Lesson for us: We need to realize who God is to both us and our enemies
- a. He is the roaring lion to those who are His enemies
 - i. Those who stand against God are against His will
 - ii. Those who go against God's will bring on themselves destruction from God.
 - iii. We can see a picture of this in **Isaiah 63:3**
 - b. He is the sanctuary to those who are His Children
 - i. God is our refuge during the need for help – **Psalm 46:1⁵**
 - ii. God is our refuge in the need of defense – **Isaiah 63:4**
 - iii. God is our refuge in the need of comfort – **2 Corinthians 1:3-4**
 - iv. God is our refuge in the need of the storms of our life – **Psalm 18:2**
 - c. He is the security for all nations that trust in Him – **Psalm 33:12⁶**
 - i. It is not in a nations wealth that there can be security
 - ii. It is not in Military might that there can be security – **Psalm 33:16-17**
 - iii. It is only in God that a nation and even a people can be secured – **Psalm 33:20**
 - d. He is our hope
 - i. We can see that this word is used in very special places in Scripture
 - 1. He is the hope for us – **Psalm 62:8**; **Psalm 94:22⁷** for example
 - 2. He is the hope for His children that call on Him – **Proverbs 14:26**
 - 3. He is our hope in the days that are evil against us – **Jeremiah 17:17**
 - ii. As we have seen, God is the hope and the refuge of His children
 - 1. We can rest in that. We can hide in that
 - 2. He is the one who is there for us
 - 3. We may wonder, where He is. We may wonder what He is doing
 - 4. But as His children, we must always remember that He is in control and knows what is going on and we are to submit our will to His.
 - 5. He has a purpose. We need to wait for Him to fulfill it. He will. And when He does move, we will know it and we will rejoice in Him.

⁵ **Psalm 46:1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the Sons of Korah. A Song For Alamoth.** God *is* our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.

⁶ **Psalm 33:12** Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.

⁷ **Psalm 94:22** But the LORD has been my defense, And my God the rock of my refuge.