

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER.....**

01) 03 Jun .....	Joel 1-3 .....	God's Mercy for Israel
02) 10 Jun .....	Obad 1 .....	God's Lordship
03) 17 Jun .....	Nah 1-3 .....	God's Justics
04) 24 Jun .....	Hab1-3 .....	God's Timing
05) 01 July .....	Zeph 1-3 .....	Humility
06) 08 July .....	Hag 1-2 .....	Commitment
07) 15 July .....	Zech 1-3 .....	Repentance
08) 22 July .....	Zech 4-6 .....	Dependence
09) 29 July .....	Zech 7-8 .....	Integrity
10) 05 Aug .....	Zech 9-14 .....	Joy
11) 12 Aug .....	Mal 1 .....	Love Wholeheartedly
12) 19 Aug .....	Mal 2:1-16 .....	Live Honorably
13) 26 Aug .....	Mal 2:17-4:6 .....	Worship Appropriately

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS/INTRODUCTION**

- What will the “Day of the Lord” be like?
  - ♦ Apostasy
  - ♦ War, Famine (1/2 population die)
  - ♦ Earthquakes, global devastation
  - ♦ Fire
- Sin may be sin, but God treats different sinners differently (different degrees of punishment in Hell based on works)
  - ♦ Hardened enemies of the Gospel ..... Rev 22:15
  - ♦ Nice unsaved people who receive few stripes ..... Lk 12:48
- Different types of believers are also treated differently
  - ♦ Lukewarm believers (complacent, indifferent, materialistic) – spewed out (not loss of salvation, assuming they are saved to begin with)..... 1Cor 3:15; Rev 3:16
  - ♦ Backsliders – disciplined (some die early) ..... 1Cor 11:30
  - ♦ Active believers – blessed w/ “cities” ..... Lk 19:17

**INTRODUCTION**

- A) Zephaniah foretells the general destruction of Judah and Jerusalem by the Chaldeans,
- B) Calls Jerusalem to repentance – but no one listens
- C) Threatens the neighboring nations with like destruction
- D) Gives encouraging promises of Jerusalem’s joyful return out of captivity in due time
- E) Prophecies are near term and distant

**REMINDER**

- Q. Why does God often times speak vaguely – even with prophecies? He doesn’t specify exact dates. Is it near or far?
- A. He gives us just enough knowledge to keep our faith and hope alive, and He gives enough wiggle room for non-believers to continue their merry way toward destruction (no one is forced to believe in Him)

**OUTLINE/LESSON PLAN**

- 1) 1:1-18. God’s judgment on Judah for its idolatry and neglect of him..... 1:12-14
  - a) v12 – men who settle down comfortably (HSB); literally, men who are like wine left on its dregs (NIV) ~ men who are bitter and don’t care
- 2) 2:1-15 Exhortation to repent before Chaldean invaders come
  - a) Gather yourselves (in an assembly ~ to contemplate repentance) ..... 2:1-3
  - b) Prophetic doom of Judah’s foes..... 2:8-9
    - i) ...due to pride..... v10
    - ii) Sin of Sodom was her pride, not her sexual perversion ..... Ezek 16:49

- iii) Illus. Friend’s trip to China – cities the size of NY are being built every 2 years. While China’s media emphasizes education, our media is focused on Paris Hilton. “America is asleep at the wheel” Are we are complacent, prideful?
- 3) 3:1-20. Resumption of the denunciation of Jerusalem – and Her blessings
  - a) God will wipe out the proud (3:6) and leave an afflicted/humbled people in Jerusalem to sing His praises.....3:12
    - i) Afflicted = His humbled ones (us), His sheep

**SUPPORTING PASSAGES**

Is 35:4-6 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you. 5) Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6) Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing”

Eze 16:49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

**LIFE’S APPLICATION / CONCLUDING REMARKS**

- Humility is a major component of a believer’s character
  - ♦ God hates the prideful, but blesses the humble
- God may not desire that anyone perish, but He has horrible plans for those who do

