

# Joel 1:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.

## Analysis

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**The seed is rotten under their clods** (avshuh peruldot tachat megrefoteihem)—'Rotten' (avshuh) describes shriveled, dried-up seed. 'Clods' (megrefoteihem) are earth lumps, dried and hard. Seeds planted with hope now rot unproductive—a farmer's nightmare and biblical symbol of futility (Leviticus 26:16, Haggai 1:6).

**The garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered** (nashammu otsarot nehersu mamggurot ki hovish dagan)—'Desolate' (nashammu) conveys appalling emptiness. Unused storage buildings collapse from neglect. 'Corn' (dagan) means grain generally (wheat, barley). The comprehensive agricultural failure—seed, harvest, storage—points beyond natural disaster to covenant curse (Deuteronomy 28:38-42). Haggai 1:9-11 describes similar conditions as divine discipline for misplaced priorities.

## Historical Context

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Ancient agricultural storage was crucial for survival. Israelite pillared houses often included ground-floor storage rooms for grain jars. Excavations at sites like Hazor and Tel Batash show granaries. Their collapse signaled economic catastrophe, leaving communities vulnerable to famine and enemy attack.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What 'seeds' in your life have 'rotted under the clods'—efforts and plans that never materialized?
2. How does comprehensive failure (seed, harvest, storage) reflect God's total sovereignty over human endeavors?
3. When have you experienced 'empty barns'—depleted resources despite hard work—and what did God teach you?

## Interlinear Text

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אָכָר וֹת נִשְׁמָוֹת מִגְרָפָתִים תְּחִתְּ פְּרָד וֹת עַבְשׁ וְ  
is rotten The seed H8478 under their clods are laid desolate the garners  
H5685 H6507 H4053 H8074 H214

עֲגָלָה הַבָּשָׂר כִּי מִפְגָּר וֹת גְּרָס וְ  
are broken down the barns H3588 is withered for the corn  
H2040 H4460 H3001 H1715