

Joel 3:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim.

Analysis

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine (ve-hayah va-yom ha-hu yitfefu he-harim asis)—'Drop down' (yitfefu) suggests abundant flow, as if mountains themselves produce wine. 'New wine' (asis) is fresh grape juice, symbolizing blessing. This reverses the drought of Joel 1:10.

And the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters (ve-ha-geva'ot telakhnah chalav ve-chol afiqei Yehudah yelechu mayim)—This is the classic prophetic image of abundance (Exodus 3:8, Amos 9:13). Milk represents pastoral prosperity, water represents the reversal of drought. **And a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim** (u'ma'yan mibeit YHWH yetse ve-hishqah et-nachal ha-Shittim)—This anticipates Ezekiel 47:1-12's temple river and Revelation 22:1-2's river of life. Shittim (Acacia Valley) was notoriously dry (Numbers 25:1), making this miracle especially dramatic.

Historical Context

Shittim (Abel-Shittim) in the Jordan Valley was Israel's last camp before entering Canaan (Numbers 25:1, Joshua 2:1). It was associated with Baal-Peor's idolatry (Numbers 25). The promise to 'water Shittim' symbolizes redeeming even places of past disgrace. Zechariah 14:8 contains a similar promise of living waters flowing from Jerusalem.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do these abundance images (wine, milk, water) reverse the specific judgments described in Joel 1?
2. What does the 'fountain from the house of the LORD' teach about worship as the source of spiritual life and blessing?
3. How is Jesus the ultimate fulfillment of this fountain (John 4:14, 7:37-39), and how does the church experience this water?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה H1961	בַּיּוֹם H3117	וְהָיָה H1931	וְנָפְלָה H5197		
And it shall come to pass in that day		shall drop down			
וְהָיוּ הַהָרִים H2022	עֲסֵי יַיִן H6071	וְהַגְבָּעוֹת H1389	תֵּל כְּנָה H1980	חֶלֶב בָּ H2461	וְכָל H3605
that the mountains	new wine	and the hills		with milk	
וְאֵפְרַיִם H650	יְהוּדָה H3063	וְלִכְוֹ H1980	מֵי יַם H4325	וּמַעַיִן H4599	מִבֵּית H1004
and all the rivers	of Judah	with waters	and a fountain		of the house
וְיְהוָה H3068	יָצֵא H3318	וְהָשָׁקָה H8248	אֶת H853	בַּחֹל H5158	הַשְּׁטִיִּים H7851
of the LORD	shall come forth	and shall water		the valley	of Shittim

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 35:6 (Parallel theme): Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Zechariah 14:8 (Parallel theme): And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.

Isaiah 30:25 (Parallel theme): And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

Numbers 25:1 (Parallel theme): And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.

Psalms 46:4 (Parallel theme): There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

