

# Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets

## Joel: The Valley of Decision

### Joel 3:1-21 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>“For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>I will gather all the nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. And I will enter into judgment with them there, on behalf of my people and my heritage Israel, because they have scattered them among the nations and have divided up my land, <sup>3</sup>and have cast lots for my people, and have traded a boy for a prostitute, and have sold a girl for wine and have drunk it. <sup>4</sup>“What are you to me, O Tyre and Sidon, and all the regions of Philistia? Are you paying me back for something? If you are paying me back, I will return your payment on your own head swiftly and speedily. <sup>5</sup>For you have taken my silver and my gold, and have carried my rich treasures into your temples. <sup>6</sup>You have sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks in order to remove them far from their own border. <sup>7</sup>Behold, I will stir them up from the place to which you have sold them, and I will return your payment on your own head. <sup>8</sup>I will sell your sons and your daughters into the hand of the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, to a nation far away, for the LORD has spoken.” <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, “I am a warrior.” <sup>11</sup>Hasten and come, all you surrounding nations, and gather yourselves there. Bring down your warriors, O LORD. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>**Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.** <sup>15</sup>The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>“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. <sup>18</sup>“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. <sup>19</sup>“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. <sup>20</sup>But Judah shall be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem to all generations. <sup>21</sup>I will avenge their blood, blood I have not avenged, for the LORD dwells in Zion.”

### The big picture:

- 1) God’s \_\_\_\_\_ will one day give way to God’s \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) God will judge both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3) The \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of judgment will be \_\_\_\_\_.

### Acts 17:30-31 (ESV)

<sup>30</sup>The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.

- 4) Christ’s judgments will \_\_\_\_\_ the world into \_\_\_\_\_ groups.
- 5) God will \_\_\_\_\_ His people.

Joel for us:

**Lesson 1:** God has one primary purpose in history: \_\_\_\_\_

**Joel 2:27a (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup>You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God and there is none else.

**Joel 3:17a (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup>So you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain.

This is God's purpose in both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

What is God doing right now in my life to make sure that I know that He (alone) is God?

What is God promising to do in the future so that *all* will know He is God?

**Lesson 2:** God will \_\_\_\_\_ me to bring me to \_\_\_\_\_.

What does God want from me?

**Joel 2:12-13 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup>"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>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.

**Lesson 3:** God is bringing us all to the " \_\_\_\_\_ "

Whose decision?

**Joel 3:12-14 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

*Important considerations ...*

**Lesson 4:** God will never abandon His \_\_\_\_\_ or His \_\_\_\_\_.

What has God promised?

**Joel 2:16-17, 20-21 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>"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. ... <sup>20</sup>But Judah shall be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem to all generations. <sup>21</sup>I will avenge their blood, blood I have not avenged, for the LORD dwells in Zion."

**Next week: Micah – Who is Like Our God?**