Zephaniah

(Jehovah Has Sheltered)

Hide – Protect

Zep 2:3 Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.

The name Zephaniah indicates the confidence that we must have in the power of God to hide and protect the truly righteous in the time of danger.

Key Word – “Jealousy”

Zep 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

Zep 3:8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

God will have no rival with our affections.

1:6, 12, 17; 2:3; 3:2, 7, 9, 14

God will have all our hearts, devotions or we will be severely tested and chastised.

1:15, 17 A day of darkness and gloominess for the sinner

3:12-20 A day of bright horizon for the obedient.

One thing that is learned reading the prophets is whenever an individual or nation lives carelessly, destruction is not far away. 1:12; 2:15

Matt. 23:37,38 Zeph. 3:1-7 Eze. 39:6

The very first words of this prophecy are:

“I will utterly consume all things from off the land saith the Lord.” (man and beast)

1:2,3; 2:5

God made the earth to be inhabited

Isa. 45:18

Men must seek God and serve Him only

Zeph. 2:3

Zephaniah was one of the last prophets before the captivity of Jerusalem along with Jeremiah.

**5 Steps of the Last Call to Repentance**

1. 1:7 (Keep silent) “Hold thy peace”

2. 2:3 “Seek ye the Lord” – His Righteousness – His Mercy

3. 3:8 “Wait ye upon the Lord”

4. 3:9 “A pure language…to serve Him with one consent”

a. One mind

b. One purpose

c. One motive in view

5. 3:14 “With all your heart”

Key Phrase “The day of the Lord”

1:7, 8, 14, 18; 2:2, 3

Referred to: 1:9, 10, 12, 15, 16; 2:4, 7; 3:5, 7, 8, 11

The hymn of the world’s judgment.

“That day of wrath, that dreadful day” was taken from Zephaniah 1:14-18

Another Key Phrase “In the midst”

3:5, 11, 12, 15, 17

Outline of Zephaniah

The Judgment Day of the Lord

1:1-3:18

A. The Lord In the Midst For Judgment

3:5; 1:7

1. The devouring fact of the Lord’s jealousy kindled in the whole land of Israel. 1:18

a. Warning of judgment against Judah

1:2-7

b. The judgment will fall on the rich

1:8-13

Not because they have riches or things but things have them.

God wants you for Himself. 

Luxury breeds indifference

Poverty breeds bitterness

We must protect our hearts from both sides

(1) Princes

1:8

(2) King’s children

1:8

(3) Violent

1:9

(4) Merchants

1:11

(5) Men that are settled

1:12

(6) Mighty man

1:14

c. None of the wicked that dwell in the land shall escape the judgment. 1:18

(1) The stumbling block with the wicked

1:3

(a) Idolaters

1:4,5

(b) Backsliders

1:6

“turned back”

(c) Prayerless

1:6

“have not sought the Lord”

(d) Ignorant

1:6

“nor inquired”

d. The nearness of judgment

1:14-18

Remember this judgment is prophecy and it is two-fold

Only partially fulfilled

The worst is yet future

e. A call to repentance

2:1-3

f. The immoral state is the cause of judgment

1:5, 6, 17; 3:1-7

g. The severity of judgment

1:2, 3, 15, 18; 2:11; 3:6

2. The devouring fire of the Lord’s jealousy kindled against all the earth

3:8

a. Judgment against the surrounding nations

2:4-15

b. Judgment against pride

2:8, 10, 15

c. Assyria was God’s rod against Israel

Isa. 10:5, 24

Babylon became God’s rod against Assyria

Zeph. 2:13

B. The Lord In the Midst For Correction

3:5, 2, 7

1. The pattern of the devouring fire of His jealousy

a. 1:4 He will stretch out His hand in judgment

b. 1:14 He will lift up His voice in judgment

c. 1:16 He will sound the trumpet of warning

d. 1:12 He will search

e. 1:7 He will prepare His sacrifice

f. 1:7 He will bid His guests

g. 1:12 He will punish

h. 1:18 A speedy riddance of all that are wicked in the land

2. The day of the devouring fire of His jealousy

a. 1:8 The day of the Lord’s sacrifice

b. 1:10 Day of terror and wailing

c. 1:15, 18 Day of wrath

d. 1:16 Day of the trumpet

e. 2:3 Day of the Lord’s anger

f. 3:8 Day of indignation

C. The Lord in the midst for Salvation

3:15, 17

1. The devouring fire of the Lord’s jealousy quenched and the Lord resting in His love

3:17

a. Israel repenting

3:9

b. Hebrew language restored

3:9

c. True worship restored

3:10

d. Israel’s humility

3:11, 12

e. Sanctification

3:13

f. Rejoicing

3:14

When sin is cured, sorrow of sin is cured

When sorrow is cured, hearts are cured

When hearts are cured, God rests in His love

When God rests in His love, we sing with rejoicing

When we sing with rejoicing, God will make us a name

And praise among all the people of the earth

g. Deliverance

3:15, 20

h. End-time deliverance promises escape from the judgment

2:3

Study Questions

Zephaniah

1. Read the book of Zephaniah, make a comment on the overall view of this prophecy.

* God is looking for His people to serve Him only
* A warning to repent from Idols and they can receive his protection

1. What is the Key Word?

* Jealousy

1. . Define:

Baal – sun god

Chemarims – idolatrous Priests

Malcham –Amnonites sacrificed children

1. God will have \_\_all\_\_ \_\_\_our\_\_\_ ­­­­\_\_\_Hearts\_\_\_devotions.
2. . What are the words that begin the prophecy? (1:2)

Zep 1:2 I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the LORD.

1. . a. Give the 5 steps of the last call to repentance.

**5 Steps of the Last Call to Repentance**

1. 1:7 (Keep silent) “Hold thy peace”

2. 2:3 “Seek ye the Lord” – His Righteousness – His Mercy

3. 3:8 “Wait ye upon the Lord”

4. 3:9 “A pure language…to serve Him with one consent”

a. One mind

b. One purpose

c. One motive in view

5. 3:14 “With all your heart”

b. Define the word “consent”

The neck (between the shoulders) as the place of burdens; figuratively, the spur of a hill:--back portion and shoulder.

c. Write your consent to the will of God.

I will seek the Lord, His Righteousness, meekness and His instructions for a Pure Language for the obedient to call upon the name of the Lord and serve Him with one consent so that there is not one place dark in our lives.

1. Give Key Phrases with a reference for each.

Zep 1:14 The great **day of the LORD** is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the **day of the LORD**: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

Zep 3:17 The LORD thy God **in the midst** of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

1. Why does the judgment of God fall on the rich?

Not because they have riches or things but things have them.

God wants you for Himself. 

Luxury breeds indifference

Poverty breeds bitterness

We must protect our hearts from both sides

1. Is the day of the Lord’s wrath kindled against Israel completely?

1:18

“for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land”

1. How is Israel to sing?

Zep 3:14 **Sing,** O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice **with all the heart**, O daughter of Jerusalem.

1. What is the cause of judgment?

The immoral state is the cause of judgment

1:5, 6, 17; 3:1-7

1. Compare man’s love with God’s Love

Man’s love is a flickering flame compared to God’s Love as a Blazing fire.

Zep 3:17 The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; **he will rest in his love**, he will joy over thee with singing.

Study Questions

Zephaniah

1. Read the book of Zephaniah, make a comment on the overall view of this prophecy.

2. What is the Key Word?

3. Define:

Baal –

Chemarims –

Malcham –

4. God will have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ devotions.

5. What are the words that begin the prophecy? (1:2)

6. a. Give the 5 steps of the last call to repentance.

b. Define the word “consent”

c. Write your consent to the will of God.

7. Give Key Phrases with a reference for each.

8. Why does the judgment of God fall on the rich?

9. Is the day of the Lord’s wrath kindled against Israel completely?

10. How is Israel to sing?

11. What is the cause of judgment?

12. Sing till you feel God’s presence in a special way, then tell Him you love Him, praise Him for awhile, ask for His imputed righteousness to be imparted to your walk, seek to be merciful as His is merciful, then explain on this paper the results of your communing with the Lord.

2 I will utterly consume all things from off **Zep 1:1 The word of the LORD which came unto Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of** Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hizkiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

the land, saith the LORD. {I will...; Heb. By taking away I will make an end} {the land: Heb. the face of the land}

3 I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumblingblocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD. {stumblingblocks: or, idols}

4 I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarims with the priests;

5 And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham; {by the...: or, to the LORD}

6 And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.

7 Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests. {bid: Heb. sanctified, or, prepared}

8 And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel. {punish: Heb. visit upon}

9 In the same day also will I punish all those that leap on the threshold, which fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.

10 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, that there shall be the noise of a cry from the fish gate, and an howling from the second, and a great crashing from the hills.

11 Howl, ye inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down; all they that bear silver are cut off.

12 And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil. {settled: Heb. curded, or, thickened}

13 Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof.

14 The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.

17 And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.

18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

2:1 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; {not...: or, not desirous}

2 Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD'S anger come upon you.

3 Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.

4 For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up.

5 Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the LORD is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant.

6 And the sea coast shall be dwellings and cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks.

7 And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening: for the LORD their God shall visit them, and turn away their captivity. {for the LORD: or, when, etc}

8 I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and magnified themselves against their border.

9 Therefore as I live, saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, even the breeding of nettles, and saltpits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of my people shall spoil them, and the remnant of my people shall possess them.

10 This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified themselves against the people of the LORD of hosts.

11 The LORD will be terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; and men shall worship him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen. {famish: Heb. make lean}

12 Ye Ethiopians also, ye shall be slain by my sword.

13 And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and destroy Assyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation, and dry like a wilderness.

14 And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the cormorant and the bittern shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; their voice shall sing in the windows; desolation shall be in the thresholds: for he shall uncover the cedar work. {cormorant: or, pelican} {upper...: or, knops, or, chapiters} {for...: or, when he hath uncovered}

15 This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I am, and there is none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, and wag his hand.

3:1 Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city! {her...: or, gluttonous: Heb. craw}

2 She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God. {correction: or, instruction}

3 Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.

4 Her prophets are light and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

5 The just LORD is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

6 I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that none passeth by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is none inhabitant.

7 I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction; so their dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them: but they rose early, and corrupted all their doings.

8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

11 In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain.

12 I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.

13 The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

14 Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

15 The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.

16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.

17 The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

18 I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden.

19 Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.

20 At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.