# ZEPHANIAH - CHAPTER 1 - The Great Day of the Lord;

<u>OBSERVATION</u> <u>INTERPRETATION</u> <u>APPLICATION</u>

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <a href="http://www.missioncalvary.com/">http://www.missioncalvary.com/</a> Click on "Bible Studies" on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

- Zep 1:1 The word of the LORD which came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah (640-609 BC) the son of Amon, king of Judah.
- The Great Day of the Lord; vs. 2-18 Zep 1:2 "I will utterly consume everything From the face of the land," Says the LORD;
- Zep 1:3 "I will consume man and beast; I will consume the birds of the heavens, The fish of the sea, And the stumbling blocks along with the wicked. I will cut off man from the face of the land," Says the LORD.
- Zep 1:4 "I will stretch out My hand against Judah, And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place, The names of the idolatrous priests with the pagan priests—
- Zep 1:5 Those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops; Those who worship and swear oaths by the LORD, But who also swear by Milcom (Molech);
- Zep 1:6 Those who <u>have turned back</u> from following the LORD, And <u>have not sought</u> the LORD, <u>nor inquired of Him.</u>"
- Zep 1:7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD is at hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.

- <u>v. 1</u> Zephaniah He is thought to have been the great grandson of King Hezekiah. In the days of Josiah So he was cotemporary with Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and foretells what Jeremiah and Ezekiel did.
- v. 2
   As we move further into this prophecy, we will recognize that this judgment covers more than just the land of Israel. It is a worldwide devastation that is predicted here.
   The Book of Revelation confirms this.
- <u>v. 3</u> "I will consume man and beast"—all living creatures are included in this judgment. A the population increases, certain animal species will become extinct and disappear. God says that this is exactly what is going to happen when He judges that land. This is to be a very severe judgment..
- <u>v. 4</u> The remnant Whatsoever remains of the idolatry of Baal. This place Jerusalem. The name Both the persons, and the memory of them. The Chemarims. The priests The priests of Baal
- <u>v. 5</u> Housetops On the flat roofs of their houses. And that swear That mixt idol worship, and the worship of the true God; that devote themselves to God, and Baal, or Milcom, that is, Molech.
- **v. 6** The people have turned completely from God. Two classes are mentioned: backsliders and those who were never saved.
- <u>v. 7</u> Be silent You that murmur against God, stand in awe. The day A day of vengeance from the Lord. A sacrifice The wicked Jews, whom he will sacrifice by the sword. His guests summoned the beasts of the field, and the fowls of the air, to eat the flesh, and drink the blood. *Cf. Rev. 19:17-18*

**ZEPHANIAH** - Other prophets either neglect to mention their genealogies altogether or they record two or three generations at the most. Not Zephaniah. He opened his book by tracing his lineage four generations—all the way back to his great-great grandfather, Hizkiah—or, as we know him, Hezekiah. (Kings – Hezekiah (29 yrs); Manasseh(55 yrs); Amon(2 yrs); **Josiah(31 yrs – 640-609 BC)**; Jehoahaz (3 mos) This gives us a possible clue as to why Zephaniah recorded his family tree so carefully. Perhaps, under the inspiration of the Spirit, he wanted to make it known that he was related to royalty, that he was the great-great grandson of one of the greatest kings of Judah. Babylon began to flex her muscles and grow in power, the judgment of Jerusalem was imminent. Yet, faithful even to His faithless people, God's word of warning could be heard clearly through the voice of His prophets-of whom Zephaniah was one. Keep in mind that, although Zephaniah spoke specifically about the coming destruction of Jerusalem, more importantly he spoke prophetically of the day of the Lord—the seven-year period of time when God will pour out His wrath upon a Christ-rejecting, sinful world. Thus, like so many of the prophets, Zephaniah spoke not only of a historical confrontation but of the future Tribulation. And in so doing, the book that bears his name holds practical application for our own situation. Zephaniah will speak of the decree of the Lord (1:1-6), the day of the Lord (1:7-3:8), and the deliverance of the Lord (3:9-20).

<u>OBSERVATION</u> <u>INTERPRETATION</u> <u>APPLICATION</u>

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- Zep 1:8 "And it shall be, 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 <u>foreign apparel</u>.
- Zep 1:9 In the same day I will punish All those who leap over the threshold, Who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.

  Zep 1:10 "And there shall be on that day," says the LORD, "The sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate, A wailing from the Second Quarter, And a loud crashing from the hills.

  Zep 1:11 Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh (bazaar in Jerusalem)! For all the merchant people are cut down; All those who handle money are cut off.
- Zep 1:12 "And it shall come to pass at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And punish the men Who are settled in complacency, Who say in their heart, 'The LORD will not do good, Nor will He do evil.' Zep 1:13 Therefore their goods shall become booty, And their houses a desolation; They shall build houses, but not inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine." Zep 1:14 The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out.

- <u>v. 8</u> t The princes The great ones, who dreamed of shifting better than others, but fell with the first, cf. <u>2Ki\_25:19-21:</u> <u>2Ki\_23:34;</u> <u>Jer\_22:18-19</u>, foreign apparel The garb of foreigners, imitated by the wanton Jews.
- v. 9 What is referred to is the zeal with which the servants of the rich hastened from their homes to plunder the property of others to enrich their masters.
- v. 10
  The sound The great out cry and lamentation. The fish gate At which gate the Babylonians first entered into the city. The second This gate was in the second wall of Jerusalem, which on that side was fortified with three walls. The hills On which the city stood.
- <u>v. 11</u> Wail Cry aloud, and bitterly. Maktesh The lower town. Merchant people Who were wont to lodge in this place. That bear silver That brought it with them to pay for what they bought.
- <u>v. 12</u> I will search God speaks after the manner of men, who searches dark places with candles. Their complacency (lees) In allusion to liquors, which not being poured out from vessel to vessel to refine them, grow thick and foul.
- **v. 13** The goods which they took by plundering and pillaging and robbing are going to be taken away from them in just the same way as they got them.
- v. 14 Zephaniah 1:14–17 "The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. [15] That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, [16] A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers. [17] "I will bring distress upon men, And they shall walk like blind men, Because they have sinned against the LORD; Their blood shall be poured out like dust, And their flesh like refuse."

Zephaniah 1:3, 4 (a) I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumbling blocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD. I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem... In addition to bringing judgment upon Israel, God also promised judgment upon the animal kingdom. Why? Because Romans 8 declares Rom 8:18-22 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. [19] For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. [20] For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; [21] because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. [22] For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

When Adam fell, even the animal realm was infected and polluted by his sin and rebellion. That is why all nature is groaning, waiting for the day of redemption when things shall be right once again—when the lion will lie down by the lamb, when the poison will leave the ivy, when the earth will return to harmony.

Zeph. 1:4-6 The word of the Lord given to Zephaniah was a word of judgment, with verses 2 through 4 detailing who God would judge and verses 5 and 6 explaining why He would judge. Three groups were identified and indicted.

- Those like the Chermarims were into outright idolatry, worshiping Baal (v. 4b) and following astrology. (5a)
- A second group merely flirted with spiritual idolatry—acknowledging the Lord one day and bowing before the god of pleasure the next. (5b)
- Finally, there were those who were brazen in their apostasy and refused to seek the Lord at all.(v. 6)

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Zep 1:15 That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

Zep 1:16 A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers.

Zep 1:17 "I will bring distress upon men, And they shall walk like blind men, Because they have sinned against the LORD; Their blood shall be poured out like dust, And their flesh like refuse."

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 will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land.

"The judgments of God are terrible, but how ineffably sweet is His grace which He has manifested to guilty sinners." <u>The Minor Prophets, Charles Feinberg</u>"

The thing which the Book of Zephaniah makes clear is that God is glorified in judging as swell as He is glorified in saving." Vernon Mc Gee

A Call to Repentance; - vs. 2:1-3
The Wickedness of Jerusalem; vs. - 1-7 A Faithful Remnant; - vs. 8-13 -

In *Rev. 6:12–17*, we see how the day of the Lord described here by Zephaniah perfectly parallels the day of the wrath of the Lamb described by John. This is important because Paul declared that God has not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 5:9). There are those who teach that believers will go through the Tribulation before being caught up in the Rapture. I believe this is yet another passage of Scripture that undermines this premise because, although Jesus warned us that in this world we would have tribulation as the enemy attacks us constantly (John 16:33), He didn't say we would go through the Tribulation eschatalogically. Do you suppose the Father would allow us to experience the tribulations that come from the enemy daily and the Tribulation that will be poured out from heaven? I don't. You see, the believer endures tribulations now. But the unbeliever will go through tribulation when the wrath of the Lamb is poured out **upon a world** that rejected Him.

<u>v. 18</u> It has been quite interesting that our nation has spent billions of dollars throughout the world trying to *buy* friends, trying to win friends and influence people. But we are hated throughout the world today—we are not loved. You cannot buy love; you cannot win people over with silver and gold. But in this country we still believe that money solves all the ills of this life, that money is the answer to all the problems. God says that when He begins to judge, "*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 will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land. God removed them from the land. Why did He do that? He did that because He loved them. If He had not done it, it would have been necessary to exterminate totally succeeding generations. For the sake of the future generations—so not all would have to be slain—God had to move in and cut away the cancer of sin that was destroying the nation.

#### THE DECREE OF THE LORD

Zephaniah 1:7 (a) Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand... After speaking of the decree of the Lord, wherein God said, "I will judge man, the land, and everything therein because they're involved in idolatry, spiritual adultery, and apostasy," Zephaniah goes on to speak of the day of the Lord.

We are presently living in the day of man (1 Cor. 4:3). In other words, within certain parameters, man is calling the shots and running the show. Therefore, when people say, "If God is a God love, why is there starvation and war, rape and pollution?" tell them it's because we are living in the day of man. But the day of the Lord is coming when God will intervene.

The <u>day of the Lord</u> dawns in the Tribulation—<u>the</u> seven-year period when He will pour out His wrath on our sinful world—and proceed on into the <u>Millennium—the thousand-year period following the Tribulation when Christ will reign in Jerusalem with peace, prosperity, and righteousness. This approaching Day shows <u>two faces</u>; one of the judgment against those who sin against God, and one of blessings for those who follow Him. God will show Himself Just in both punishment and praise!</u>

There is a third day spoken of in Scripture: the day of the Lord Jesus (Christ) (2 Cor. 1:14). The day of Christ or the day of the Lord Jesus (1 Cor. 5:5), is the day of the Rapture—when Jesus will descend and, with a voice like a trumpet, summon us to meet Him in the clouds before He takes us to heaven for a seven-year "honeymoon" with Him (1 Thess. 4:16, 17). Don't confuse the day of the Lord with the day of Christ, for if you fail to understand the differentiation between these two days, your understanding of prophecy will be skewed. The day of Christ immediately precedes the day of the Lord. The day of Christ pertains to the church. The day of the Lord pertains primarily to Israel. The day of Christ speaks of the Rapture. The day of the Lord **speaks of the Tribulation.** Like the Hebrew day – it starts in darkness and ends in light!

<u>OBSERVATION</u> <u>INTERPRETATION</u> <u>APPLICATION</u>

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A Story of Love: Susan was three years old. Lying in her bed, she opened her eyes to find the stern face of a man peering down at her. As she screamed out in fright, the man quickly shuffled out of the room. Hearing her daughter's scream, Susan's mother ran into her room and held her tightly. Meanwhile, the man's voice could be heard talking to an accomplice on the telephone. He quickly reappeared, snatched Susan out of her mother's arms, ran down the stairs, and into a waiting car. Susan screamed as the car sped through town to a large building Carried to the fourth floor of the ominous edifice, Susan was placed on a bed and given a shot of a powerful drug. Just before she passed out, Susan looked into the face of yet another stranger—seconds before he unsheathed a knife and ripped into her stomach. "Give those men the death penalty," we would cry. But wait. The man who tore Susan away from her mother was her father. Aware that his daughter had been groaning all night, the call he made was to a doctor who said, "Bring her in immediately." The large building was a hospital. The drug was an anesthetic. The knife was a scalpel. The girl was saved. From Susan's three-year-old perspective, the events of the evening were understandably terrifying.

When people read Zephaniah and Revelation, when they read about the Day of the Lord and the wrath of the Lamb, they say, "How could God be so brutal?" But theirs is a three-year-old perspective for, in reality, it's a loving Father who shall "devour the land by the fire of His iealousy." You see, God is not jealous because He's angry with you or mad at this world. He is not jealous of you. He's not saying, "You hurt My feelings and now I'm going to get back at you." No, He's jealous for you, knowing that the world you live in is groaning in the middle of the night and in need of radical surgery. Therefore, not only prophetically but presently—when things are falling apart and coming down all around you—remember that God your Father is jealous for you. He sees that, although you might think it's painful and cruel, your situation is necessary to make you into the man or woman He knows you desire to be.

The process isn't easy—surgery never is. But sometimes it's imperative. And if you begin to wonder if you can really trust the One who bears the knife—look at His hand. You'll see a hole where a nail pierced it. And this nail print in the hand of Your Master Physician says, "From before the foundation of the world, I loved you enough to die for you, to go to hell for you, to pay the price for your sins. If I loved you that much, can't you trust what I'm doing presently?" The day of the Lord is a difficult, dark day indeed. Yet it is absolutely necessary to prepare us for the coming of the kingdom, the light, the Son. The day of trouble in your own life is not easy, but trust Him. He's worthy. He knows exactly what He's doing.

#### **Summary:**

- The theme of the book is the **Day of the Lord!** What a beautiful truth is spoken of over and over again in the NT. That is the fact that as His people, who are in Christ Jesus and because of what He has done, I will never face His wrath, I will never face His anger. I will never face His judgment! Why, because he carried us. He paid the price!
- A beautiful thing Zephaniah speaks so bluntly about the wrath of God that is coming, and the world is due His wrath, but God has made a provision for His people to escape that wrath. That provision is to be found in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Cf. 1Th 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, Rom 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.
- A theme that runs through the Minor Prophets is that The Lord wins!
  He's won! And He wins in the end! Sin and judgment of this world are
  not going to have the last day. But the Lord is going to have the last day
  on planet earth.
- A Beautiful, beautiful book! Beautiful is Zephaniah's name as it relates to
  this book. Zephaniah's name means <u>Jehovah hides/Yahweh has</u>
   <u>hidden</u> Jehovah protects, Jehovah treasures. The theme of his name The place to hide from the coming judgment of God is in the salvation
  that He has provided! Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden
  with Christ in God.
- The beauty of beauties is that **He saves me from the judgment**, **He not only offers protection from His judgment** but **He also treats me as a treasure**. He makes me into His treasure by His Holy Spirit!

### What God Has Promised

God hath not promised skies always blue Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through; God hath not promised sun without rain, Joy without sorrow, peace without pain. God hath not promised we shall not know Toil and temptation, trouble and woe: He hath not told us we shall not bear Many a burden, many a care. God hath not promised smooth roads and wide, Swift, easy travel, needing no guide; Never a mountain rocky and steep, Never a river turbid and deep. But God hath promised strength for the day Rest for the labor, light for the way; Grace for the trials, help from above; Unfailing sympathy, undying love. Annie Johnson Flint Hebrews 13:5 ...he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

### WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God. All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

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- Isa\_2:12 For the day of the LORD of hosts *Shall come* upon everything proud and lofty, Upon everything lifted up— And it shall be brought low—
- <u>Isa 13:6</u> Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.
- <u>Isa 13:9</u> Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it.
- <u>Isa\_34:8</u> For it is the day of the **LORD's vengeance**, The year of recompense for the cause of Zion.
- <u>Jer 46:10</u> For this *is* the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, **A day of vengeance, That He may avenge Himself on His adversaries**. The sword shall devour; It shall be satiated and made drunk with their blood; For the Lord GOD of hosts has a sacrifice In the north country by the River Euphrates.
- <u>Lam</u> 2:22 "You have invited as to a feast day The terrors that surround me. In the day of the LORD's anger **There was no refugee or survivor**. Those whom I have borne and brought up My enemies have destroyed."
- Eze 13:5 You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle on the day of the LORD.
- Eze\_30:3 For the day is near, Even the day of the LORD is near (Egypt's destruction); It will be a day of clouds, the time of the Gentiles.
- Joe 1:15 Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is at hand; It shall come as destruction from the Almighty.
- Joe 2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the LORD is coming, For it is at hand:
- Joe 2:11 The LORD gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; Who can endure it?
- Joe\_3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.
- Amo 5:18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! For what good is the day of the LORD to you? It will be darkness, and not light.
- Amo\_5:20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?
- Oba 1:15 "For the day of the LORD upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head.
- Zep 1:7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD is at hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.
- Zep\_1:8 "And it shall be, 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 foreign apparel.
- Zep\_1:14 The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out.
- 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 will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land.
- Zep 2:2 Before the decree is issued, Or the day passes like chaff, Before the LORD's fierce anger comes upon you, Before the day of the LORD's anger comes upon you!
- Zep 2:3 Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the LORD's anger.
- Zec\_14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.
- 1Co 5:5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
- 2Co\_1:14 (as also you have understood us in part), that we are your boast as you also are ours, in the day of the Lord Jesus.
- 1Th\_5:2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

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<u>2Pe\_3:10</u> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

# 26 verses found, 27 matches

Isaiah	4 verses found	4 matches
Jeremiah	1 verse found	1 match
Lamentations	1 verse found	1 match
Ezekiel	2 verses found	2 matches
Joel	4 verses found	4 matches
Amos	2 verses found	3 matches
Obadiah	1 verse found	1 match
Zephaniah	6 verses found	6 matches
Zechariah	1 verse found	1 match
1 Corinthians	1 verse found	1 match
2 Corinthians	1 verse found	1 match
1 Thessalonians	1 verse found	1 match
2 Peter	1 verse found	1 match