

הַאֲזִינוּ

HA'AZINU - HEAR



TORAH – D'VARIM (DEU) 32:1 – 52

HAFTARAH – YOEL (JOEL) 2:15 – 27

Yoel (Joel) 2

15 "Blow the shofar in Tziyon! Proclaim a holy fast, call for a solemn assembly."

Note that this shofar blast was of assembly. Earlier the shofar blast was of an alarm.

16 Gather the people; consecrate the congregation; assemble the leaders; gather the children, even infants sucking at the breast; let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride the bridal chamber.

This amounted to the 'obedience of faith'. G-d, through Joel, was saying, 'Assemble ... and see what happens.

The Bible Speaks

Why does regular attendance in congregations seems to be tapering off today?

17 Let the cohanim, who serve ADONAI, stand weeping between the vestibule and the altar. Let them say, "Spare your people, ADONAI! Don't expose your heritage to mockery, or make them a byword among the Goyim. Why should the peoples say, 'Where is their G-d?'"

Tehillim (Psa) 51

19(17) *My sacrifice to G-d is a broken spirit; G-d, you won't spurn a broken, chastened heart.*

^{NAU} **Psalm 79**

9 *Help us, O G-d of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; And deliver us and forgive our sins for Your name's sake. 10 Why should the nations say, "Where is their G-d?" Let there be known among the nations in our sight, Vengeance for the blood of Your servants which has been shed.*

"Let them say" Why did the prophet tell them what to say? Is this type of prayer applicable to our country?

18 Then ADONAI will become jealous for his land and have pity on his people.

Divrei-HaYamin Bet (2 Chronicles) 7

13 *If I shut up the sky, so that there is no rain; or if I order locusts to devour the land; or if I send an epidemic of sickness among my people; 14 then, if my people, who bear my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Could the people of the land explain their calamities by saying it was just "bad luck"?

19 Here is how ADONAI will answer his people: "I will send you grain, wine and olive oil, enough to satisfy you; and no longer will I make you a mockery among the Goyim."

Tehillim (Psa) 126

5 *Those who sow in tears will reap with cries of joy. 6 He who goes out weeping as he carries his sack of seed will come home with cries of joy as he carries his sheaves of grain.*

20 No, I will take the northerner away, far away from you, and drive him to a land that is waste and barren; with his vanguard toward the eastern sea and his rearguard toward the western sea, his stench and his rottenness will rise, because he has done great things."

Yirmeyahu (Jer) 1

13 A second time the word of ADONAI came to me, asking, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a caldron tilted away from the north, over a fire fanned by the wind."
14 Then ADONAI said to me, "From the north calamity will boil over onto everyone living in the land,

21 Don't fear, O soil; be glad! rejoice! for ADONAI has done great things.

Havakuk (Habakkuk) 3

2 ADONAI, I have heard the report about you. ADONAI, I am awed by your deeds. Bring your work to life in our own age, make it known in our own time; but in anger, remember compassion.

22 Don't be afraid, wild animals; for the desert pastures are green, the trees are putting out their fruit, the fig tree and vine are giving full yield. 23 Be glad, people of Tziyon! rejoice in ADONAI your G-d! For he is giving you the right amount of rain in the fall, he makes the rain come down for you, the fall and spring rains- this is what he does first. 24 Then the floors will be full of grain and the vats overflow with wine and olive oil.

Yoel (Joel) 1

10 The fields are ruined, the ground is grieving; for the grain is ruined, the new wine dried up, and the olive oil is wretched. 11 Despair, you farmers; lament, vinedressers, over the wheat and the barley- the harvest from the fields is lost. 12 The vines have withered, the fig trees wilted, also the pomegranate, date-palm and apple tree- all the trees in the fields have withered, and the people's joy has withered away.

"Be glad, people of Tziyon! rejoice in ADONAI your G-d!"

Notice that in Yoel (Joel) 1 everything had withered, even the people's joy. Now, because of G-d's blessing, the people will be rejoicing!

25 "I will restore (שָׁלֵם) to you the years that the locusts ate, the grasshoppers, shearer-worms and cutter-worms, my great army that I sent against you.

Divrei-HaYamin Bet (2 Chronicles) 7

13 If I shut up the sky, so that there is no rain; or if I order locusts to devour the land; or if I send an epidemic of sickness among my people; 14 then, if my people, who bear my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land.

How does the L-RD restore your former years that were wasted?

26 You will eat until you are satisfied and will praise the name of ADONAI your G-d, who has done with you such wonders. Then my people will never again be shamed.

D'varim (Deu) 8

10 So you will eat and be satisfied, and you will bless ADONAI your G-d for the good land he has given you.

Not that G-d never does things by half measures. He is plentiful in his work of restoration!

27 You will know that I am with Isra'el (in the midst) and that I am ADONAI your G-d, and that there is no other. Then my people will never again be shamed.

Hoshea (Hos) 11

1 "When Isra'el was a child, I loved him; and out of Egypt I called my son.