

## **Joel 2: 12 – 20, 27**

### **Rend Your Heart and Repent! The Lord's Answer**

**“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments.”**

**Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing. Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. Let the priests who minister before the Lord weep between the portico and the altar. Let them say, “Spare your people, Lord. Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ ”**

**Then the Lord was jealous for his land and took pity on his people. The Lord replied to them:**

**“I am sending you grain, new wine and olive oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations. I will drive the northern**

**horde far from you, pushing it into a parched and barren land; its eastern ranks will drown in the Dead Sea and its western ranks in the Mediterranean Sea. And its stench will go up; its smell will rise.”**

**Surely he has done great things!**

**“Then you will know that I am in Israel, that I am the Lord your God, and that there is no other; never again will my people be shamed.”**

**New International Version (NIV)**

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**These verses actually apply to a future time and to the nation of Israel, but I think they may apply to the United States. We were established as a nation in 1776 (NOT in 1619!) upon Godly principles. However, today we are under attack by those who desire to undo those Godly principles and destroy our nation. God says to Israel (and to the United States!) to “rend our HEARTS” (i.e., repent!) and return to the Lord! In return, the Lord, who LOVES His people and His land, will drive our enemies far from us! He has done GREAT things! He is here in our nation, and if we repent, we will be restored!!**

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**Dr. Robert J. Rapalje, Retired  
Seminole State College of Florida  
Altamonte Springs Campus  
Email: [rapaljer@mathinlivingcolor.com](mailto:rapaljer@mathinlivingcolor.com)**