**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 March</td>
<td>Nahum 1-3</td>
<td>Don't Mess with God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 March</td>
<td>Zephaniah 1-2</td>
<td>Everyone is Accountable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>Zephaniah 3-13</td>
<td>Our Great Salvation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>Obadiah 1</td>
<td>Compassion for Lost People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 March</td>
<td>Zechariah 1-12</td>
<td>The Promised Messiah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 April</td>
<td>Luke 24:1-12</td>
<td>The Declaration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 April</td>
<td>Luke 24:19-35</td>
<td>The Promise Fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>Zechariah 13-14</td>
<td>A Refined People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 April</td>
<td>Habakkuk 1-2</td>
<td>Hard Questions, Hard Answers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 May</td>
<td>Habakkuk 3</td>
<td>Awestruck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>Haggai 1-2</td>
<td>Seek God First</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 May</td>
<td>Malachi 1</td>
<td>True Hope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 May</td>
<td>Malachi 2</td>
<td>Faithful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>Malachi 3</td>
<td>A Pure People</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INTRODUCTION**

- Things promise to get better for Israel as God intends to save the lame, gather the outcast, and to restore the fortunes of His people
- BUT, first, the rebellion of His people (as exemplified in her capital city of Jerusalem) must be dealt with

**Passage | Comments**

**Jerusalem/Israel has become Despicable**
- v1-4. Jerusalem is seen having numerous negative traits that had to be dealt with before God could bless (Check off the traits that apply to our nation today):
  1. ☐ Rebellious
  2. ☐ Defiled
  3. ☐ Tyrannical
  4. ☐ Would not listen to sound wisdom
  5. ☐ Did things her own way (ignored good advice)
  6. ☐ Did not want to trust in her Maker
  7. ☐ Took no action to willingly draw near to God
  8. ☐ Her rulers robbed the poor
  9. ☐ Her judges stripped the poor clean
  10. ☐ Her prophets were reckless and treacherous
  11. ☐ Her preachers/priests polluted their office
  12. ☐ They mishandle God’s word (“done it violence”)
- v5-7. God gives justification for taking action
  1. The Lord is Righteous in what He does
  2. He will do no injustice
  3. Daily, His ways are seen (no one has an excuse)
  4. God will not fail in His just dealings (they may not be what we want to see or when we want to see them, but they will prevail the wicked eventually)
  5. God has already taken action against others
  6. His children MUST revere Him
  7. To be blessed, they MUST accept God
  8. BUT, they were eager to corrupt themselves
- v12. Can you imagine living in a future world where everyone puts the needs of others first (humbled lives), no one does any wrong (e.g., everyone keeps the speed limit); no one lies or cheats, or swears, or has fears of dread (e.g., loss of job, fear of dying, etc.)

**The Righteous are Called to Wait for God to Act**
- Will the Righteous endure the same hardships as the wicked? PERHAPS. Remember, Scripture gives precedence of the righteous suffering and perishing along with the wicked …………………..April 3
  BUT, this is not a teaching on Mid-Tribulation
- Does this passage allude to the events of the day or to a futuristic time, such as the Tribulation? …..YES to both
  - v8. “…the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal” – Probable reference to the near-time tragic end of Jerusalem/Judah by the Babylonians and to the end of ages as well
  - vv9-11. For there comes a day when God will purify His people – a definite reference to a futuristic day (i.e., Millennial reign of Christ)

**Zeph 3:14-20**

- v19. God will remove the wicked (possible allusion to Rev 20, post-Millennial – when the wicked are cast into the Lake of Fire)
- v20. God’s final promise to His chosen people in this small, but mighty book – Their fortunes will be restored

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / BENEFITS**

- Honest humility is a major trait to have before God can bless
- God hates the prideful, but blesses the humble
- God does not desire that anyone perish, but He has horrible plans for those who do perish (Remember, those who perish do so willingly and prefer the punishment of Hell more so than spending one moment with a holy and righteous God)

**NEXT WEEK: Obadiah 1. Obadiah is the least of the Minor Prophets, consisting of one chapter. The subject of it is Edom, whose destruction is foretold, and is to be considered as a type of enemy to Christ and his kingdom**

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**American Priorities**

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