

Minor Prophets...

THE MINOR PROPHETS

The Book of Zephaniah

Zeph. 1:14-18

...Major Message

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Zeph. 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.

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,

16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.

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.

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.

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B. The Period, 1:14-18

1. Its Nearness, 1:14

Zeph. 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.

Sense of urgency – motivation for decision and action!

Rom. 13:12 The night is far spent, **the day is at hand**: let us **therefore** cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

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Phil. 4:5 Let your moderation be known unto all men.

The Lord is at hand.

2 Thess. 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that **the day of Christ is at hand.**

1 Pet. 4:7 But **the end of all things is at hand**: be ye **therefore** sober, and watch unto prayer.

2. Its Nature, 1:15-18

a. To Fulfill Prophecy, 1:15-16

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Zeph. 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,**

16 A **day of the trumpet and alarm** against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.

Jer. 4:19 My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, **because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.**

20 **Destruction upon destruction is cried;** for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment.

21 How long shall I see the standard, and **hear the sound of the trumpet?**

22 For my people is foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: **they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.**

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Isa. 30:25 And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, **when the towers fall.**

b. To Finally Punish, 1:17

Zeph. 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.

Deut. 28:28 **The LORD shall smite thee** with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart:

29 And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee.

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Prov. 4:19 **The way of the wicked is as darkness:** they know not at what they stumble.

Eph. 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 **Having the understanding darkened**, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, **because of the blindness of their heart:**

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Psa. 119:130 The entrance of **thy words giveth light**; it giveth understanding unto the simple. ***...Major Message***

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c. To Fully Purge, 1:18

Zeph. 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.

Prov. 11:4 Riches profit not in **the day of wrath**: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Ezek. 7:19 They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: **their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD**: they shall not satisfy their souls, neither fill their bowels: because it is the stumblingblock of their iniquity.

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Jealousy

Deut. 32:20 And he said, **I will hide my face from them**, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith.

21 **They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God**; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

22 For **a fire is kindled in mine anger**, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

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1 Kgs. 14:22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and **they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed**, above all that their fathers had done.

23 For they also built them **high places**, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree.

24 And there were also sodomites in the land: and they did **according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.**

Isa. 63:1 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.

2 Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?

3 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.** ***...Major Message***

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Ezek. 14:13 Son of man, when the land sinneth against me by trespassing grievously, then will I stretch out mine hand upon it, and will break the staff of the bread thereof, and will send famine upon it, and will cut off man and beast from it:

14 **Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it**, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD.

15 If I cause noisome beasts to pass through the land, and they spoil it, so that it be desolate, that no man may pass through because of the beasts:

16 Though these three men were in it, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters; they only shall be delivered, but the land shall be desolate.

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17 Or if I bring a sword upon that land, and say, Sword, go through the land; so that I cut off man and beast from it:

18 **Though these three men were in it**, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither sons nor daughters, but they only shall be delivered themselves.

19 Or if I send a pestilence into that land, **and pour out my fury upon it in blood**, to cut off from it man and beast:

20 **Though Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it**, as I live, saith the Lord GOD, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter; they shall but deliver their own souls by their righteousness.

Rev. 14:20 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.

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

Rom. 13:12 The night is far spent, **the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.**

13 Let us **walk honestly**, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.**

1 Pet. 4:7 But **the end of all things is at hand:** be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

8 And **above all things have fervent charity among yourselves:** for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

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