[There are sections in Joel where it is apparent that the judgment Israel is experiencing from God is only a fraction of the judgment that will come during the "day of the Lord".]

***Joel 2:12-14*** *That is why the Lord says, "Turn to me now, while there is time! Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. [13] Don't tear your clothing in your grief; instead, tear your hearts." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful. He is not easily angered. He is filled with kindness and is eager not to punish you. [14] Who knows? Perhaps even yet he will give you a reprieve, sending you a blessing instead of this terrible curse. Perhaps he will give you so much that you will be able to offer grain and wine to the Lord your God as before! (NLT)*

******Life Application Study Bible Notes:** "The day of the Lord is a future time when God will intervene directly and dramatically in world affairs. Predicted and discussed often in the Old Testament (Isaiah 13:6-12; Joel 2:28-32; Zeph. 1:14-18), the day of the Lord will include both punishment and blessing. Christ will judge sin and set up his eternal kingdom."

The prophet Joel encourages the Israelites to turn back to God with true Repentance. Mourning for their sins, weeping, and fasting because they have broken God's Laws. But when it really comes down to it God makes it very clear He would rather have a person's heart in full sincerity then all the symbols of repentance done merely out of duty. God has always wanted the hearts of His people first and foremost. God knows that only when our hearts fully committed and devoted to Him will there be a true desire to Know, Love, and Serve Him.

**PRAYER:** Lord God, help me to continually open up my heart to Your cleansing, and renewing. Help me to Submit daily to You and Your will for my life.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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