

THE DAY OF WRATH

A Sermon Outline

Presented to

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By

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Text: Zephaniah 1:1-3:20

Thesis: To demonstrate how God's blessings come through His judgment.

INTRODUCTION

1. Following the downfall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, Zephaniah was sent to prophesy to the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
2. Zephaniah is a descendant of Hezekiah, king of Judah and so he is often referred to as a royal prophet (Zep. 1:1).
3. Zephaniah, whose name means Jehovah Hides, prophesied in the days of King Josiah.
4. Soon after the death of Josiah, the nation departed from the Lord.
5. Zephaniah proclaimed to them the coming day of the Lord's wrath (Zep. 1:7,15,18).
6. We shall consider three main things Zephaniah talked about.
 - a. **God's wrath is coming upon Judah.**
 - b. **God's wrath is coming upon Nations around Judah.**
 - c. **God's joy is coming upon those who wait on the Lord.**

DISCUSSION

- I. GOD'S WRATH IS COMING UPON JUDAH (Zep. 1:1-2:3).
 - A. God is bringing judgment to consume all nation.
 1. The nations were full of gross wickedness and immorality (Zep. 1:2-3).
 - a. The prophet announced a universal judgment on human and animals.
 - b. God will cut off man which will leave the land desolate (Zep. 1:3b).
 - c. It is fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Lord (Heb. 10:31).
 2. He shall target Judah to judge it for their idolatry (Zep. 1:4-6).
 - a. Their idolatry has come to the attention of the Lord.
 - b. They worshipped the hosts of heaven to provoke the Lord.
 - c. God had warned them about these very things in the Lord (Exo. 23:13; Deut. 5:7-9).
 - d. His wrath is coming upon all whose hearts are turned from the Lord (Rom. 1:18; 2:5).

B. The day of the Lord is at hand (Zep. 1:7-18).

1. The Lord will judge Judah and Jerusalem to punish them.
2. God has already prepared His punishment on their king's household as well as the rest of the people (Zep. 1:7).
3. His judgment is righteous because He first warns.
4. There shall be no farming, no trading, and no peace in the land (Zep. 1:8-13).
5. There will be wailing and mourning in their cities, and none can escape God's wrath (Zep. 1:14-18).
 - a. A day that is near and hastens quickly
 - b. A day of devastation, desolation, darkness, and distress
 - c. A day in which silver and gold cannot deliver one from the Lord's wrath

C. A call for repentance before the day of wrath (Zep. 2:1-3).

1. Zephaniah called on the people to turn and come to God.
 - a. He told them to gather themselves before God and repent.
 - b. He proclaimed come before the Lord before it was too late (Zep. 2:2).
 - c. Seek the Lord that you may be able to provide shelter in the Lord from His fierce anger (Zep. 2:3).
2. God is always looking for people to repent because He is a merciful God.
 - a. He waited for Nineveh to repent (Jonah 3:5-10; 4:1-3).
 - b. He wants everyone to repent (Acts 2:38; 17:30-31).
 - c. Because He does not want anyone to perish (2 Pet. 3:9).

II. GOD'S WRATH IS COMING UPON NATIONS AROUND JUDAH (Zep. 2:4-3:7).

A. The nations are not immune to God's law even though they do not have a covenant relationship with God.

B. God's judgment is coming on the nations in the East and the West.

1. Zephaniah proclaimed that His wrath was coming on the Philistines (Zep. 2:4-7).
 - a. Their cities will be made desolate, and inhabitants destroyed.
 - b. Their lands will be for the remnant of Judah because of their sins.
 - c. When man disobey God, his possessions are taken and given to his enemies (Ezek. 36:2-5).

2. God's wrath is coming on the Moabites and the Ammonites.
 - a. They shall be consumed like Sodom and Gomorrah (Zep. 2:9).
 - b. They will be destroyed because of their pride and for mocking the people of God (Zep. 2:10).
3. Zephaniah then proclaimed a day to come where all people on the earth will have a covenant relationship with God (Zep. 2:11, Isa. 2:2-3, John 12:32).

C. God's judgment is coming on the nations in the South and the North.

1. The southern nations like Ethiopia will be slayed with a sword.
2. The Lord shall destroy the northern nations like Assyria.
 - a. Their cities will be left desolate, and their lands dried like the wilderness (Zep. 2:12).
 - b. Their cities which they are proud of will be thrown down.
 - c. So shall the Lord bring to light the nakedness of the proud like the church in Laodicea (Rev. 3:17-20).
 - d. Indeed, the Lord lift up the humble but brings down the proud (Jas. 4:6).

D. Woe unto Judah if God is punishing those nations which had no covenant relationship.

1. The habitants of Jerusalem have rebelled against the Lord even though they have witness what has been done to the nations (Zep. 3:1-5).
2. If God will lay waste nations which have no covenant with Him, how much less will He waste Jerusalem?
3. His wrath will be highly kindled against them if they do not receive His instruction (Zep. 3:6-7).

III. GOD'S JOY IS COMING UPON THOSE WHO WAIT ON (Zep. 3:8-20).

A. God's justice will be served for those who wait on Him (Zep. 3:8).

1. His justice demands that He punishes sin (Luke 18:7-8).
2. The faithful must learn to wait on the Lord to carry out His judgment (Zep. 3:8).
3. Look unto God and in due time He will exercise judgment (Mic. 7:7-9).

B. The Lord will restore His people (Zep. 3:9-13).

1. Zephaniah prophesied that God would turn the people to serve Him (Zep. 3:9).

2. Zephaniah proclaimed that God would restore His people so that they could bring forth among their descendants, the Messiah.
3. The gentiles will also serve the Lord and be called His people (1 Pet. 2:9-12).
4. God's people will rejoice in His service and shun from sin (Zep. 3:11-13).
5. He is always ready to cleanse us from all unrighteousness if only we will return to Him (Luke 15:20-22; 1 John 1:7-10).

C. Joy is coming for the Lord is God the gatherer (Zep. 3:14-20).

1. The people will rejoice in Zion for the Lord will remove their judgment and enemies (Zep. 3:14-15).
2. For the Lord will be in their midst, providing them with gladness, love and singing (Zep. 3:16-17).
3. God will bring them back, gather them for the praise of Himself.
4. He is "God the Gatherer" and will gather His people.
5. So, shall He gather all in Him on the last day for the upward call (Eph. 1:10).

CONCLUSION

1. Zephaniah prophesied that God's judgment was coming on Judah and the nations around them.
2. He also told them that God the Gatherer will bring joy to them when He brings them (both Jews and Gentiles) before Him to worship.
3. The Lord indeed punishes sin, but He is also a restorer who always look for the return of the sinner for His mercies.
4. In our time, the day of the Lord's wrath is coming, and just as Zephaniah told them to repent before the fierce day of wrath, so is God warning all men (Acts 17:30-31).
5. If we shall turn to Him, He has promised to return to us if we shall return to Him (Zec. 1:3; Jas. 4:8).
6. We can return to Him by following His steps of salvation.
 - a. Believe the gospel (John 8:24).
 - b. Repent and turn toward the Lord (Acts 2:38, 3:19, Acts 26:16-18).
 - c. Confess the Lord Jesus. (Acts 8:37).
 - d. Be baptized (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 5:21; Acts 2:38).