

Outline of Zephaniah

Theme: The Day of the LORD, Judgment.

I. The Day of the LORD Will Bring Great Tribulation (ch. 1)

(The coming Babylonian captivity is a preview of the Great Tribulation)

A. It is a day of consuming the inhabitants (1:1-6)

1. The LORD will consume the inhabitants of the land (2-3)
(animals, fowl, fish, mankind)

2. The LORD will consume the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem (4-6)

a. He will consume the idolaters

--the Baal worshipers

--the Chemarim (see 2 Kings 23:5; Hos. 10:5--the same word)

-priests appointed by the king for idolatrous worship of the
LORD

--star worshipers

--two-sided worshipers

they swear by the LORD

they swear by Malcham (see note at Amos 5:26)

= their king (Baal);

or their literal king;

or Malcham = Molech

b. He will consume backsliders (6)

B. It is a day of Sacrifice and Punishment (1:7-14)

1. The LORD has prepared His sacrifice (7)

2. The LORD will punish the offenders (8-13)

a. The nobles (8)

b. The violent and the deceivers (9)

c. The usurers (10-11)

-Maktesh: "The Mortar"

-Josephus described it as the valley of the Cheese Makers

-the inhabitants were Jewish merchants and money lenders

d. The sensuous drunkards (12-13)

-"lie upon their lees"

-"lees"--the sediments or dregs of liquor.

-good wine that remains on its lees becomes better

-bad wine becomes harsher and thicker

e. The scorers of God (14)

C. It is a day of vengeance (1:15-16)

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|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a day of wrath | 6. a day of darkness |
| 2. a day of trouble | 7. a day of gloominess |
| 3. a day of distress | 8. a day of clouds |
| 4. a day of waste | 9. a day of alarm |
| 5. a day of desolation | |

D. It is a day of speedy riddance (1:17-18)

II. The Day of the LORD Will Bring Judgment (ch. 2)

A. The prophet called for repentance before the day of judgment (2:1-3)

"not desired" = "without shame" [NASB]

B. The judgment will be against the neighboring nations (2:4-15)

1. against Gaza and the Philistines (4-7)
2. against Moab and Ammon (8-11)
3. against Ethiopia (12)
4. against Nineveh and the Assyrians (13-15)

III. The Day of the LORD Will Be Against Jerusalem (ch. 3)

A. It will be against Jerusalem's sin (3:1-7)

1. It will be because of filthiness and pollution (1)
[rebellious & defiled--NASB]
2. It will be because they are uncorrectable (2)
3. It will be because of their godless leaders (3-4)
 - a. princes (3)
 - b. judges (3)
 - c. prophets (4)
 - d. priests (4)
4. It will be because they have not heeded previous chastening (5-7)

B. It will bring judgment and restoration (3:8-13)

1. It will bring great tribulation (8)
(verse 8 has every letter of the Hebrew alphabet)
2. It will bring restoration of the captives (9-11)
(verse 9 implies that Hebrew will be the language of the Millennium)
3. It will restore the remnant to their place (12-13)

C. It will bring blessing and rejoicing to Jerusalem (3:14-20)

1. The enemies will be cast out (14-15a)
2. The LORD will be the King in her midst (15b)
(there will be no more evil)
3. The LORD will be GOD in her midst (16-17)
(He will deliver her people)
4. Israel will be regathered to their land (18-20)