

Annotated Expanded Analysis of

JOEL

"THE DAY OF THE LORD"

"Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty." Joel 1:15

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JOEL

"THE DAY OF THE LORD"

"Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty." Joel 1:15

A 1 THE PRESENT CATASTROPHE PREFIGURING THE DAY OF THE LORD 1

B 1 The Introduction: {1} The word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel. 1:1

B 2 The Locust Plague 1:2-14

C 1 An unprecedented disaster 1:2-3

D 1 Compared to the past: {2} Hear this, O elders, And listen, all inhabitants of the land. Has anything like this happened in your days Or in your fathers' days? 1:2

D 2 Preserved for the future: {3} Tell your sons about it, And *let* your sons *tell* their sons, And their sons the next generation. 1:3

C 2 Destruction by a locust tag-team! 1:4

D 1 {4} What the gnawing locust has left,

D 2 the swarming locust has eaten; And what the swarming locust has left,

D 3 the creeping locust has eaten; And what the creeping locust has left,

D 4 the stripping locust has eaten.

C 3 The call of the wine-drinkers to mourning 1:5

D 1 The objects of mourning

E 1 {5} Awake, drunkards, and weep;

E 2 And wail, all you wine drinkers,

D 2 The cause for mourning: On account of the sweet wine That is cut off from your mouth.

C 4 The description of the locust invaders 1:6

D 1 Like a mighty nation: {6} For a nation has invaded my land, Mighty and without number;

D 2 Like a ravenous lion: Its teeth are the teeth of a lion, And it has the fangs of a lioness.

- C 5 The devastation of the locust invaders 1:7
- D 1 {7} It has made my vine a waste
 - D 2 And my fig tree splinters.
 - D 3 It has stripped them bare and cast *them* away;
 - D 4 Their branches have become white.
- C 6 The renewed call to mourning: {8} Wail like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the bridegroom of her youth. 1:8
- C 7 The effects of the disaster upon the Israeli populace 1:9-12
- D 1 Upon the priests and their temple offerings: {9} The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off From the house of the LORD. The priests mourn, The ministers of the LORD. 1:9
 - D 2 Upon the farmers and their fields: {10} The field is ruined, The land mourns; For the grain is ruined, The new wine dries up, Fresh oil fails. {11} Be ashamed, O farmers, Wail, O vinedressers, For the wheat and the barley; Because the harvest of the field is destroyed. 1:10-11
 - D 3 Upon the consumers because of the vines and trees: {12} The vine dries up And the fig tree fails; The pomegranate, the palm also, and the apple tree, All the trees of the field dry up. Indeed, rejoicing dries up From the sons of men. 1:12
- C 8 The calls to lament humbly and to fast 1:13-14
- D 1 Addressed to the priests 1:13
 - E 1 The calls to self-humiliation and lamentation: {13} Gird yourselves *with sackcloth* And lament, O priests; Wail, O ministers of the altar! Come, spend the night in sackcloth O ministers of my God,
 - E 2 The reason for lamentation: For the grain offering and the drink offering Are withheld from the house of your God.
 - D 2 Concerning the elders and the inhabitants of the land 1:14
 - E 1 The call to fast: {14} Consecrate a fast, Proclaim a solemn assembly;
 - E 2 The proposed participants in the fast: Gather the elders *And* all the inhabitants of the land
 - E 3 The place of the fast: To the house of the LORD your God, And cry out to the LORD.

B 3 The Drought and Fire 1:15-20

- C 1 The characterization of the disaster 1:15
- D 1 Its proximity: {15} Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near,
- D 2 Its Divine destructiveness: And it will come as destruction from the Almighty.
- C 2 The effects of the disaster 1:16-20
- D 1 Starvation and sadness for the priests: {16} Has not food been cut off before our eyes, Gladness and joy from the house of our God? 1:16
- D 2 Drought-halted harvests: {17} The seeds shrivel under their clods; The storehouses are desolate, The barns are torn down, For the grain is dried up. 1:17
- D 3 Starving livestock: {18} How the beasts groan! The herds of cattle wander aimlessly Because there is no pasture for them; Even the flocks of sheep suffer. 1:18
- D 4 Flame-devoured pastures and orchards: {19} To You, O LORD, I cry; For fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness And the flame has burned up all the trees of the field. 1:19
- D 5 Thirsty and starving wild animals: {20} Even the beasts of the field pant for You; For the water brooks are dried up And fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness. 1:20

A 2 THE FUTURE DAY OF THE LORD 2 - 3**B 1 The Invading Northern Army (Described in Terms of the Past Locust Plague) 2:1-20**

- C 1 The description of the invasion 2:1-11 ¹
- D 1 The description of the day 2:1-2
- E 1 An alarming "Day of the Lord"! {1} Blow a trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm on My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, For the day of the LORD is coming; Surely it is near, 2:1
- E 2 A gloomy day: {2} A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness. 2:2a

¹ 2:1-11 "The locust army is regarded as a foretaste of an invading army in the *day of the Lord*; i.e., in the Tribulation period. The future reference may be to the demon-locusts described in Rev. 9:1-12 and/or to the invasion of the king of the North (Ezek. 38:15; Dan. 11:40)." (RSB)

- D 2 The description of the invaders -- a great and mighty people: As the dawn is spread over the mountains, *So* there is a great and mighty people;² 2:2b
- D 3 The description of the invasion 2:2c-2:3
 - E 1 An unprecedented invasion: There has never been *anything* like it, Nor will there be again after it To the years of many generations. 2:2c
 - E 2 An invasion marked by fire³ 2:3
 - G 1 The fact of the fire: {3} A fire consumes before them And behind them a flame burns.
 - G 2 The effects of the fire: The land is like the garden of Eden before them But a desolate wilderness behind them, And nothing at all escapes them.
- D 4 The description of the army -- based on the historical locust invasion 2:4-11
 - E 1 Their appearance -- like horses: {4} Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; And like war horses, so they run. 2:4
 - E 2 Their sound 2:5a
 - G 1 Like chariots: {5} With a noise as of chariots They leap on the tops of the mountains,
 - G 2 Like a crackling fire: Like the crackling of a flame of fire consuming the stubble,
 - E 3 Their organization: Like a mighty people arranged for battle. 2:5b
 - E 4 Their dismaying effect 2:6
 - G 1 {6} Before them the people are in anguish;
 - G 2 All faces turn pale.
 - E 5 Their relentless discipline 2:7-8

² 2:2 - mighty people: It is perhaps best to explain this particular invasion as a description of a literal human army under the figure of the locust invasion that was so aptly described in chapter 1.

³ 2:3 - fire: These future invaders will employ the classic "scorched earth" policy, leaving nothing useful left when they have gone through the land! (JTB)

"Resembling the Garden of Eden before the invasion, the land of Palestine will be reduced to a wilderness afterward (v. 3)." (RSB)

- G 1 {7} They run like mighty men, 2:7
- G 2 They climb the wall like soldiers;
- G 3 And they each march in line,
- G 4 Nor do they deviate from their paths.
- G 5 {8} They do not crowd each other, 2:8
- G 6 They march everyone in his path;
- G 7 When they burst through the defenses, They do not break ranks.
- E 6 Their mobility 2:9
 - G 1 {9} They rush on the city,
 - G 2 They run on the wall;
 - G 3 They climb into the houses, They enter through the windows like a thief.
- E 7 The accompanying disturbances in nature 2:10
 - G 1 {10} Before them the earth quakes,
 - G 2 The heavens tremble,
 - G 3 The sun and the moon grow dark ⁴
 - G 4 And the stars lose their brightness.
- E 8 Their Divine assistance 2:11
 - G 1 Yahweh's speech: {11} The LORD utters His voice before His army;
 - G 2 Yahweh's strength: Surely His camp is very great, For strong is he who carries out His word.
 - G 3 Yahweh's overwhelming Day: The day of the LORD is indeed great and very awesome, And who can endure it?
- C 2 The call to repentance in light of the coming invasion 2:12-17
 - D 1 The character of their repentance (as commanded by God) 2:12-13a

⁴ 2:10 - The sun and the moon grow dark: "The same (or similar) disturbances described in verse 10 are predicted in Rev. 6:12-13; 8:12" (Charles Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible (RSB)*, referring to all the conditions in 2:10).

- E 1 With the whole heart: {12} "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "Return to Me with all your heart, 2:12
- E 2 With self-denial: And with fasting,
- E 3 With sorrow: weeping and mourning;
- E 4 With sincerity: {13} And rend your heart and not your garments." 2:13a
- D 2 The character of their God (as explained by the prophet): Now return to the LORD your God, 2:13b-14
 - E 1 For He is gracious and compassionate, 2:13b
 - E 2 Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness
 - E 3 And relenting of evil. 2:14
 - G 1 {14} Who knows whether He will *not* turn and relent
 - G 2 And leave a blessing behind Him, *Even* a grain offering and a drink offering For the LORD your God?
- D 3 The mechanics of the call: {15} Blow a trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly, 2:15
- D 4 The segments of society targeted in the call 2:16-17
 - E 1 The people: {16} Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, 2:16
 - E 2 The elders: Assemble the elders,
 - E 3 The children: Gather the children and the nursing infants.
 - E 4 The newly-married: Let the bridegroom come out of his room And the bride out of her *bridal* chamber.
 - E 5 The priests 2:17
 - G 1 Their identification: {17} Let the priests, the LORD'S ministers,
 - G 2 Their sorrow: Weep between the porch and the altar,
 - G 3 The content of their plea: And let them say,
 - H 1 "Spare Your people, O LORD,
 - H 2 And do not make Your inheritance a reproach, A byword among the nations.

- G 4 Their leverage: Why should they among the peoples say, "Where is their God?"
- C 3 God's miraculous overthrow of the invaders if the people repent 2:18-20
 - D 1 Yahweh's propitious stance 2:18
 - E 1 {18} Then ⁵ the LORD will be zealous for His land
 - E 2 And will have pity on His people.
 - D 2 Yahweh's propitious communication to His people: His elevation of Israel in the world and removal of the northern army {19} The LORD will answer and say to His people, (2:19a) 2:19-20
 - E 1 His promise of agricultural plenty: "Behold, I am going to send you grain, new wine and oil, And you will be satisfied *in full* with them; 2:19b
 - E 2 His promise to clear their international reputation: And I will never again ⁶ make you a reproach among the nations.
 - E 3 His promise to deliver them, with a vengeance, from the northern army 2:20
 - G 1 The general statement of removal: {20} "But I will remove the northern *army* far from you,
 - G 2 The place of removal
 - H 1 The main army: And I will drive it into a parched and desolate land,
 - H 2 Its vanguard: And its vanguard into the eastern sea,
 - H 3 Its rear guard: And its rear guard into the western sea.
 - G 3 The result of its removal: And its stench will arise and its foul smell will come up,

⁵ 2:18 - Then: What at first seems to be a promise conditioned upon their repentance turns out, in 2:19, to be unconditional: "And I will never again make you a reproach among the nations." That kind of guarantee can only refer to an eschatological event (the millennial kingdom) in which Yahweh removes from Israel as a nation the possibility of apostasy. A statement such as Jeremiah 31:33b-34 envisions this event: "I will put My law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall not teach again each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

⁶ 2:19 - never again: This absolute qualifier demands an ultimately Millennial fulfillment, as well as fulfillment in the Eternal State in New Jerusalem, New Earth.

G 4 The reason for its removal: For it has done great things."⁷

B 2 Wonders During the Millennium 2:21-29

C 1 Material prosperity 2:21-27

D 1 The call not to fear, but to rejoice in view of God's blessing upon the land! 2:21-23

E 1 Issued to the land 2:21

G 1 The call: {21} Do not fear, O land, rejoice and be glad,

G 2 The reason: For the LORD has done great things.

E 2 Issued to the beasts of the field 2:22

G 1 The call: {22} Do not fear, beasts of the field,

G 2 The reasons

H 1 For the pastures of the wilderness have turned green,

H 2 For the tree has borne its fruit, The fig tree and the vine have yielded in full.

E 3 Issued to the sons of Zion 2:23

G 1 The call: {23} So rejoice, O sons of Zion, And be glad in the LORD your God;

G 2 The reasons

H 1 For He has given you the early rain for *your* vindication.

H 2 And He has poured down for you the rain, The early and latter rain as before.

D 2 The description of God's blessing upon the land 2:24-27

E 1 Full threshing floors and vats 2:24

G 1 {24} The threshing floors will be full of grain,

⁷ 2:20 - great things: A translational problem: If the sense is, as is translated by NASB, the army has done great things, the meaning is great in the sense of monstrous, dastardly, deserving of Divine punishment. If the sense is, as translated by NIV, I, God, have done great things, the meaning is great in the sense of powerful and righteous, resulting in Divine punishment. In either case God is the Divine Punisher.

- G 2 And the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil.
- E 2 A restoration of the loss from the locusts: {25} "Then I will make up to you for the years 2:25
 - G 1 That the swarming locust has eaten,
 - G 2 The creeping locust, the stripping locust
 - G 3 and the gnawing locust, My great army which I sent among you.
- E 3 A restoration of food, praise, and confidence 2:26
 - G 1 Of food: {26} "You will have plenty to eat and be satisfied
 - G 2 Of praising the name of Yahweh: And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you;
 - G 3 Of confidence: Then My people will never be put to shame.
- E 4 A restoration of relationship with Yahweh 2:27
 - G 1 Their knowledge of Yahweh
 - H 1 His existence amidst Israel: {27} "Thus you will know that I am in the midst of Israel,
 - H 2 His fully-known relationship with Israel: And that I am the LORD your God,
 - H 3 His exclusive existence as the only God: And there is no other;
 - G 2 Their confidence – their secure and perpetual existence as the nation blessed by God: And My people will never be put to shame.
- C 2 Spiritual vitality 2:28-29
 - D 1 God's pouring out His Spirit on all mankind! {28} "It will come about after this ⁸ That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind;

⁸ 2:28 - after this: Note that the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy takes place after the final destruction of the last great invasion of Israel. Though there would be a mid-term fulfillment at Pentecost (Acts 2, where only a portion of this prophecy was fulfilled, and that only partially), Israel's invaders had not yet then been completely disposed of. When Israel's enemies are vanquished at Christ's return (Zech. 14; Rev. 19), Messiah's Millennial reign will begin. Then God will pour out His Spirit on all mankind! – Jew and Gentile alike. But the greatest bearers of

2:28a

- D 2 The manifestations of the Spirit amongst the Israelis 2:28b-29
 - E 1 Irrespective of gender: And your sons and daughters will prophesy, 2:28b
 - E 2 Irrespective of age 2:28c
 - G 1 Your old men will dream dreams,
 - G 2 Your young men will see visions.
 - E 3 Irrespective of social status: {29} "Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. 2:29

B 3 Events During the Tribulation 2:30 - 3:17

- C 1 Salvation 2:30-32
 - D 1 Signs of judgment preliminary to the outpouring of the Spirit 2:30-31
 - E 1 {30} "I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth, 2:30
 - G 1 Blood,
 - G 2 fire
 - G 3 and columns of smoke.
 - E 2 {31} "The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. 2:31
 - D 2 Deliverance amidst judgment 2:32
 - E 1 The grounds of deliverance: {32} "And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD Will be delivered;⁹
 - E 2 The assurance of deliverance: For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem There will be those who escape,
 - E 3 The Guarantor of deliverance: As the LORD has said, Even

the Spirit will be Jewish. Jewish citizenry will prophesy, dream, receive visions. The Holy Spirit was manifested remarkably at Pentecost, but the real Age of the Spirit is yet to come!

⁹ 2:32 - delivered: It would seem that physical deliverance from danger is meant. Paul quotes this passage and broadens it to refer to Gentile as well as Jewish spiritual salvation (Romans 10:13). (See *TBKC*.)

among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

- C 2 The restoration of Israel: "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, 3:1
- C 3 War and judgment 3:2-17
 - D 1 Yahweh's message of judgment against all nations in the valley of Jehoshaphat for violence done against Israel 3:2-3
 - E 1 The inclusiveness of the judgment: {2} I will gather all the nations 3:2a
 - E 2 The place of the judgment: And bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat.¹⁰
 - E 3 The plaintiffs in Yahweh's class-action suit: Then I will enter into judgment with them there
 - G 1 Yahweh's people: On behalf of My people
 - G 2 Yahweh's inheritance: and My inheritance, Israel,
 - E 4 Yahweh's charges in the suit 3:2b-3
 - G 1 The nations have scattered Yahweh's people: Whom they have scattered among the nations; 3:2b
 - G 2 The nations have divided up Yahweh's land: And they have divided up My land.
 - G 3 The nations have sold Yahweh's people into slavery 3:3
 - H 1 {3} "They have also cast lots for My people,
 - H 2 Traded a boy for a harlot
 - H 3 And sold a girl for wine that they may drink.
- D 2 Yahweh's message of judgment against Lebanon and Philistia 3:4-8
 - E 1 His threatening them with retaliation 3:4
 - G 1 His belittling them: {4} "Moreover, what are you to Me, O Tyre, Sidon and all the regions of Philistia?

¹⁰ 3:2 - Valley of Jehoshaphat: Mentioned in Scripture only In Joel 3:2, 12, this valley appears to do double duty – in 3:1-8 it refers to a place (perhaps the Kidron Valley – *RSB*) where Yahweh, the Messiah will enter into judgment of all the nations (Matt. 25:31-46) (Jehoshaphat means "Yahweh judges." Joel 3:9-17, however, also has overtones that can only refer to the Valley of Megiddo, site of the final "Battle of Armageddon" (Rev. 16:16) (see also *RSB*).

- G 2 His fury at their audacity: Are you rendering Me a recompense?
- G 3 His warning them of retaliation: But if you do recompense Me, swiftly and speedily I will return your recompense on your head.
- E 2 His quantification of retaliation 3:5-8a
 - G 1 Their acts against Him 3:5-6
 - H 1 Robbery and theft: {5} "Since you have taken My silver and My gold, 3:5
 - H 2 Sacrilege: brought My precious treasures to your temples,
 - H 3 Kidnapping and dispersion: {6} and sold the sons of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks in order to remove them far from their territory, 3:6
 - G 2 His acts against them 3:7-8a
 - H 1 His rescue and restoration of His enslaved people: {7} behold, I am going to arouse them from the place where you have sold them, 3:7
 - H 2 His promise of retaliation: and return your recompense on your head.
 - H 3 The nature of His retaliation 3:8a
 - J 1 Selling their children into the hands of the Israelis: {8} "Also I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the sons of Judah,
 - J 2 Who in turn will sell them into the hands of the Sabeans: and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a distant nation,"
- E 3 The certainty of His retaliation: for the LORD has spoken. 3:8b
- D 3 Yahweh's calling the nations to their judgment at the Battle of Armageddon: {9} Proclaim this among the nations: (3:9a) 3:9-12
 - E 1 The call for troops: Prepare a war; rouse the mighty men! Let all the soldiers draw near, let them come up! 3:9b

- E 2 The call for military hardware: *{10}* Beat your plowshares into swords And your pruning hooks into spears; ¹¹ Let the weak say, "I am a mighty man." 3:10
- E 3 The call to the opposing forces of nations and angels! 3:11
- G 1 The call to surrounding nations to gather their troops: *{11}* Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, And gather yourselves there.
- G 2 The call to Yahweh to gather His angels! Bring down, O LORD, Your mighty ones.
- E 4 The call to the battle site – the valley of Jehoshaphat – for judgment by Yahweh! 3:12
- G 1 The targets of the call: *{12}* Let the nations be aroused
- G 2 The site of the battle: And come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat, ¹²
- G 3 The purpose of the call -- Yahweh's sitting as judge of all the surrounding nations! For there I will sit to judge All the surrounding nations.
- D 4 Yahweh's description of the judgment at the Battle of Armageddon 3:13-14
- E 1 The call to harvest the blood of the nations for their great wickedness 3:13
- G 1 The call to harvest: *{13}* Put in the sickle, ¹³ for the harvest is ripe.
- G 2 The call to tread the wine press: Come, tread, for the wine press is full;
- G 3 Overflowing bloodshed for overflowing wickedness: The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great.

¹¹ 3:10 - plowshares, swords, pruning hooks, spears: An interesting reversal of the yet future Millennial peaceful reign of Messiah described in Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3.

¹² 3:12 - valley of Jehoshaphat: See note on 3:2

¹³ 3:13 - sickle, winepress: This gory prophecy is picked up in Isa. 63:1-6 and expanded and illuminated in Rev. 14:14-20, in which the result is tragically quantified: "They were trampled in the winepress outside the city and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia (Rev. 14:20, NIV)." The tragic harvest is that of human blood because of mankind's tragic, wicked disregard of Yahweh and His fury against sin. In Rev. 14, one "like a Son of Man" swings his sickle. This evidently refers to Christ Himself, who likely also is the one striding from Bozrah with blood-spattered garments in Isa. 63.

- E 2 Reverberating themes in the judgment 3:14
 - G 1 Multitudes of humanity sucked into battle: *{14}*
Multitudes, multitudes
 - G 2 The Valley of Jehoshaphat as decisive in the course
of human history! in the valley of decision!
 - G 3 The Day of Yahweh as a judgment against mankind!
For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of
decision.
- E 3 Celestial darkening in the judgment 3:15
 - G 1 *{15}* The sun and moon grow dark ¹⁴
 - G 2 And the stars lose their brightness.
- E 4 The intensity of Yahweh in the judgment 3:16a
 - G 1 The place of His furious utterance
 - H 1 *{16}* The LORD roars from Zion
 - H 2 And utters His voice from Jerusalem,
 - G 2 The reaction to his utterance: And the heavens and
the earth tremble.
- E 5 Yahweh's protection of Israel and Jerusalem amidst
judgment 3:16b-17
 - G 1 The statement of His protection 3:16b
 - H 1 But the LORD is a refuge for His people
 - H 2 And a stronghold to the sons of Israel.
 - G 2 The results of His protection 3:17
 - H 1 Israel's knowledge of her God: *{17}* Then
you will know that I am the LORD your God,
 - H 2 Israel's intimate relationship with her God:
Dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain.
 - H 3 Jerusalem's protected status

¹⁴ 3:15 - sun and moon grow dark ... stars lose their brightness: Significantly, the Fifth Bowl of judgment (Rev. 16:10-11) brings darkness upon the earth, while in the Sixth Bowl, all the kings of the earth are demonically summoned to bring their troops together "for the war of the great day of God the Almighty" at Armageddon (Rev. 16:12-16).

J 1 Holy: So Jerusalem will be holy,

J 2 Secure: And strangers will pass through it no more.

B 4 Sequel: Conditions During the Millennium 3:18-21

C 1 Israel's prosperity 3:18

D 1 Bountiful vineyards: *{18}* And in that day The mountains will drip with sweet wine,

D 2 Productive herds: And the hills will flow with milk,

D 3 Plenteous water: And all the brooks of Judah will flow with water;

D 4 Flowing stream: And a spring¹⁵ will go out from the house of the LORD To water the valley of Shittim.

C 2 Nations' desolations 3:19

D 1 The targets of desolation

E 1 *{19}* Egypt will become a waste,

E 2 And Edom will become a desolate wilderness,

D 2 The reason for desolation: Because of the violence done to the sons of Judah, In whose land they have shed innocent blood.

C 3 Israel's supremacy 3:20-21

D 1 The eternal Israeli habitation of Judah and Jerusalem 3:20

E 1 *{20}* But Judah will be inhabited forever

E 2 And Jerusalem for all generations.

D 2 Yahweh's vengeful enforcement of Israeli habitation of Judah and Jerusalem 3:21

E 1 Yahweh's vengeance against the bloodshed of Israelis: *{21}* And I will avenge their blood which I have not avenged,

E 2 The guarantee of Yahweh's vengeance: For the LORD dwells in Zion.

¹⁵ 3:18 - spring: Though a literal spring is meant (see also Zech 14:8; Ezek. 47:1-12), there is perhaps a deeper meaning here as well – from the temple on Mount Zion will go forth God's Spirit, which will water not only the Valley of Shittim, but the whole world (see Joel 2:28-29; cf. John 7:32-29)!!

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