

I. EVENTS

- 640 BC Josiah begins to reign in Judah (2Kngs.21:24f)
- 621 BC Prophets, Book of Law & Josiah's reforms (2Kngs.22:8f; see Jer.1:1f, Zeph.1:1f)
- 612 BC Nineveh falls to Babylon (Zeph.2:13; Nahum; see 2Kngs.19:36)
- 609 BC Josiah killed by Pharaoh Neco (2Kngs.23:29)
- 605 BC Assyrian empire falls to Babylonian (Zeph.2:13; see Jer.50:17)
First exile from Judah to Babylon (2Kngs.24:1f; Dan.1:1f)

II. PEOPLE

A. ZEPHANIAH

- 1. "Yah(weh) has hidden" (Ps.27:5; 31:20; Mt.23:37; see Ex.2:2f; Josh.2:4; 2Kngs.11:1f; see Zeph.2:3)
- 2. son of Hezekiah (Mt.1:10; 2Kngs.16:20f)

B. JOSIAH

- 1. son of Amon (Mt.1:10; see 2Kngs.20:1f/2Chr.33:11f)
- 2. King of Judah (1Kngs.13:2f(2Kngs.23:15f); 2Kngs.21:24f; 2Chr.35:25f; Lam.4:20)

C. SUMMARY: HOPE HIDDEN IN MIDST OF DESPAIR (see Ps.73:16f; Lam.3:21f; Rom.15:4)

III. MESSAGE

A. PROPHETS: PREACHING COVENANT (2:7-9; Ex.6:7; Dt.30:1f; 1Cor.11:25; Heb.9:15; Lk.6:20-26)

B. CENTERPIECE: THE DAY OF THE LORD (1:7-9,14f; 2:2,3; see 3:16,19,20; see Is.13:6; Joel 1:15; 2:1; 3:14; 1Cor.5:5; 2Th.2:2; 2Pt.3:10)

C. ALL THINGS COMPLETELY REMOVED (1:2&18; see 3f; Gen.6:1f; 2Pt.3:3f,11f)

D. JUDGMENT BEGINS WITH US (1:1f; see 1Pt.4:17f; Rom.2:9)

- 1. to all idolaters among His people (1:1-6)
- 2. to all immoral (1:9) and indolent (1:12) among His people (Mt.24:12; Rev.3:16 /Heb.10:24f; 2Pt.3:1f)

E. JUDGMENT CONCLUDES WITH THE NATIONS (2:4-15; see Ps.96:10; 110:6; Rev.11:18)

- 1. Philistia; Moab & Ammon (Sodom & Gomorrah); Ethiopia, Assyria (2:4f)
- 2. idolatrous pride (2:10,15; see Is.47:8,10; Dan.4:30; Rom.1:21f; vs. Dt.32:39; Is.45:5,6,18)

F. IN THE MIDST OF THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS (2:1-9)

- 1. Call to repentance (2:1-3; see 3:7)
- 2. With promise of preservation into glorification (2:3,7-9)

G. JUDGMENT RETURNS TO US (3:1-13)

- 1. evil (1-6) purged out (7-11; see Col.3:9,5f)
- 2. good (12) rooted in (12,13; see Col.3:10,12f)

H. RESPONSE OF GOD'S DISCIPLINED PEOPLE (3:14-20; see Heb.12:11f; Dt.30:1f; c.32; Psalms!)

IV. LESSONS

A. THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR! (Zeph.1:7,14; see Is.13:6; Ezk.30:3; Joel 1:15; 32:1; 3:14; Obad.1:15; see Mt.3:2; 4:17; 10:7; 2Pt.3:3f; see Mk.13:1-23//24-37)

B. ALL BAD THINGS WILL END FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD! (Zeph.3:8f; see Heb.12:11; Ps.103:9; see Phil.1:21f; 1Cor.15:50f)

C. ALL BAD THINGS WILL BECOME INFINITELY WORSE FOR OTHERS! (Zeph.2:4-15; Lk.16:22; Jn.5:29; Rev.19:20; 20:1f; 21:8)

D. THE DESTINY OF EVIL! (vs. origin; see Rev.19:20; 20:10f; 21:8; see 2Cor.6:17)

E. THE DAY OF THE LORD FOR OUR NATION AS FOR ALL! (Zeph.2:4f; Jer.1:10; c.46-51; Dan.2:36f,44f; Lk.1:32; Acts 2:33f; 1Cor. 15:23f; see Lk.13:3,5; 2Chr.7:14; 1Tm.2:1f)

F. DO NOT IGNORE, MOCK OR DESPAIR! (Zeph.1:12(Dt.30:1f); 2:8f,15; 2Pt.3:3f)

G. DO TURN TO GOD & HIS COVENANT GOSPEL! (Zeph.2:1-3; 3:8f,17f; Dt.30:1f; Mt.3:2; 4:17; 10:7; 2Pt.3:3f)