



JOEL – HEARTS OUT OF ALIGNMENT
GOD REBUILDS | JOEL 3
Pastor Mark Owens

In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, ² I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel, because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land. ³ They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine to drink. ⁴ "Now what have you against me, Tyre and Sidon and all you regions of Philistia? Are you repaying me for something I have done? If you are paying me back, I will swiftly and speedily return on your own heads what you have done. ⁵ For you took my silver and my gold and carried off my finest treasures to your temples. ⁶ You sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks, that you might send them far from their homeland. ⁷ "See, I am going to rouse them out of the places to which you sold them, and I will return on your own heads what you have done. ⁸ I will sell your sons and daughters to the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, a nation far away." The Lord has spoken. ⁹ Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack. ¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, "I am strong!" ¹¹ Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there. Bring down your warriors, Lord! ¹² "Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. ¹³ Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow— so great is their wickedness!" ¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵ The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. ¹⁶ The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. Blessings for God's People. – Joel 3:1–16

True brokenness leads to God rebuilding us.

In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem... – Joel 3:1

Rebuilding begins when God confronts.

I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel, because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land. ³ They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine to drink. – Joel 3:2–3

Rebuilding is more than relief; rebuilding is being made right before God.

Our view of renewal or restoration:

- Greater comfort
- Healing from our hurts
- Blessing in our lives



There I will put them on trial for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel, because they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land. ³ They cast lots for my people and traded boys for prostitutes; they sold girls for wine to drink. – Joel 3:2–3

Rebuilding brings divine justice.

Now what have you against me, Tyre and Sidon and all you regions of Philistia? Are you repaying me for something I have done? If you are paying me back, I will swiftly and speedily return on your own heads what you have done. ⁵ For you took my silver and my gold and carried off my finest treasures to your temples. ⁶ You sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks, that you might send them far from their homeland. ⁷ “See, I am going to rouse them out of the places to which you sold them, and I will return on your own heads what you have done. ⁸ I will sell your sons and daughters to the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, a nation far away.” The Lord has spoken. – Joel 3:4–8

We resist when God starts dealing with:

- The sin that shaped us
- The decisions that led us into rebellion
- The influences that wounded us

Rebuilding requires accountability.

Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack. ¹⁰ Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, “I am strong!” ¹¹ Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there. Bring down your warriors, Lord! ¹² “Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side. ¹³ Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow— so great is their wickedness! – Joel 3:9–13

In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit. – Judges 21:25

Accountability brings summoning.

Accountability shows love.

Accountability strengthens our community.

God loves you so much He refuses to allow you to remain in the ruins you created.

Rebuilding occurs when we step closer to God.

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵ The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine. ¹⁶ The Lord will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the Lord will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. Blessings for God’s People. – Joel 3:14–16

What are you trying to rebuild?

- Faith
- Marriage
- Life
- Reputation
- Relationships with family

We cannot rebuild if we are distant from God.

True brokenness leads to God rebuilding us.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 2 "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." 3 So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. 4 And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. 5 Then the word of the Lord came to me: 6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel." – Jeremiah 18:1– 6

What he sees:

- The Potter is shaping the clay on wheel.
- The clay spoils in his hands.
- Instead of tossing it aside, the potter rebuilds and reshapes it.

O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. – Jeremiah 18:6

Three quick truths for us to remember today:

- We belong in the hands of the potter.
- God is actively at work shaping our lives.
- God does not discard us he rebuilds us.