

Zephaniah 3:11-20
The Day of the Lord
(The Major Point of the Minor Prophets)

The book of Zephaniah: Radical book -

One commentator described this book as a **Texas Tornado**, a **Florida Hurricane**, and a **California Earthquake** all rolled into one

A) This is a powerful book, and a good one to come out and discover this Wednesday Night as we cover it chapter by chapter

B) Theme: **The Day of the Lord -**

C) Today Ch. 3:11-17 follow as I read

11 In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds in which you transgress against Me; for then I will take away from your midst those who rejoice in your pride, and you shall no longer be haughty in My holy mountain.

12 I will leave in your midst a meek and humble people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord.

13 The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed *their* flocks and lie down, and no one shall make *them* afraid.”

14 Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all *your* heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

15 The Lord has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the Lord, *is* in your midst; you shall see disaster no more.

16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak.

17 The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

18 “I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, who are among you, *to whom* its reproach *is* a burden.

19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, and gather those who were driven out; I will appoint

them for praise and fame in every land where they were put to shame.

20 At that time I will bring you back, even at the time I gather you; for I will give you fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I return your captives before your eyes,” says the Lord.

Pray:

Many years ago a man with a stern look on his faced walked into a bed room where a **little girl lay in her bed**, the man approached the bed his face obviously troubled as he looked at her.

When the little girl rolled over seeing the man she screamed, **the man ran out of the room.**

The girls mother **heard the scream and came in** and took the little girl into her arms to comfort her.

The man went into another room and was on the phone with someone **we would call an accomplice,**

a plan was set in motion and as he hung up the phone and went back into the room where the little girl was **and snatched her from her mothers arms**

He raced outside to where there was a car waiting with it's motor running.

Off they rushed into the darkness the little girl screaming and crying.

The car stopped at **a large ominous looking building with a single lit room on the top floor.**

The man carried the child up to that room and upon entering gave **the child to another man** – it was the man who he had previously spoken to on the phone.

That man took the little girl and put her on a table and promptly **plunged a knife into her abdomen.**

You here that story and think – how cruel. How utterly heartless! NO – It was an act of pure love.

A) You see the man who went into the room and snatched the little girl out of her mothers arms was the little girls father.

B) The man he had spoken to on the phone was the family doctor who knew what the problem was –

C)It was a burst appendix and if it wasn't treated immediately the infection would spread and the little girl would die. "Rush her down to the hospital"

D)The little girl didn't want to go – I'm sure she probably said many time – "daddy if you love me you won't do this."

1)But he was doing it because He loved her, and wanted to save her.

So God in his love and mercy will execute wrath – just enough to bring his people back to Him. – Purge the wickedness out of them.

A)We have seen this many times already in our study of the Minor prophets –

B)God sends a Prophet to prophesy of coming Judgment against Israel or Judah

C)**The judgment was coming because of their rebellion and their wickedness** –

1)like a cancer was growing in the life of the people that had to be eradicated.

D)God had made a covenant with His people and would not forsake them –

1)but in order to live in right relationship with them – Couldn't just ignore their rebellion

Judgment was necessary to get them back on track – the Bible says – **whom the Lord loves he chastens** – the Chastening has a purpose

A)Like the father with his little girl the Chastening is meant to save them/

B)God's instruments of Judgment would be the Assyrians or the Babylonians
Who would invade the land – take people captive
1)Leaving only a remnant in Israel or Judah

C)But through the process the people of God would come to their senses and turn back to Him and he would restore them.

The theme of the book of Zephaniah is **THE DAY OF THE LORD**

A)Like many of the minor prophets that we have seen thus far – there is a NEAR AND A FAR aspect to the prophecy

B)The Near aspect is the coming invasion of Judah by the Babylonians – but that invasion would serve as a template –

C)Or what we might call a preview of coming attractions to the final **day of the Lord** which will involve all the nations of the world

The Day of the Lord is not a specific day –

A)But it speaks of a time period that begins immediately after the rapture of the Church

B)It includes the 7 year time of tribulation – God is pouring out His wrath upon the world –

1)and it culminates with THE DAY – the 2nd coming of Christ.

C)Notice how Zephaniah describes that time period in Ch. 1:14-16

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. 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

D)The Day of the Lord, according to the Old Testament, is a time of God's judgment and a time of God's dealing with the world in its sin.

Jesus in Matthew 24 described it like this:

²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.
– Matthew 24:21-22

The Apostle John in the book of Revelation gives this description

And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

– Revelation 6:15-17

We read in the book of Revelation at the opening of the 4th seal in Revelation Chapter 6, that ¼ of the earth's population is going to die!

Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. 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.

10 For the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be darkened in its going forth, and the moon will not cause its light to shine.

11 "I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud." ~ Isaiah 13:6, 9-11

21 It shall come to pass in that day *that* the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones, and on the earth the kings of the earth.

22 They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days they will be punished.

~ **Isaiah 24:21-22**

The setting of the book of Zephaniah

According to Zephaniah 1:1 The days of Josiah

Josiah had begun to reign in Judah about 80 years after the northern kingdom of Israel had been swept away by the Assyrian invaders.

During those 80 years the southern kingdom of Judah had not learned the lesson of the northern kingdom,

A) Judah sank deeper and deeper into sin and rebellion against the law of God.

B) In the 18th year of Josiah's reign Hilkiah the priest found in the temple a copy of the book of the law that had been ignored for decades.
2 Kings 22

When Hilkiah the priest read it to the king, Josiah was broken.

A) He humbled himself before the Lord and rent his clothes and wept

B) Over the next 13 years Josiah led an amazing reformation in Judah based on the law of God.

1) He renewed the covenant between God and his people (2 Kings 23:3).

C) He took all the vessels of Baal and Asherah out of the temple and burned them in the fields of Kidron

- He deposed the idolatrous priests (23:5).
- He broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes (23:7).
- He removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun (23:11).

D) MAJOR REFORMS

1) And he reinstated the Passover that had been ignored since the days of the judges (23:22).

The problem with this move of Josiah is it was more reform than it was revival

A) It was forced sanctions – not a heartfelt response of many of the people.

B) Be like if our Government suddenly dictated that America was going to be a Christian nation – 1) everyone was required to go to church - Live by the 10 commandments -

2) MANY WOULD FOLLOW BEGRUDINGLY

C) That was the situation in Judah during the time of Josiah's reform

1) And it wasn't going to last

Zephaniah is preaching during this time – he is no doubt aiding the King in this call for reformation

A) How did Zephaniah preach? I bet he was a passionate dude. **What was his message?**

B) Three fold – It involved a Warning of coming Wrath from the Lord – Chapter 1

1) A Call to repentance – first part of Chapter 2

C) A Warning to the surrounding nations 2nd part of Chapter 2 - **Far aspect** – the day of the Lord that was coming upon all nations

1) We will go over the specifics this Wed night

But in the midst of his message in Chapter 3 – There is an amazing Shift

A) Along side the destruction of his wrath, God puts the re-creating power of his love.

B) It seems that in spite of the worldwide outpouring of his wrath, God is going to do two great acts of mercy described in 3:9–20.

- #1 A Promise of a Global Awakening
- #2 The Promise of Revival and Purification

C) #1 A Promise of a Global Awakening

V.8 Describes the scene of The 2nd coming:

“Therefore wait for Me,” says the Lord,
“Until the day I rise up for plunder;
My determination is to gather the nations
To My assembly of kingdoms,
To pour on them My indignation,
All My fierce anger;
All the earth shall be devoured
With the fire of My jealousy.

Now before we dive into this – I want to say: If you are not familiar with Prophecy – might be a little lost – next few minutes –

A) Don't have time today to break this down in great detail – but if you want to understand more

B) Mention the references – If you jot down and go to our website – Many messages on these verses/subjects

C) Recent Pastor Jason – good overview and some older messages – I gave much more detail.

V.8 Describing the Battle of Armageddon – Revelation Ch. 19

A) The Anti-Christ will bring the nations of the world into a battle in Israel – Valley of Megiddo

B) This takes place at the 2nd coming of Christ – He returns to the earth with power and glory

1) We the church – Raptured – Revelation 4 – we are with Him –

C) The Nations come in Mass – Jesus by the word of His power – destroys them – Not much of a battle

1) We are not fighting – spectators – it is all Jesus

D) The Anti-Christ and his armies are wiped out

Now during the tribulation time there are going to be many who don't follow the Anti-Christ – receive mark

A) Many who will turn to Jesus – people you have witnessed to. {Rapture – they WAKE UP

B) Unfortunately many of them will be killed for following Jesus – during the Tribulation.

1) Revelation 7:9-17 John sees an innumerable crowd – from all over the world – in heaven

C) Who are these – Martyred during the tribulation

But there are also going to be people who survive – Hiding in the hills – {Hard but they will make it

A) V.9 Describes when they come to meet Jesus after the 2nd coming

B) Joined with the host of Heaven the Bride of Christ – returned – Jesus reign Verse 9: “For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the Lord, To serve Him with one accord.

C) This is going to be a time of Global awakening

#2 Also a time of Revival and Purification

A) This is also going to be a time – where a remnant of the People of Israel –

B) Who are spared by God during the tribulation – Come to embrace Jesus

C) Most Jewish people do not embrace Jesus as their messiah – Still looking – Don't believe NT.

1) They will miss the rapture – In fact in Jeremiah 30 it is called the time of Jacob's trouble – ISRAEL

D) Matthew 24 alludes to this as well.

1) Purpose of the Tribulation is God – Judging a Christ rejecting world –

2) And God getting the attention of the people of Israel – His Covenant people. –

C) Jesus returns – the eyes are opened of those who had rejected Jesus and they are going to Him as their messiah

D) V.11-12 Describes that scene –

11 In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds in which you transgress against Me; for then I will take away from your midst those who rejoice in your pride, and you shall no longer be haughty in My holy mountain.

12 I will leave in your midst a meek and humble people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord.

E)And in this time V.17 says that God is going to be in the midst of His people – and rejoice over them with Singing! –

GOD SINGING – what does that sound like?

A)Awesome voice – perfect pitch - make Luciano Pavarotti sound like an amateur

B)Great and glorious day!

C)Ok – Awesome can't wait – but what good does that do me now? – Life is tough – world stinks

Right now we are in this waiting mode.

A)Time since the first coming of Christ – where the Church has been birthed.

B)God doing a new Work – Jews and Gentiles together in Christ –

1)Experience a taste of coming attractions

Matthew 18:20 Two or more are gathered together in my name: THERE IN THE MIDST!

A)Experiencing today – Preview of Coming attractions – THE LORD IS HERE!

B)Nehemiah 8:10 The Joy of the Lord is your strength

1)The Lord rejoicing over you is your strength

C)You are in Christ today – God rejoicing over you as His Kids

Parents rejoice in your Kids – Right

A)That is my boy – girl – star of the play – Best one on the team

B)God's heart toward you!

C)Baby Born – Beautiful - -not really

1)Born again Beautiful

How the Lord sees you in Jesus!

A)Beautiful – covered in the righteousness of Christ

B)But you have had a horrible week – You don't feel beautiful – Feel guilty – Blown it

C)What Jesus will say to the nations that day applies to you and I right now in Christ – Repented

15 The Lord has taken away your judgments,

Forgiveness

PERHAPS YOU are struggling with the SHAME of past decisions – wrong choices

A)What Jesus will say to ISRAEL in that day those v.18 describes living under reproach –

B)What Jesus says to them in that day applies to you RIGHT NOW!

I will save the lame, and gather those who were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame in every land where they were put to shame.

C)God's heart – You are mine – You might feel full of Shame – but I don't feel ashamed of you

1)Hebrews – Not ashamed to call us His brethren

Perhaps you're feeling the weight of the Spiritual battle all around you this week –THICK

V.15B He has cast out your enemy.

Fight not for Victory but FROM victory – Jesus defeated our enemy.

A)Stand strong in the Lord and the power of his might! V.17

The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

B)Grab a hold of the reality today – His Heart Precious Church – can I encourage you today to

Take refuge in the name of God.

A)Bank your hope on the righteousness of Christ and not your own.

B)And let yourself awaken to the wonder that the Lord,

1)The King of kings, rejoices over you with gladness and exults over you with loud singing.