

Minor Prophets...

THE MINOR PROPHETS

The Book of Zephaniah

Zeph. 2:1-11

...Major Message

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Zeph. 2:1 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired;

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.

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.

4 For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

5 Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the LORD is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant.

6 And the sea coast shall be dwellings and cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks.

7 And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening: for the LORD their God shall visit them, and turn away their captivity.

8 I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and magnified themselves against their border.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

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.

10 This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified themselves against the people of the LORD of hosts.

11 The LORD will be terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; and men shall worship him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

I. THE DETERMINATION OF THE LORD, 1:1-6

A. The Prophet's Pedigree, 1:1

B. The Prophet's Perspective, 1:2-6

1. The Lord's Decision, 1:2-4a

2. The Lord's Discrimination, 1:4b-6

II. THE DAY OF THE LORD, 1:7-3:8

A. The People, 1:7-13

1. The Summons, 1:7

2. The Sacrifice, 1:8-13

a. The Royal Rebels, 1:8

b. The Sin-Seekers, 1:9

c. The Money-Makers, 1:10-11

d. The Leisure-Lovers, 1:12-13

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

B. The Period, 1:14-18

1. Its Nearness, 1:14
2. Its Nature, 1:15-18
 - a. To Fulfill Prophecy, 1:15-16
 - b. To Finally Punish, 1:17
 - c. To Fully Purge, 1:18

C. The Places, 2:1-3:8

1. The Country of Judah, 2:1-3
 - a. Warned, 2:1-2

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Zeph. 2:1 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, **O nation not desired**;

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.

There is a sense of urgency in not delaying the “gathering together.”

Heb. 10:25 **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

b. Woode, 2:3

Zeph. 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.**

•Get a grip! Zeph. 2:3 “Seek ye the LORD...”

Place of focus – “Seek” = GO to the Lord!

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Lu. 15:17 “And when he came to himself...”

- Go with the right attitude – “...all ye meek of the earth...”
- You are reaping what you sowed – “...which have wrought his judgment...”
- Be attentive to what God is concerned – “...seek righteousness, seek meekness...”

Isa. 55:6 **Seek ye the LORD while he may be found**, call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Jas. 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.

Zeph. 2:3b “...**it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD’S anger.**”

2 Kgs. 24:12 And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign.

13 And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king’s house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

14 And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: **none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land.**

15 And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.

16 And all the men of might, even seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, all that were strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Prov. 22:3 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished. (Prov. 27:12)

2. The Conquerors of Judah, 2:4-15

a. To the West: Philistia, 2:4-7

(1) Its Towns Given Over to Judgment, 2:4-6

Zeph. 2:4 For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up.

5 Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the LORD is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant.

6 And the sea coast shall be dwellings and cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks.

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<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=map+of+israel%27s+divided+kingdom&view=detailv2&&id=DEB4968E9FB8710683567732A449E0D642857381&selectedIndex=32&ccid=bTRJKSF&simid=608052715630036864&thid=JN.lcu7QR%2fwHzrer1Uy9KAXIQ&ajaxhist=0>

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

(2) Its Territory Given Over to the Jews, 2:7

Zeph. 2:7 And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening: for the LORD their God shall visit them, and turn away their captivity.

b. To the East: Moab and Ammon, 2:8-11

(1) Their Policy, 2:8

Zeph. 2:8 I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and magnified themselves against their border.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

(2) Their Punishment, 2:9

Zeph. 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.

(3) Their Pride, 2:10-11

(a) Racial, 2:10

Zeph. 2:10 This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified themselves against the people of the LORD of hosts.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

(b) Religious, 2:11

Zeph. 2: 11 The LORD will be terrible unto them: for **he will famish all the gods of the earth**; and men shall worship him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen.

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Minor Prophets...

Conclusion

2 Cor. 6:1 We then, **as workers together with him**, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: **behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**)

3 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed:

4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;

9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

10 As sorrowful, **yet alway rejoicing**; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

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