

# Joel 1:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

## Analysis

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**Is not the meat cut off before our eyes** (halo okhel nikhrat le'neghed enenu)—The rhetorical question demands acknowledgment of obvious devastation. 'Meat' (okhel, literally 'food') includes all agricultural sustenance, not just animal flesh. The locust plague has destroyed the grain offerings.

**Yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God** (simchah ve-gil mibeit Elohenu)—No grain means no offerings, and no offerings means no temple celebrations. The Hebrew terms simchah (joy) and gil (gladness/exultation) describe the festal worship commanded in Deuteronomy 16:14-15. When material sustenance fails, worship itself becomes impossible—revealing Israel's dependence on God's provision for both physical and spiritual life. This anticipated the devastation of 586 BC when the temple was destroyed.

## Historical Context

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Joel likely prophesied during the Persian period (post-exilic, c. 400 BC) or possibly during Joash's reign (835-796 BC). The locust plague was both literal and symbolic, foreshadowing later judgment. The temple stood, but its worship required agricultural prosperity—which locusts decimated.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does the loss of 'joy and gladness' from worship reveal your dependence on circumstances versus the condition of your heart?
2. What does it mean when natural disasters disrupt religious observance—is it mere misfortune or divine speech?
3. How do material blessings enable spiritual worship, and what happens when they're removed?

## Interlinear Text

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מִבְּ יְתָהָרָה	נָכַר תְּ	מִבְּ יְתָהָרָה
אֲלֹהִים יְנָה	אֲלֹהִים יְנָה	אֲלֹהִים יְנָה
בְּלֹא	בְּלֹא	בְּלֹא
עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ
בְּגָד	בְּגָד	בְּגָד
בְּלֹא	בְּלֹא	בְּלֹא
אֲכַל	אֲכַל	אֲכַל
עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ	עֵינֵינוּ
בְּגָד	בְּגָד	בְּגָד
בְּלֹא	בְּלֹא	בְּלֹא

H3808      H5048      H5869      H400      H3772      H1004

before our eyes      Is not the meat      cut off      from the house

of our God      yea joy      and gladness

H430      H8057      H1524

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 43:4** (References God): Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.

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