

Major Lessons From Minor Prophets

Lesson * - The Day of the Lord (Zephaniah)

Zephaniah 2:11, NKJV “The Lord will be awesome to them, for He will reduce to nothing all the gods of the earth; people shall worship Him, each one from his place, indeed all the shores of the nations”.

Zephaniah is the last of the minor prophets that prophesied before the Babylonish captivity.

2 Kings 24:3–4 (NKJV) ³ Surely at the commandment of the Lord this came upon Judah, to remove them from His sight because of the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he had done, ⁴ and also because of the innocent blood that he had shed; for he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, which the Lord would not pardon.

Zephani'ah. (hidden by Jehovah).

***Psalm 27:5** (NKJV) For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

Because of the sins of the reign of Manasseh, God had pronounced an irreversible sentence of destruction upon Jerusalem.

Key Thought - Judgment is coming; but grace and mercy are still available for those who earnestly seek for it.

A Day of Darkness

Zephaniah 1:14–16 (NKJV) ¹⁴ The great day of the Lord is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. ¹⁵ That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶ A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers.

Joel 2:1–2 (NKJV) Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand: ² A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,...

***Amos 5:18** (NKJV) Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness, and not light.

More Manmade Light than ever in History, and more spiritual darkness.

Isa 60:2, 3 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Judgment fulfilled

Zephaniah 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³ Therefore their goods shall become booty, And their houses a desolation; They shall build houses, but not inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine.”

Deuteronomy 28:39 (NKJV) You shall plant vineyards and tend them, but you shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes;

Zephaniah 1:17 (NKJV) “I will bring distress upon men, And they shall walk like blind men, Because they have sinned against the Lord;

Deuteronomy 28:29 (NKJV) And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you.

Longest Burning Bulb

The Bible is introduced with a tension between light and darkness.

Gen 1:2, 3 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. ... Then God said, "Let there be light";

Getting Used To The Dark

Man moved from Ireland to the us and a year later his wife joined him. And said “Don’t they talk strange over here”. The husband replied, “You should have heard them a year ago when I first arrived.”

Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
As, to be hated, needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace. -ALEXANDER POPE

What once shocked and amazed us, now entertains and amuses us.

2 Pet 2:17 These are wells without water, clouds carried by a tempest, **for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.**

Jude 1:13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars **for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.**

The unpardonable sin brings the most abject darkness.

The Humble of the Land

Zephaniah 2:1–3 (NKJV) *Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation, ² Before the decree is issued, Or the day passes like chaff, Before the Lord's fierce anger comes upon you, Before the day of the Lord's anger comes upon you! ³ Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the Lord's anger.*

Matthew 5:5 *Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.*

***Psalm 37:11** (NKJV) *But the meek shall inherit the earth, And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*

Matthew 11:28, 29 *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

Galatians 5:22,23 *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

Psalms 1:4 (NKJV) *The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.*

Psalms 147:6 *"The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground." -.*

A Corrupt City

Why is Judgment coming.

Zephaniah 3:1–2 (NKJV) *Woe to her who is rebellious and polluted, To the oppressing city! ² She has not obeyed His voice, She has not received correction; She has not trusted in the Lord, She has not drawn near to her God.*

God's Greatest Delight

Zephaniah 3:17 (NKJV) *The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."*

***Isaiah 62:5** (NKJV) ⁵ *For as a young man marries a virgin, So shall your sons marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you.*

God's Answer to Injustice

Nahum 1:1 (NKJV) *The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.*

Nahum 1:5 (NKJV) *The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it.*

***Psalm 97:3- 5** (KJV 1900) *A fire goeth before him, And burneth up his enemies round about. ⁴ His lightnings enlightened the world:*

The earth saw, and trembled. ⁵ The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

Micah 1:4 (NKJV) ⁴ *The mountains will melt under Him, And the valleys will split Like wax before the fire, Like waters poured down a steep place.*

Depressed By The Dark

Nearly 10 percent of Alaskans suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder, a type of depression stemming from decreased daylight. according to a 1992 study published in the American Journal of Psychiatry. Symptoms include lethargy, a heightened desire for sleep, cravings for carbohydrates, feelings of melancholy, fuzzy thinking and loss of libido or sociability, even prompting thoughts of suicide. Light Therapy helps.

Longest Burning Bulb - Hanging from a single electric wire in an old Livermore California firehouse, there is a light bulb. Not so amazing you think? But there's more. The bulb is supplied by 120 volts and puts out a meager 4 watts of amber light. You're probably still not very impressed. Until you consider this same humble light bulb was already burning when Wright Brothers made their historic flight in 1903. Then this light bulb continued to persistently glow through WWI, the crash of the stock market in 1929 and on through WWII. At present this incredible light bulb has been burning for over 108 years! The enduring bulb was originally made by the Shelby Electric Company in Ohio. The company had a legendary reputation for quality till it was bought by General Electric in 1914. This particular bulb was one of the early hand-blown models with a heavy carbon filament. Over the years there have been brief interruptions as the Firehouse has been renovated and even relocated from First street location to its present site on 4550 East Ave. But the same bulb went with them. With these minor exceptions it has been burning continuously as a nightlight over the fire trucks in the Livermore firehouse since 1901! This unique bulb has been declared by Guinness Book of World Records to be the oldest known working light bulb in the world. Did you know the bible speaks of a sacred light that burned for over three hundred years.