

# MINOR PROPHETS

JOEL ♦ OBADIAH ♦ JONAH

*Blessed Are the Meek*

*Joel 2:1-27*



# What should Israel understand?

- Disasters in our lives are indicators of the tragedy of sin.
- Every tragedy is an occasion to turn to God.
- Ultimate judgment and salvation is found in the Day of the Lord.
- *God does provide protection today based upon His promises.*

## **Joel 2:1–2**

**Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain!**

**Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!**

**Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people; their like has never been before, nor will be again after them through the years of all generations.**

## **Joel 2:3–5**

**Fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns. The land is like the garden of Eden before them, but behind them a desolate wilderness, and nothing escapes them.**

**Their appearance is like the appearance of horses, and like war horses they run. As with the rumbling of chariots, they leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle.**

## **Joel 2:6–9**

**Before them peoples are in anguish; all faces grow pale. Like warriors they charge; like soldiers they scale the wall. They march each on his way; they do not swerve from their paths. They do not jostle one another; each marches in his path; they burst through the weapons and are not halted.**

**They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls, they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief.**

## **Joel 2:10–11**

**The earth quakes before them; the heavens tremble.**

**The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining.**

**The LORD utters his voice before his army, for his camp is exceedingly great; he who executes his word is powerful.**

**For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?**

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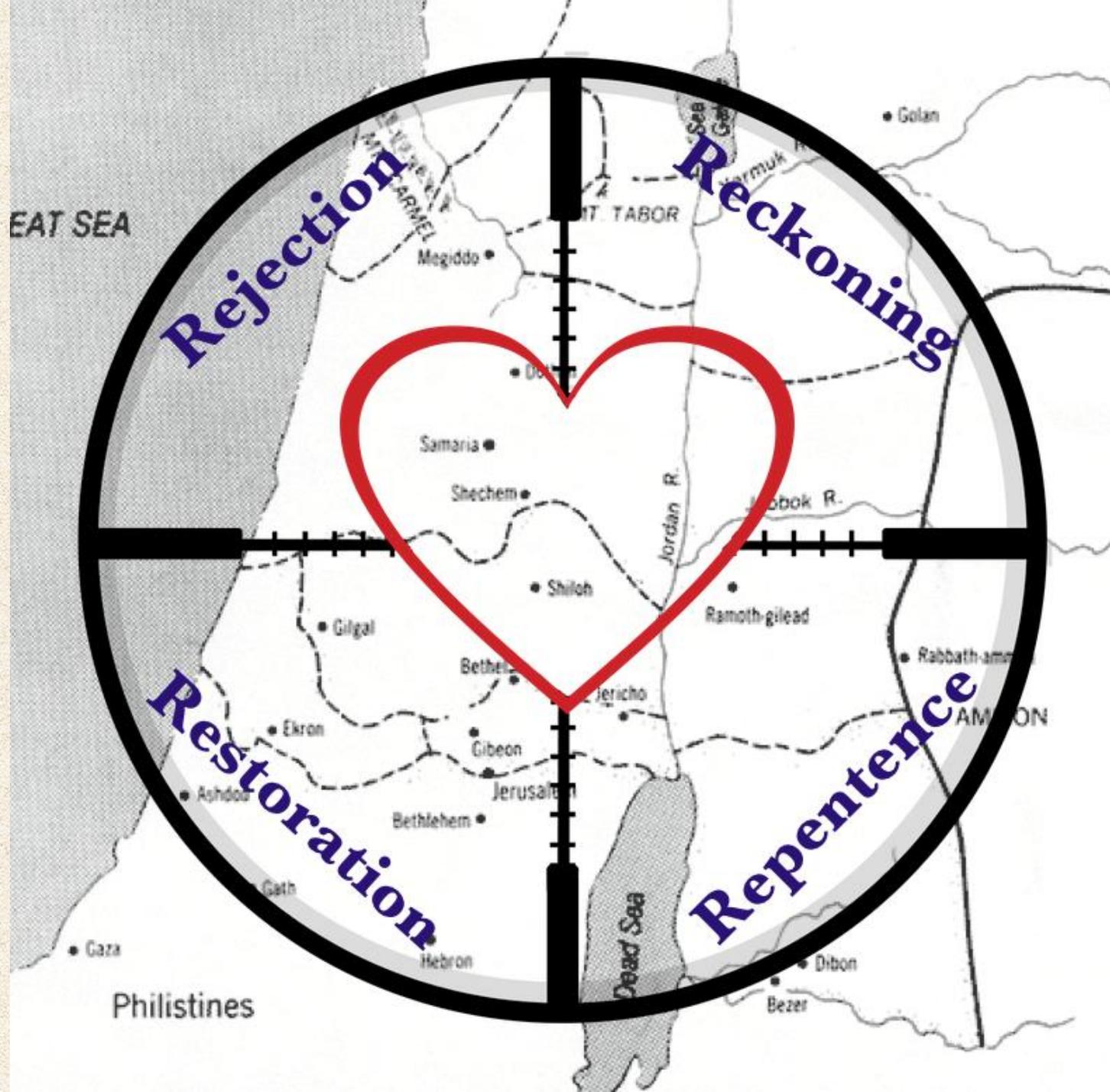
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## Joel 2:12–14

**“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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.**

**Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?**

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## **Joel 2:15–16**

**Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people.**

**Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.**

## **Joel 2:17**

**Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests,  
the ministers of the LORD, weep and say,**

**“Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your  
heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations.**

**Why should they say among the peoples,**

**‘Where is their God?’”**

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## **2 Chronicles 7:7 & 11**

**And Solomon consecrated the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD, for there he offered the burnt offering and the fat of the peace offerings, because the bronze altar Solomon had made could not hold the burnt offering and the grain offering and the fat....**

**Then the LORD appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: "I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice."**

## **2 Chronicles 7:12–14**

**“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”**

## **2 Chronicles 7:15–16**

**“Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever.**

**My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.”**

**How does God respond  
to the humble prayer  
of His people?**

## Joel 2:18–19

Then **the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people.**

The LORD answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and **I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.**”

## Joel 2:20–22

**“I will remove** the northerner far from you, and drive him into a parched and desolate land, his vanguard into the eastern sea, and his rear guard into the western sea; **the stench and foul smell of him will rise, for he has done great things.”**

**Fear not, O land;** be glad and rejoice, for **the LORD has done great things!** Fear not, you beasts of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit; the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

## Joel 2:23–25

**Be glad, O children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD** your God, for he has given the early rain for your vindication; he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the latter rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain; the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

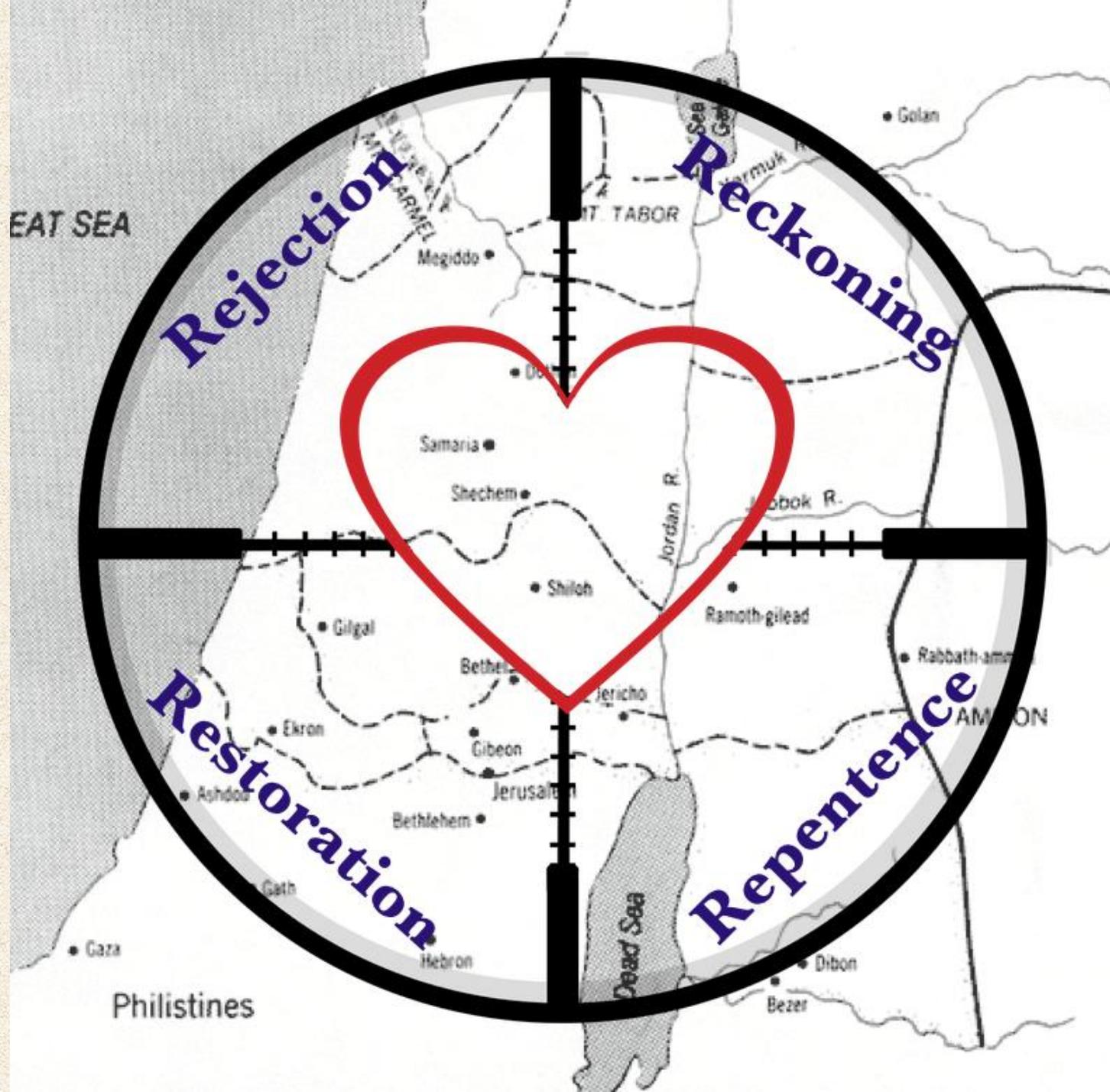
**“I will restore to you the years** that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which **I sent among you.”**

## Joel 2:26–27

“You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And **my people shall never again be put to shame.**

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that **I am the LORD your God and there is none else.**

And **my people shall never again be put to shame.”**



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Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God?

# **What should Israel understand?**

- The tragedies we experience foreshadow the Day of the Lord.**
- Every tragedy is an occasion to repent and return to God.**
- God will always hear genuine prayer.**
- His presence is available now as firstfruits of His eternal kingdom.**

**How does Joel speak to  
Christians today?**

# **Consider these thoughts:**

- When tragedy strikes, we should acknowledge its source, sin.**
- God is still our help in time of trouble.**
- He calls for “rending our hearts” not “tearing our clothes.”**
- Repentance has fruit so we can “pray and pass the water buckets.”**