

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Sermons Preached
by Dave Lueloff

Habakkuk 1:1-4

Habakkuk 1:1-2 The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see. O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! *even* cry out unto thee *of* violence, and thou wilt not save!

➤ **God is Indifferent**

Habakkuk 1:2-4 O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! *even* cry out unto thee *of* violence, and thou wilt not save! Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause *me* to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence *are* before me: and there are *that* raise up strife and contention. Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

The Prophet's Complaint 1:1-4

The Lord's Answer 1:5-11

1. LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear...

Some think that when a person gets saved, they are rid of all their problems. The *problem* of sin and separation from God is solved, but a another bunch of problems arise.

Why do good people suffer? Why do evil people prosper? Why isn't God answering my prayer? When I am doing my best for the Lord, why do I experience the worst from people?

Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are* revealed *belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law.

Genesis 18:25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and **lean not unto thine own understanding.**

Habakkuk **the prophet**

2. Good, godly men are not exempt from inner turmoil.

Moses

Numbers 11:14-15 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because *it is* too heavy for me. And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

Elijah

James 5:17 Elias was a man **subject to like passions** as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

1 Kings 19:3-4 ...he arose, and went for his life...But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I *am* not better than my fathers.

Jeremiah

Jeremiah 20:14-18 Cursed *be* the day wherein I was born: let not the day wherein my mother bare me be blessed. Cursed *be* the man who brought tidings to my father, saying, A man child is born unto thee; making him very glad. And let that man be as the cities which the LORD overthrew, and repented not: and let him hear the cry in the morning, and the shouting at noontide; Because he slew me not from the womb; or that my mother might have been my grave, and her womb *to be* always great *with me*. Wherefore came I forth out of the womb to see labour and sorrow, that my days should be consumed with shame?

Jonah

Jonah 4:3 ...O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for *it is* better for me to die than to live.

Gideon

Judges 6:13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where *be* all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites.

Habakkuk's problem is similar to Ps. 73:1-20

The Psalmist concludes with:

Psalms 73:21-24 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins. So foolish *was* I, and ignorant: I was *as* a beast before thee. Nevertheless I *am* continually with thee: thou hast holden *me* by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me *to* glory.

It is okay to get down in the dumps, just don't stay there. If you are staying there, have it be a short visit.

3. Lord, why do you allow such craziness to take place – as sin abounds and senseless judgments are meted out.

Habakkuk 1:3-4 Why dost thou shew me **iniquity**, and cause *me* to behold grievance? for spoiling and **violence** *are* before me: and there are *that* raise up **strife** and **contention**. Therefore the **law is slacked**, and **judgment doth never go forth**: for the **wicked** doth compass about the righteous; **therefore wrong judgment proceedeth**.

God is longsuffering.

Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Habakkuk 1:2-11

The prophet complains of the sinfulness at hand and the lack of God's movement

Habakkuk 1:2-3 O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! *even* cry out unto thee *of* violence, and thou wilt not save! Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause *me* to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence *are* before me: and there are *that* raise up strife and contention.

How often have people wondered – ‘when will God move.’ Even in heaven that is asked:

Revelation 6:9-10 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

God answers that He will send the Chaldeans to punish Judah.

Habakkuk 1:6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, *that* bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwellingplaces *that are* not theirs.

God foretold that Israel would go into Babylonian captivity

Isaiah 39:6-7 Behold, the days come, that all that *is* in thine house, and *that* which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

Babylonians are described

Habakkuk 1:7-8 They *are* terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity shall proceed of themselves. Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle *that* hasteth to eat.

Application for today – will God bother with the horrific abortions, late-term abortions, gay marriage, LGBTQ agenda.... Consider the great persecution in China and other parts of the world. Will God move?

God moves when He has to. It is not His character to just send judgment.

Psalms 103:8 The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

Psalms 145:8 The LORD *is* gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

We are on the precipice of the judgment of God. Like Isaiah 39, it has been foretold. There are 21 specific judgments in the Book of Revelation along with the judgment of Mystery Babylon and Babylon.

Habakkuk lived in a time of violence and strange decisions by judges. Sound familiar?

Habakkuk 1:3-4 Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause *me* to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence *are before me*: and there are *that* raise up **strife and contention**. Therefore the **law is slacked**, and **judgment doth never go forth**: for the **wicked doth compass about the righteous**; therefore **wrong judgment proceedeth**.

2 Timothy 3:1-4 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Sins of the Tribulation Period are prevalent today:

Revelation 9:21 Neither repented they of their **murders**, nor of their **sorceries**, nor of their **fornication**, nor of their **thefts**.

Murders – hatred (lack of love) Sorceries – drug use (pharmakia)
Fornication – immorality (pornea) Thefts – dishonesty at its root

The 60's brought to the USA, marijuana, LSD, immorality and rock music. Today, marijuana use is prevalent, rap music is accepted as normal, and live-ins, sodomy, and perversion is rampant.

What I am saying – just as Noah was pre-flood; Habakkuk is pre-wrath; and we are also in a similar situation. To deny this is to put our head in the sand and act like everything is ok. It has been 2,000 years since Jesus Christ came to earth and He foretold of His second coming. It is near.

The Prophet's Complaint 1:1-4 The Lord's Answer 1:5-11

How long? (vs. 2) / In your days (vs. 5) / It is near – I will raise up the Chaldeans (vs. 6)

God will move when it is unexpected.

Matthew 24:39 And **knew not until the flood came**, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 For **when they shall say, Peace and safety**; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

What does Habakkuk have to do with us today? The parallel is remarkable.

Pornography is on TV; children have access to the Internet; lawmakers allow botched aborted babies to lie there to die; sin is rampant.... The 'frog in the kettle' view of humanity is prevalent.

There is always a remnant of godly people. The only two people that the Bible mentioned that 'walked with God' were Enoch and Noah. They lived in perilous times.

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Habakkuk 1:12-17

Why did God allow Judah to continue in sin without judgment?

Why would God use Babylon to punish them?

The character of God:

God is from everlasting

Habakkuk 1:12 *Art thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction.*

God is holy

Habakkuk 1:13 *Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?*

The helplessness of Judah against Babylon

Habakkuk 1:14-15 *And makest men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, that have no ruler over them? They take up all of them with the angle, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their drag: therefore they rejoice and are glad.*

The Babylonians will treat men as fish to be snagged, and then they worship idols (1:16).

It is difficult to understand the ways of God

Isaiah 55:8-9 *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Romans 11:33-36 *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

We must trust Him – BY FAITH

We only understand the workings of God within the holy place. Remember Psalms 73:

Psalms 73:16-17 *When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.*

Habakkuk waits for an answer (2:1). The Lord tells him to write it down (2:2-3). The writing was to be permanent so every generation could read it; it was to be plain, so anybody could understand it; and it was to be public so it could be out for display.

Here is a writing that is permanent, plain and public:

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, **believe also in me**. In my Father's house are **many mansions**: if it were not so, I would have told you. I **go to prepare a place for you**. And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again**, and receive you unto myself; that **where I am, there ye may be also**.

The faith of man

Habakkuk 2:4 Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Romans – the *Just*

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

From faith to faith = From faith (in Creator) to faith (in Saviour). Creation is revealed thru the heavens and salvation is revealed thru the gospel of Christ – to everyone that believeth – to the JUST.

Galatians how they should *live*

Galatians 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, *it is evident*: for, The just shall live by faith.

After salvation, we are not to go back to living by sight; living by the works of the law. No, we are saved by faith and are to live by faith.

Galatians 3:1-3 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth...This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Hebrews – *by faith*

Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

This verse is followed by a whole chapter describing faith and the concept of living by faith.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him...

Habakkuk 2:1-20

God is going to use Babylon to chastise Judah and Habakkuk doesn't understand it. God will punish Babylon for their sins. Judah will be chastised by Jehovah and Babylon will be judged, but the Just shall live by faith!

Habakkuk 2:1 I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. Barnes states:

"It was the custom of saints, when they wished to know the things of God, and to receive knowledge of things to come, to raise on high above distractions and anxieties and all worldly care. God hates the earth-bound mind and seeks hearts which soar aloft, raised above earthly things and temporal desires."

As the just shall live by faith, even so the sinful live by sight and seek earthly things.

The sinfulness of Babylon is an application to all humanity, as most live earthy.

Colossians 3:1-2 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

➤ **There are 5 woes and 2 purposes of Jehovah. Here are the 5 woes**

1) Selfish Ambition

Vs. 6-8

Habakkuk 2:6 Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, **Woe to him that increaseth *that which is not his!*** how long?

Slothfulness and being a sluggard are sins. Ambition can be used for good or for bad. For good:

Romans 12:11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Isaiah 59:17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance *for* clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

Mark 1:38 And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth.

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

Philippians 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Ambition for evil:

Habakkuk 2:5-6 Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, **he is a proud man**, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and *is* as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people: Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!

The desire for evil ambition is characterized by the need for more – cannot be satisfied.... This first woe encompasses the other 4 woes – (vs.6-8) covetousness, drunkenness, exploiting, and violence. The idolatry is noted as *self* becomes their own God. Where your tithe goes is who your god is.

2) Covetousness

Vs. 9-11

Habakkuk 2:9 Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

The opposite of covetousness is:

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

1 Timothy 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

The grasping of *more* is an earthy desire.

3) Exploiting People

Vs. 12-14

Habakkuk 2:12 Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!

The Babylonians had built their 'great' city with slave labor, blood and prisoners of war.

Proverbs 1:19 So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *which* taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

Proverbs 10:2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

4) Drunkenness & Violence

Vs. 15-17

Habakkuk 2:15 Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to *him*, and makest *him* drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

Proverbs 20:1 Wine *is* a mocker, strong drink *is* raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Literal drunkenness was a sin of the Babylonians under the Persian rule, so that even a pagan says of Babylon, "Nothing can be more corrupt than the manners of that city, and more provided with all to rouse and entice immoderate pleasures;" and "the Babylonians give themselves wholly to wine, and the things which follow upon drunkenness." It was when flushed with wine, that Belshazzar, with his princes his wives and his concubines, desecrated the sacred vessels, insulted God in honor of his idols, and in the night of his excess "was slain." BARNES

5) Idolatry

Vs. 18-20

Habakkuk 2:19 Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach!

These 'worldly wise' ones are so heavenly stupid. They set up idols as god.

➤ **Here are the 2 purposes of Jehovah**

Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:20 But the LORD *is* in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

We all have a little Babylon in us – the idea is to – as much as possible, live for the next life. Living on this earth makes it very easy to become earthy. Being saved allows us to view things as Habakkuk did as he set up upon the tower – to see this life thru the eyes of God.

Babylon was man's glory: **Daniel 4:30** The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

What is built for self will perish and what is for the glory of God will last – forever.

Antichrist (the willful king) & things of this earth:

Daniel 11:36-38 And the **king shall do according to his will**; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honour the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honour with **gold, and silver, and with precious stones**, and pleasant things.

God & eternal rewards for those who live for the next life:

1 Corinthians 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation **gold, silver, precious stones...**

Habakkuk 3:1-2

In Habakkuk, we have (1) Judah, the backslidden people of God, (2) Babylon, the wicked people, (3) the remnant of the just that live by faith and (4) Jehovah. The just live by faith and the Lord is:

Habakkuk 2:20 But the LORD *is* in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

When a human being really meets up with the One True Holy God, they become overwhelmed.

Habakkuk 3:2 O LORD, I have heard thy speech, *and* was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work...

When one meets the True God:

➤ Holiness Revealed

Isaiah 6:1-3 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory.

➤ Fear & Awe

Habakkuk 3:4-5 And *his* brightness was as the light; he had horns *coming* out of his hand: and there *was* the hiding of his power. Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

Hebrews 12:18-21 For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

Daniel 10:11 And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

➤ Worship – Fall on Your Face

Joshua 5:13-15 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, *Art* thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but *as* captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy. And Joshua did so.

1 Chronicles 21:16 And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders *of Israel, who were* clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.

Matthew 17:6 And when the disciples heard *it*, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

God conquers the will of man at salvation – and also when God reveals Himself. The heart must be broken for salvation and for sanctification.

Psalms 34:18 The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms 56:8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: *are they* not in thy book?

➤ **Sinfulness Revealed**

Isaiah 6:5 Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Job 40:4 Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth.

➤ **Invitation to the Throne**

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *ye* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *ye* double minded.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, *ye* younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Matthew 18:4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

Woe to Babylon / Joy to Godly

Habakkuk 3:18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: *and* again I say, Rejoice.

Habakkuk 3:3-15

Prayer of Habakkuk	3:1-2	Prophecy of the 2nd Coming	3:3-15
Praise of Habakkuk	3:16-19		

“The wicked will be plotting dark deeds; and the unbelieving will be proving to their own satisfaction that there is no God, no heaven, no hell, no coming judgment, when suddenly there will be a change. In the distant heaven there will be a POINT OF LIGHT outshining the sun. It will be seen descending toward the earth. As it descends it will assume the form of a bright cloud, out of which shall stream dazzling beams of light, and flashes of lighting. It will descend apace as if on the wings of the whirlwind, and when it reaches its destination over the brow of the Mt. Of Olives, it will stop and unfold itself to the terrified and awestricken beholders, and there will be revealed to them Jesus seated on a white horse and accompanied with His saints and the armies of heaven. Then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Clarence Larkin

“Christ is seen here as bodily leaving heaven and coming to earth. The white horse is symbolic of victory. It was customary for Roman generals after a conquest to parade on white horses with their captive prisoners in the procession that followed. The fact that Jesus comes on a white horse indicates that it is a time for His victory and for judgment on the wicked world. He comes as a conquering King and Lord of lords. His purpose in coming is to execute justice on the world, and to accomplish this He will make war. The fact that He wears many crowns, signifying rulership, shows that He is indeed the proper King over all nations.” John Walvoord

“He is the Rider on the white horse coming to execute righteous judgment on the earth, as He said. When He appears on earth again, it will be to judge and make war. His judgment and His war will be those of the perfect man, the Faithful and True One. He is the mighty captain leading His armies from heaven to earth. Out of His mouth proceeds a sharp two-edged sword. It is He who smites the nations. The armies merely view the battle. Most battles are fought by armies while the general directs from a vantage point. But this General is unique, and He has never lost a battle. As KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, He now returns to establish His kingdom.” Lehman Strauss

- At His coming, Jesus travels through Petra and Bozra which are two chief cities of Edom.

Habakkuk 3:3 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah...

Teman was the name of an [Edomite](#) clan according to the Bible and an ancient biblical town of [Arabia Petraea](#). Bozrah was the capital city of Edom:

Amos 1:12 But I will send a fire upon Teman, which shall devour the palaces of Bozrah.

Obadiah 1:9 And thy mighty *men*, O Teman, shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.

See Isa. 34:1-11 and 63:1-8

- Then He steps foot on Mt. Olives (Zech. 14:1-5) and then judges in the valley of Jehoshaphat. (Joel 3:2, 3:12)

Habakkuk 3:4 And *his* brightness was as the light; he had horns *coming* out of his hand: and there *was* the hiding of his power.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Matthew 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Habakkuk 3:5 Before him went the pestilence, and burning coals went forth at his feet.

Revelation 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

The mountains, hills, rivers, sea, sun and moon are moved as words of affliction, tremble, indignation and anger are used (vs. 6-11).

Ezekiel 38:20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that *are* upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall...

Nahum 1:4-6 He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Habakkuk 3:13 Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, *even* for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head out of the house of the wicked...

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

What is this world coming to? Judgment

Salvation of scores of people in midst of judgment

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Judgment *** Read Rev. 14:14-20, 16:15-21 and 19:11-18

Salvation to Israel in midst of wrath

Luke 17:26-30 And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man...Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

Lot was delivered out before the wrath of God

Genesis 19:22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

Noah was preserved through the wrath of God

Israel will be protected and preserved through the Tribulation Period and get saved when Messiah returns.

Zechariah 13:8-9 And it shall come to pass, *that* in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off *and* die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

Obadiah 1:17-18 But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be *any* remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken *it*.

Our response should be similar to the response of Habakkuk.

Habakkuk 3:16 When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.

Habakkuk 3:18-19 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God *is* my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' *feet*, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

Habakkuk 3:1-2, 16-19

Prayer of Habakkuk	3:1-2
Prophecy of the 2 nd Coming	3:3-15
Praise of Habakkuk	3:16-19

O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years,
in the midst of the years make known;
in wrath remember mercy.

Application

- **Personally** – God saved me when His wrath was abiding upon me

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

- **In Laodicean Church age**, have the Holy Spirit move

God can and will fellowship with any that open their heart to Him

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

- **In the Tribulation Period**, save souls

God will save vast multitude of souls – in wrath, mercy is extended!

Revelation 7:9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a **great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues**, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

Habakkuk did not depend on his feelings

Looked ahead – Judah going into captivity

Looked within – afraid and trembling

Looked around – falling apart (3:17)

Looked up - **Habakkuk 2:20** But the LORD *is* in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

All is okay with the Lord / Bad things happening on earth

Habakkuk 3:17 Although (1) the fig tree shall not blossom, (2) neither *shall* fruit *be* in the vines; (3) the labour of the olive shall fail, and (4) the fields shall yield no meat; (5) the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and (6) *there shall be* no herd in the stalls:

LITERAL: "The devastations of the enemy leave the country bare and uncultivated. The Chaldeans, like the Assyrians and Egyptians, cut down and burnt the fruit-bearing trees of the countries which they invaded. The trees most useful and abundant in Palestine are mentioned" PULPIT HELPS

APPLICATION: "All human hopes should fail - he numbers from the least to the greatest, the fruits of trees, the fig, vine and olive, for sweetness, gladness, cheerfulness. The well-being of the vine and fig tree furnishes the proverbial picture of peace and rest. These shall either not shoot forth, or shall at time of fruit-gathering have no produce or having, as it were, labored to bring forth fruit shall lie and fail: yet further "the staff of life" itself shall fail; "the fields shall yield no meat;" all the fields, as though they were but one shall have one common lot, barrenness.

Yet more; the flocks shall be cut off from the fold; not those only, feeding abroad in fields and open plains, shall be driven away, but they shall be carried away by the enemy from the folds, where they seemed penned securely; and not these only, but "there shall be no herd in the stalls," even the stronger animals shall utterly fail; every help for labor, or for clothing, or for food shall cease; he speaks not of privation, partial failure, but of the entire loss of all things, no meat from the fields, no herd in the stalls; and what then?" BARNES NOTES

Habakkuk 3:18 Yet I will **rejoice** in the LORD, I will **joy** in the God of my salvation.

Habakkuk 3:19 The LORD God *is* my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' *feet*, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

“**He makes me active and swift-footed as the gazelle, as a warrior should be. So by the help of God I shall be superior to my enemies. **He will make me to walk upon mine high places.** The expression is used properly of God to denote the victorious possession and government of a country.¹ Here it signifies that believing Israel shall overcome all opposition and dwell in safety in its own land.” PULPIT HELPS

God is my ... joy / rejoicing / strength / Saviour / song / rest

Psalms 18:1-2 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.

When I am weak, He is my strength. When everything is falling apart, He is my stability. Enter into His rest.

Hebrews 3:18 And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

Hebrews 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Hebrews 4:9-10 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his.

Hebrews 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

This concludes this chapter – put to music as indicated by 3:1 and 3:19c.

Singing in heaven

Ephesians 5:18-19 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

In wrath, remember mercy

Revelation 5:8-9 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; (The redeemed of the N.T. era)

Revelation 14:2-3 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. (The 144,000)

Revelation 15:2-3 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, *and* over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous *are* thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true *are* thy ways, thou King of saints. (The Tribulation saints)

Exodus 15:2 The LORD *is* my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he *is* my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Psalms 118:14 The LORD *is* my strength and song, and is become my salvation.

Joy in spite of outward circumstances and inward fear

Habakkuk 3:2 O LORD, I have heard thy speech, *and* was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

Habakkuk 3:16 When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.

Introduction to Zephaniah

Zephaniah (1:1) gives us more pedigree than any other prophet. He is the great-great-grandson of King Hezekiah. He prophesied during the reign of Josiah, which makes him a contemporary of Jeremiah (Jer. 1:2). Josiah had a religious reform outwardly rather than a real spiritual revival (2 Kings 22-23 and 2 Chronicles 34-35). Zephaniah makes no mention of this reform as he addresses a people whose heart is far from God and judgment is inevitable. Zephaniah wrote between 628 – 622 B.C..

Jeremiah 3:6 The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen *that* which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and...hath played the harlot.

Jeremiah 3:10 And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD.

The <i>Day of the Lord</i> and Judah	1:1-2:3
The <i>Day of the Lord</i> and Gentiles	2:4-3:8
After wrath, healing	3:9-3:20

The *Day of the Lord* was a prophecy with a double reference. In prophecy, the Lord often springboards from a near fulfillment to a far fulfillment. This is done in Zephaniah as chapter 2 speaks (my opinion) of the coming future judgment upon the Gentiles.

The near fulfillment was the coming judgment upon Judah and the far fulfillments (my opinion) are the Tribulation Period and at the end of the Millennium.

1. Day of the Lord – upon Judah 606 B.C.

Zephaniah 1:7 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.

Zephaniah 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.

2. Day of the Lord – upon the World – the Tribulation Period

Jer. 30:6-7 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness? Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

Matthew 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mark 13:19 For *in* those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

Revelation 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

3. Day of the Lord – upon the Unsaved – at End of the Millennium

Revelation 20:7-9 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

The Day of the Lord is a Sure Thing

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

1 Thessalonians 4:15 For **this we say unto you by the word of the Lord**, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

The Day of the Lord ought to cause us to Live Right

2 Peter 3:10-11 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

The Day of the Lord is a Dreadful Time

Zephaniah 1:15 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,

Zephaniah 2:2 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.

Amos 5:18-20 Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end *is* it for you? the day of the LORD *is* darkness, and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him. *Shall* not the day of the LORD *be* darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

The Tribulation Period / Day of the Lord is described in Revelation chapters 6-19. There are 7 seal, 7 trumpet and 7 vial judgments. Pity the people who are left behind at the Rapture. Famine & war will kill half of the world's population (Rev. 6:8, 9:18).

The severe wrath of God is described in Rev. 6:12-14, 8:7-13, 9:2-19, 16:2-11.

The Day of the Lord

Leading up to it – Apostasy & Perilous Times

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2 Timothy 3:1-4 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Money is Over-emphasized

Zephaniah 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.

James 5:1-3 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon *you*. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

The Wrapping up of the Day of the Lord

- All nations gathered against Jerusalem

Zephaniah 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.

Zechariah 14:2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Revelation 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Joel 3:2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and *for* my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

- Wrath of God is poured out

Revelation 14:19-20 And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the

city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.

Revelation 16:16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Revelation 16:20-21 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, *every stone* about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

Rev. 19:17-21 ...angel... saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come...unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men*... And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false...both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Isaiah 63:1-4 Who *is* this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this *that is* glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore *art thou* red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people *there was* none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance *is* in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.

The plea of Zephaniah:

Zephaniah 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.

Zephaniah 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 cry of Jeremiah (literally the weeping prophet) and Zephaniah went unheeded. Humans will lull themselves to sleep thinking all is ok. Wise people live in the fear of the Lord and believe all the Bible records will come to pass. The Word of God is true and faithful.

2 Peter 3:3-4 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as *they were* from the beginning of the creation.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Revelation 22:6 And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

Zephaniah Chapter 1

The Day of the Lord is pictured as:
A great sacrifice (1:7-13)

A devastating universal flood (1:2-3)
A great battle (1:14-18)

The Day of the Lord is at hand. God's longsuffering has given way to His wrath. Notice the Lord in heaven and the activities of God's people on earth.

The Judgment

Zephaniah 1:2-4 I will utterly consume all *things* from off the land, saith the LORD. 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. 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...

Zephaniah 1:8-9 ...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. In the same day also will I punish all...

Zephaniah 1:17 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.

Once the will of God is moved to judgment, there is no stopping it. Jesus referred to this time in the near future. **Matthew 24:21** For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. **Mark 13:19** For *in* those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

God is to be feared, loved, served, honored and praised. He is Creator, King, Judge and the Sovereign Saviour of the world. May we say today, 'the Day of the Lord is at hand.'

The Sins of God's People

Zephaniah 1:4 I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem...

They were either guilty of worshipping idols (adding to) or ignoring the Lord (taking away from).

Idolatry vs. 4-5

God is a jealous God and will not share worship with an idol. They worshipped Baal, the Chemarims, the host of heaven, and Malcham – all idols. They said, 'We swear by LORD & our god!'

Exo. 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God:

Deuteronomy 6:13-15 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which *are* round about you; (For the LORD thy God *is* a jealous God among you) **lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.**

Backsliding vs. 6 a

Zephaniah 1:6 'And them that are turned back from the LORD'... are backsliders.

Jeremiah and Zephaniah were contemporaries. Read Jeremiah as he pleads with Judah in Jer. 3:6-22. Judah refuses to repent.

Jeremiah 8:5-7 Why *then* is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return. I hearkened and heard, *but* they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle. Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD.

Indifference

Zephaniah 1:6 ...and *those* that have not sought the LORD, nor inquired for him.

Zephaniah 1:11-12 Howl, ye inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down; all they that bear silver are cut off. 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.

Zephaniah 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.

It is likely that the wealth of this time worked in conjunction with indifference and apathy.

Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

They were settled on their lees – no movement at all:

Jeremiah 48:11 Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.

Zephaniah and Jeremiah were God's prophets as they warned of coming judgment.

Jeremiah 5:3-4 O LORD, *are* not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, *but* they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return. Therefore I said, Surely these *are* poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, *nor* the judgment of their God.

Idolatry – I love God and _____
Indifference & apathy

Backsliding – not moving forward in your Christian life
All are rooted in a lack of love for the Lord

Zephaniah 2:1-3

Zephaniah 1:2 – 2:3

Coming Day of the Lord & Judah

Zephaniah 2:4 – 3:8

Coming Day of the Lord & the Gentile Nations

Zephaniah 3:9 – 3:20

Through Judgment to Blessing

The message to Judah can be summed up by these verses

Zephaniah 1:14-15 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. **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,**

Zephaniah 1:17 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.

Zephaniah 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.

Truly we are living in the last days before the Tribulation Period. The old-time preachers spoke of the *wickedness* in their day, and it was nothing like it is today. In 1960, J. Sidlow Baxter wrote, "The spiritual condition of the churches and the people is worse than at any time since just before the Methodist revival. We are surely in that period now which is to move quickly to the awful day of Christ's return."

The shedding of innocent blood cries to God for vengeance Read Deut. 21:1-9.

Numbers 35:30-34 Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person *to cause him* to die. Moreover ye shall take no satisfaction for the life of a murderer, which *is* guilty of death: but he shall be surely put to death. And ye shall take no satisfaction for him that is fled to the city of his refuge, that he should come again to dwell in the land, until the death of the priest. So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye *are*: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it. Defile not therefore the land which ye shall inhabit, wherein I dwell: for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel.

Genesis 4:10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

2 Kings 24:3-4 Surely at the commandment of the LORD came *this* upon Judah, to remove *them* out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did; And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.

Revelation 16:4-6 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and

wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

Total abortions in USA since 1972	60 million
Total abortions worldwide	1.5 billion

Psalms 139:13-14 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well.

Isaiah 44:24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I *am* the LORD that maketh all *things*; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

Luke 1:44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

Sodomy brings the wrath of God

Genesis 19:24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

Sodomite - 1. An inhabitant of Sodom. 2. One guilty of sodomy
Sodomy – a crime against nature

Sodom & Gomorrah were destroyed and the Canaanites were cast out largely due to the shedding of innocent blood and sodomy.

Leviticus 18:20 Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour's wife, to defile thyself with her.

Leviticus 18:21 And thou shalt not let any of thy **seed pass through *the fire to Molech***, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I *am* the LORD.

Leviticus 18:22 Thou shalt not **lie with mankind, as with womankind**: it *is* abomination.

Leviticus 18:24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:

Homosexuality is a symptom of the root issue that God has given people over to a reprobate mind.

Romans 1:24 Wherefore **God also gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

Romans 1:26-27 For this cause **God gave them up** unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, **God gave them over** to a **reprobate mind**, to do those things which are not convenient;

The sins of our society are past *the tipping point* and God will judge sin.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Revelation 6:16-17 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the **wrath of the Lamb**: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Parallel passage

Zephaniah 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.

Isaiah 26:20-21 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Israel will be *hid* by God and He will bring them through the wrath of the Tribulation Period.

Jeremiah 30:7 Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

Zechariah 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

Revelation 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days.

Revelation 12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Who came out to serve the Lord after the 70 years of judgment in Babylon? A remnant returned. Even so, there will be a remnant of Israel that will survive the Tribulation Period and will enter the Millennium Reign of Jesus Christ.

Zephaniah 2:3 speaks of them hiding and 3:13-14 speaks of their healing. There is to be a future national healing for Israel which will be covered later in this book. For a preview:

Zephaniah 3:16-17 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: *and to Zion*, Let not thine hands be slack. 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.

Zephaniah 2:4-11

Zephaniah was a contemporary to Jeremiah and also Obadiah.

Jeremiah 1:2 To whom the word of the LORD came **in the days of Josiah** the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.

Zephaniah 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.

Zephaniah 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.

Obadiah 1:15 For the **day of the LORD is near** upon all the heathen: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.

Coming judgment on the Gentile nations are described in Zeph. 2:4-15. Verses 4-7 speak of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron, the sea coast, the Cherethites, the Philistines, and verses 8-11 speak of Moab and Ammon.

On a Bible map, the Philistines, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and Ekron are all along the western coastline of southern Israel. The Cherethites are thought to be Philistines (Bible dictionaries).

Moab and Ammon (verses 8-11) are the children of Lot. Esau, Moab and Ammon comprise present day Jordan. In the 13th century B.C., Amman, Jordan was the capital of the Ammonites (Wikipedia).

The Bible speaks of the total judgment of Edom, Moab and Ammon.

Jeremiah 49:17-18 Also Edom shall be a desolation: every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof. As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour *cities* thereof, saith the LORD, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it.

Zephaniah 2:9 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.

This *must be* a future event as present-day Jordan is inhabited. How will this occur? It would seem the war of Psalms 83 describes Jordan (Edom, Moab and Ammon) attacking Israel with the help of peoples described in Zeph. 2:4-7 and Psalms 83:6-8.

Their Plan to Destroy Israel

Psalm 83:1 Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.

² For, lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head.

³ They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones.

⁴They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from *being* a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.

They have said, Come, and let us cut them off ... - Let us utterly destroy them, and root them out from among the nations. Let us combine against them, and overpower them; let us divide their land among ourselves, attaching it to our own. The nations referred to [Ps 83:6-8](#) were those which surrounded the land of Israel; and the proposal seems to have been to partition the land of the Hebrews among themselves, as has been done in modern times in regard to Poland.¹

The Unity Against Israel:

Ps. 83:5 For they have consulted together with one consent: they are **confederate** against thee:
Obadiah 1:7 All the men of thy **confederacy** have brought thee *even* to the border...

The Hebrew word used in both the above verses mean that they have **covenanted** together. They have covenanted together with “one consent” – which means “with one heart.”

Correlation of Jer. 49 and Obadiah with Psalm 83

Psalm 83:4 **They have said**, Come, and let us cut them off from *being* a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.

Jeremiah 49:14 I have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent unto the heathen, *saying*, Gather ye together, and come against her, and rise up to the battle.

Obadiah 1:1 The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord GOD concerning Edom; We have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent among the heathen, Arise ye, and let us rise up against her in battle.

Psalms 83:5 For **they have consulted together** with one consent: **they are confederate** against thee:

Note the correlation between Jer. 49 and Obadiah concerning Edom

Obadiah 1:2 Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised.
Jeremiah 49:15 For, lo, I will make thee small among the heathen, *and* despised among men.

(Perhaps “thee” refers to Israel and then the next verse switches back to Edom)

Obadiah 1:3 The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation *is* high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

Jeremiah 49:16 Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, *and* the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the LORD.

Obadiah 1:5 If thieves came to thee, if robbers by night, (how art thou cut off!) would they not have stolen till they had enough? if the grapegatherers came to thee, would they not leave *some* grapes?

Jeremiah 49:9 If grapegatherers come to thee, would they not leave *some* gleaning grapes? if thieves by night, they will destroy till they have enough.

¹ Barnes' Notes on the Bible

Obadiah 1:8 Shall I not in that day, saith the LORD, even destroy the wise *men* out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau?

Jeremiah 49:7 Concerning Edom, thus saith the LORD of hosts; *Is* wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? is their wisdom vanished?

Who will be involved?

Psalms 83:2 For, lo, **thine enemies** make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. ³ They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. ⁴ They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from *being* a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. ⁵ For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee:

⁶The tabernacles of **Edom**, and the Ishmaelites; of **Moab**, and the Hagarenes;

⁷Gebal, and **Ammon**, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre;

⁸Assur also is joined with them: they have holpen the **children of Lot**. Selah.

Edom	Jordan (S. Jordan)
Ammon, Moab	Jordan (N. Jordan) Ammon & Moab are the children of Lot
Ishmaelites	Unknown Middle East Area
Hagarenes	Unknown Middle East Area
Phillistines	Gaza
Amalek	Area South of Israel
Tyre	City in Lebanon
Gebal	City North of Beirut in Lebanon
Assur	City in Iraq, South of Mosul

Jordan will head this up as we will see their defeat in Obadiah and Jeremiah chapter 49.

Israel Defeats Jordan

Obadiah 1:18 And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame, and the house of Esau for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be *any* remaining of the house of Esau; for the LORD hath spoken *it*.

Jeremiah 49:17 Also Edom shall be a desolation: every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof. ¹⁸ As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour *cities* thereof, saith the LORD, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it.

Psalms 83:13 O my God, make them like a wheel; as the stubble before the wind. ¹⁴ As the fire burneth a wood, and as the flame setteth the mountains on fire;

- They counsel against Israel

Psalms 83:3 They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones.

- But the Lord has counseled against them

Jeremiah 49:20 Therefore hear the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them.

When?

Obadiah 1:15 For the **day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen**: as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head.

Why?

What will cause Jordan to attack Israel? (Ps.83:6 indicates Jordan will head up the war)
It is likely to have something to do with Israel and their desire to rebuild the Temple.

Jordan claims the Temple Mount area as theirs. They trace their Kingly line (by succession) back to King Herod, the Edomite! If Israel decides to rebuild the Temple, Jordan would take this as a personal affront as they consider Jerusalem and Temple Mount as their domain. Below are some current articles that reflect this.

AMMAN — His Majesty King Abdullah told Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Rabat on Monday that Jordan will reject any Israeli sovereignty over East Jerusalem.

The Palestinians want full sovereignty over East Jerusalem as the capital of the independent state they plan to declare this year. The Israelis say Jerusalem is their indivisible capital.

“Jerusalem was at the centre of the King Abdullah-Arafat talks in Rabat,” reported the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said the King underscored “the importance of Jerusalem to us (the Jordanians), for the Palestinians and for the Arab and Islamic worlds.”

King Abdullah reiterated Jordan’s “unequivocal backing of the Palestinian stand in rejecting Israeli sovereignty over East Jerusalem, notably the Islamic shrines.”
<http://www.jordanemassys.org/08012000001.htm>

The history of Hashemite leadership in the Arab and Islamic world finds Jordan’s current monarch, King Abdullah bin Al-Hussein, at the head of a family which represents over a thousand years of rule in the region, and with a long history as guardian of the Islamic faith and the holy city of al-Quds al-Sharif (or Jerusalem).

By the late 1980s, the dome was again beginning to dull in brightness, and damage resulting from regional violence could be seen in both the interior and exterior. King Hussein again initiated actions towards preserving the holy sites. Under his instruction, Jordan’s Ministry of Awqaf commissioned the Irish construction firm Mivan for the unprecedented job of gilding the dome with 5000 glittering new gold plates, as well as rebuilding the roof supports, repairing the basic structure of the building and fireproofing the compound. Special attention was also paid to the restoration of the Salah Eddin’s minbar and to the selection of the materials, which most closely resembled those initially used. The late King Hussein spent more than US\$ 8 million of his personal wealth to finance the project, which was widely acclaimed as one of the most ambitious religious restoration jobs in history.

http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/islam_restoration.html

Zephaniah 2:12-15

These verses are a continuation of the *Day of the Lord* upon the heathen.

Zephaniah 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.

Some of this or perhaps most of this has a near and a far fulfillment for the *Day of the Lord* of the Tribulation Period. If these are a far and unfulfilled prophecy, here are some thoughts / connections with present day places and other Bible verses that speak of similar events.

It is very difficult to be dogmatic on this; but here are some thoughts from Zephaniah.

- **Ethiopia**

Zephaniah 2:12 Ye **Ethiopians** also, ye *shall be* slain by my sword.

Ezekiel 38:5 Persia, **Ethiopia**, and Libya with them; all of them with shield and helmet:

Ezekiel 30:3-5 For the day *is* near, even the day of the LORD *is* near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen. And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and great pain shall be in **Ethiopia**, when the slain shall fall in Egypt, and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down.

Ethiopia, and **Libya**, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword. (See Eze. 38:5 – Ethiopia & Libya)

- **Assyria / Nineveh**

Zephaniah 2:13 And he will stretch out his hand against the **north**, and destroy **Assyria**; and will make **Nineveh** a desolation, *and* dry like a wilderness.

Mosul in Iraq is the ancient city of Nineveh. Assyria contained parts of Syria, Turkey, NW Iran, and Iraq. The capital city of Assyria was Nineveh.

- **The North** – Coalition joined with Russia in Eze. 38-39

Ezekiel 38:14-16 ...say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know *it*? And thou shalt come from thy place **out of the north parts**, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days...

Ezekiel 39:1-2 Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I *am* against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will **cause thee to come up from the north parts**, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

- **Damascus ??**

Zephaniah 2:14 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.

Isaiah 17:1-2 The burden of Damascus. Behold, Damascus is taken away from *being* a city, and it shall be a ruinous heap. The cities of Aroer *are* forsaken: **they shall be for flocks, which shall lie down**, and none shall make *them* afraid.

Sheep are easily frightened. If they can lie down and rest or slumber, it is because there is a feeling of safety, which means the area is truly desolate with no people, activity or predators.

When God begins a pronouncement with the word, "Burden", He is signifying calamitous judgment. In this 'burden', God is foretelling that Damascus, the capital of Syria, will be reduced to a "ruinous heap", and shall cease being a city. This kind of devastation has never befallen Damascus. Archeologists call Damascus the "longest continuously occupied city in the world". In its long, long history, Damascus has never, ever been so thoroughly destroyed that it has ceased being a city.²

H.C. Leupold states, "The fall of Damascus did not actually take place after the pattern which is here outlined. It never was completely ruined, nor did it pass off the scene."

Zephaniah 2:14 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**.

Isaiah to Assyria (The NE corner of Syria was a part of Assyria). Syria & cedar work:

Isaiah 37:24 By thy servants hast thou reproached the Lord, and hast said, By the multitude of my chariots am I come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon; and I will cut down the tall cedars thereof, *and* the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the height of his border, *and* the forest of his Carmel.

"We see by Sennacherib's boast, that the Assyrians imported cedars for building purposes. And we have monumental evidence of the employment of cedar in palaces at least since the time of Assurnazirpal, B.C. 860. Esar-haddon reports that he received cypress and cedar from Lebanon as tribute; and Assurbanipal states that in erecting his palace he used cedar pillars from Sirjon and Lebanon (Schrader, 'Die Keilinschrift. und Alt. Test.,' pp. 183, 453). Neriglissar, King of Babylon, B.C. 559, in rebuilding his palace, records that he "arranged tall cedars for its roof." PULPIT HELPS

- **Babylon**

Zephaniah 2:15 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.

² (<http://www.cuttingedge.org/news/n1035.html>)

Isaiah 47:8 Therefore hear now this, *thou that art* given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that **sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me;** I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:

Babylon will not only be known as a widow & loss of children; but will be totally destroyed:

Isaiah 13:19 And **Babylon**, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, **shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.** ²⁰ It shall never be inhabited, neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation: neither shall the Arabian pitch tent there; neither shall the shepherds make their fold there.

Rev. 18:21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast *it* into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city **Babylon** be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

Historically, Babylon has been inhabited and thus, the prophecy of Isaiah concerning the destruction of Babylon necessitates the rebuilding of it.

"In 331 B.C., Alexander the Great approached the city which was then so powerful and flourishing that he made preparation for bringing all his forces into action in case it (Babylon) should offer resistance.... In 917 A.D., Ibu Hankel mentions Babylon as an insignificant village, but still in existence."³

Jeremiah 51:24 And I will render unto **Babylon** and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD. Behold, I *am* against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain. And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but **thou shalt be desolate for ever**, saith the LORD.

"It is reliably reported that at least six cities bear the marks of having used parts of ancient Babylon in their building, including Seleucia, built by the Greeks; Ctesiphon, by the Parthians; Almaidan, by the Persians; and Kufa, by the Caliphs. Hillah, just a twenty-minute walk from the Babylonian ruins, was built almost entirely from the ruins of Babylon. The builders of Bagdad, fifty miles north of Babylon, also used materials from the ancient city."⁴

Since these two passages of prophecy have not been fulfilled literally, it is a necessity that the literal city of Babylon be rebuilt.

Perhaps Zeph. 2:4-11 speaks of the war of Psalms 83 headed up by Jordan and Zeph. 2:12-15 speaks of the war of Eze. 38-39 and also the destruction of Damascus due to a massive earthquake.

Ezekiel 38:19-20 For in my jealousy *and* in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that *are* upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

³ Larkin, Clarence The Book of Revelation, p.157

⁴ LaHaye, Tim Revelation Illustrated and Made Plain, p. 240

Zephaniah 3:1-8

Zephaniah 3:1-20 speaks of Jerusalem. 3:1-7 tells of their present sinful condition. Verse 8 gives us a preview of Armageddon and 3:9-20 tells of a glorious future. Concerning Jerusalem, Isaiah wrote of their sin & its' result. Notice the dearth of great men and a lack of statesmanship in verses 1-5.

Isaiah 3:8-9 For Jerusalem is ruined...because their tongue and their doings *are* against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory... they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide *it* not. Woe unto their soul...

Isaiah 3:1-5 ...the **LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem** ...The **mighty man**, and the **man of war**, the **judge**, and the **prophet**, and the **prudent**, and the **ancient**, The **captain of fifty**, and the **honourable man**, and the **counsellor**, and the **cunning artificer**, and the **eloquent orator**. And I will give children *to be* their princes, and babes shall rule over them. And the people shall be oppressed...the **child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable**.

Jesus spoke of the history of Jerusalem and their rejection. It is a very sad commentary:

Matthew 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, ***thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee**, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!

- Her Character

Zephaniah 3:1 Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!

Eight times, the Bible refers to Jerusalem as the *Holy City*. Here, she is filthy and polluted! Why?

- Her Rejection of God **Zephaniah 3:2:**

She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction;
she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God.

- Her Godless Leaders **Zephaniah 3:3-4:**

Her **princes** within her *are* roaring lions;
her **judges** *are* evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.
Her **prophets** *are* light *and* treacherous persons:
her **priests** have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

- Princes (roaring lions) seeking only for prey – they sought their own profit, not the blessing of the flocks they should have shepherded.
- Judges (evening wolves) secretly devouring all they could obtain, while professing to administer justice.
- Prophets were triflers with holy things, perhaps handling the Bible deceitfully.
- Priests who should have been holy and undefiled have polluted the sanctuary.

Zephaniah 3:5 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.

The just Lord is in the midst thereof. He will do no iniquity. He is still the faithful and true witness.

Application – to me, a believer

- Vs. 1 A *saint* is a *holy one*. Is my heart filthy and polluted?
- Vs. 2 Do I obey the Lord, receive His correction and instruction?
- Vs. 3-4 As I lead myself, am I a high-quality leader? Or have I let the world influence my life?
- Vs. 5 The Just Lord is in the midst of me – is He pleased with my life?

Salvation makes us just – the Blood of Jesus Christ is what makes us *Just* before God in heaven

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For *there is* not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Romans 3:26 ...that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Habakkuk 2:4 ...but the just shall live by his faith.

Romans 1:17 ...from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:11 ...*it is* evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Hebrews 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith...

2 Peter 2:7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

Righteous living makes one a just person – our life testifies that we are living a *just* life on earth

Proverbs 24:16 For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again...

Proverbs 10:20 The tongue of the just *is as* choice silver: the heart of the wicked *is* little worth.

Acts 10:22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel...

The Just Lord is in the midst of your heart. Are you living a just life? Let us also be faithful & true:

Revelation 3:14 ...These things saith the Amen, **the faithful and true witness**...

Revelation 19:11 and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was called Faithful and True*...

Revelation 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these **words are true and faithful**.

Revelation 22:6 And he said unto me, These **sayings are faithful and true**...

1 Peter 2:9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people...

There is a future hope for Jerusalem! Zephaniah 3:14 “Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.”

Zephaniah 3:8

There are two aspects at end of Tribulation Period: 1) Judgment upon those who have accepted Antichrist as their own personal savior and 2) Salvation to Israel.

Zephaniah 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.**

Note the phrase, *all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy* indicates that God is jealous over Antichrist being worshipped as God.

Exo. 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, *is* a jealous God:

Zechariah 12:10 And I will **pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications:** and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn. (ABOUT 700 B.C.)

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. (ABOUT 90 A.D.)

Psalms 22:16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. (ABOUT 1000 B.C.)

John 19:34-37 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw *it* bare record, and his record is true...For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced. (ABOUT 30 A.D.)

➤ Judgment upon those who have trusted Antichrist as their god

Revelation 14:9-10 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, **If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark...The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God...**into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone...

2 Thessalonians 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that **he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

Jesus is the True Vine – the Antichrist and his followers are the *vine of the earth*

Revelation 14:18-20 ...Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and **gather the clusters of the vine of the earth**; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel ...gathered **the vine of the earth**, and cast *it* into the great winepress of the wrath of God...and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs.

It would seem that the essence of Armageddon is a rebellion and attempt to overthrow the LORD.

Revelation 16:14-16 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, *which* go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the **battle of that great day of God Almighty**.... And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

Megiddo is on one side of the valley and Jezreel is on the other side of this valley. The final conflict – as they gather against Jehovah and His people.

Hatred of Satan and His Followers to the Authority of the Lamb

Revelation 12:10 ...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 17:14 These shall **make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them**: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.

Revelation 19:19 And I saw the **beast**, and the **kings of the earth**, and **their armies**, gathered together to **make war against him** that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Even the final battle has Satan, loosed for a season, gathered against God, His people and His authority:

Revelation 20:8-9 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to **gather them together to battle**: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the **camp of the saints** about, **and the beloved city**: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Parallel passages for this are:

Isaiah 34:1-8 Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the LORD *is* upon all nations, and *his* fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcases, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling *fig* from the fig tree. For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse, to judgment. The sword of the LORD is filled with blood, it is made fat with fatness, *and* with the blood of lambs and goats, with the fat of the kidneys of rams: for the LORD hath a sacrifice in Bozrah, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea. And the unicorns shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness. For *it is* the day of the LORD'S vengeance, *and* the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.

Isaiah 63:1-6 Who *is* this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this *that is* glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

Wherefore *art thou* red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people *there was* none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance *is* in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and *there was* none to help; and I wondered that *there was* none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.

➤ **Salvation to Israel**

Rom. 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer...

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

Jeremiah 30:7 Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

My People – Jehovah & Israel – Relationship of Jehovah & His Wife

Exodus 6:3 And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by *the name of* God Almighty, but by my name **JEHOVAH** was I not known to them.

Exodus 6:7 And **I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God:** and ye shall know that I *am* the **LORD your God**, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

Exodus 19:5-6 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then **ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people:** for all the earth *is* mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words...unto the children of Israel.

Jeremiah 31:33 But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and **will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

Jeremiah 32:37-40 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And **they shall be my people, and I will be their God:** And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: And I will make an **everlasting covenant** with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

Hosea 1:5 And it shall come to pass at that day, that I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.

Hosea 1:9 Then said *God*, Call his name Loammi: for ye *are* not my people, and I will not be your *God*.

Hosea 1:10-11 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, ***that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.*** Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great *shall be* the day of Jezreel. **(See Hosea 2:14-23)**

Romans 9:25-29 As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. And it shall come to pass, *that* in the place where it was said unto them, *Ye are* not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God. Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: For he will finish the work, and cut *it* short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

Ezekiel 36:28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and **ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.**

Ezekiel 37:27 My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, **I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

Zechariah 13:9 And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they **shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.**

Leviticus 18:1-4 ...LORD spake unto Moses...unto the children of Israel, and say...**I am the LORD your God.** After the doings of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye not do: and after the doings of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye not do: neither shall ye walk in their ordinances. **Ye shall do my judgments, and keep mine ordinances, to walk therein: I am the LORD your God.**

➤ **N.T. Believers - Relationship of Jesus Christ & His Bride**

1 Peter 2:9-11 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

2 Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 ...come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord...and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord...

Zephaniah 3:9-10

Hope is a great motivator for obedience. God is faithful in His promises. His ways are mighty slow, but they are mighty fine. Read Zeph. 3:17 – note the “He wills” of Jehovah – now that is hope!

Zephaniah 3:9 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.

Then – when? Right after Armageddon (Zeph. 3:8), which brings in the Millennium.

- **Zephaniah 3:9 ... a pure language**, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

The Millennium will be a time that the curse will be lifted; all sickness and disease will be healed; Jesus will reign in peace and righteousness; and the confusion of tongues at Babel will be undone.

The Hebrew language does not contain vowels and there are no cuss words in the Hebrew language.

- **Zephaniah 3:9 ...they may all call upon the name of the LORD**, to serve him with one consent.

The confusion at Babel was to undo the unity against the LORD; while this pure language will offer a unity to call upon and to serve the LORD! The confusion of Babel shall be done away, and all shall speak the language of faith in one God.

"A pure language," literally, "a purified lip." Before the dispersion of Babel the world was "of one lip," but that, impure, for it was in rebellion against God. Now it shall be again of "one lip;" and that, "purified." BARNES

God divided the tongues at Babel, lest, understanding one another, they should form a destructive unity. Through proud men tongues were divided; through humble Apostles tongues were gathered in one (At Pentecost). The spirit of pride dispersed tongues; the Holy Spirit gathered tongues in one. For when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, they spake with the tongues of all, were understood by all; the dispersed tongues were gathered into one. BARNES

Even so, this is far superior to the gift of tongues, where every man heard the gospel in his own language. For here, the unity will not just be in the hearing and interpreting, but the actual language itself will be unified.

Isaiah 19:18-19 In that day shall five cities in the land of Egypt speak the language of Canaan, and swear to the LORD of hosts; one shall be called, The city of destruction. In that day shall there be an altar to the LORD in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the LORD.

- **Zephaniah 3:9 ...to serve him with one consent.**

Zechariah 14:9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

Ezekiel 48:35 *It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The LORD is there.*

- **Church Age** continues until the Rapture when the indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit ends.
- **Tribulation** will divide the Gentiles into saved & lost and purge Israel to accept their Messiah.
- **Millennium** will return this earthly environment into perfection as if Adam & Eve had not sinned. The sinful nature of the human will still be here, but the outward curse of the earth will be lifted and the confusion of tongues will also be back to one, pure language.

Those that are left on earth after the Judgment of Nations will continue into the Millennium and will serve the Lord with one consent:

Zechariah 14:16 And it shall come to pass, *that* every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Isaiah 2:3-4 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Micah 4:2-4 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*.

Isaiah 19:21 And the LORD shall be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians shall know the LORD in that day, and shall do sacrifice and oblation; yea, they shall vow a vow unto the LORD, and perform *it*.

Isaiah 19:23-25 In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, *even* a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed *be* Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.

Zephaniah 3:10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, *even* the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

After the Millennium – a new covenant? Jer. 31:31-37; Heb. 8:8-12

Zephaniah 3:11-20 / Romans 11:26

Hope is a great motivator for obedience. God is faithful in His promises. God will restore Israel. Contrast the beginning of this book and the ending of it:

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

Zephaniah 3:20 ...I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth...

Amos 9:14-15 And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God.

This passage deals with the Millennial Kingdom *after* the Day of the Lord. This Messianic Kingdom is to embrace all nations (Zeph. 3:10), but the covenant people are to be the center of that Kingdom.

Jehovah will save His beloved wife – Israel:

Jeremiah 32:37-38 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:

Eze. 37:23 they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

Hosea 2:23 ...*them which were* not my people, Thou *art* my people; and they shall say, *Thou art* my God.

Zechariah 13:9 ...I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

Israel – a changed behavior – a saved people – from prideful, stiff-necked & rebellious to humbled

Negative Side Removed Zephaniah 3:11&13 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. The remnant of Israel shall **not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue** be found in their mouth:

Positive Side Zephaniah 3:12-1 ...in the midst of thee an **afflicted and poor people**, and they shall **trust in the name of the LORD...** for they shall **feed and lie down**, and **none shall make them afraid**.

Zephaniah 3:17-20 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. (vs. 17)

I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, *who* are of thee... (vs. 18)

I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth...(vs. 19)

I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame. At that time

will I bring you *again*, even in the time that I gather you: for (vs. 20)

I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth...