

*A Time For Weeping*  
Joel 2:12-19

<sup>12</sup>"Yet even now," declares the Lord,  
"return to me with all your  
heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and  
with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>and rend your hearts and not  
your garments."  
Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in  
steadfast love;  
and he relents over disaster.  
<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not  
turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind  
him,  
a grain offering and a drink  
offering  
for the Lord your God?  
<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
<sup>16</sup>gather the people.  
Consecrate the congregation;  
assemble the elders;  
gather the children,

even nursing infants.  
Let the bridegroom leave his  
room,  
and the bride her chamber.  
<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and  
the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of  
the Lord, weep  
and say, "Spare your people,  
O Lord,  
and make not your heritage a  
reproach,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should they say among the  
peoples,  
'Where is their God?' "  
<sup>18</sup>Then the Lord became jealous  
for his land  
and had pity on his people.  
<sup>19</sup>The Lord answered and said to  
his people,  
"Behold, I am sending to you  
grain, wine, and oil,  
and you will be satisfied;  
and I will no more make you  
a reproach among the nations. " (ESV)