

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 01 March.....Nahum 1-3.....Don't Mess with God
- 2) 08 March.....Zephaniah 1-2.....Everyone is Accountable
- 3) 15 March.....Zephaniah 3.....Our Great Salvation
- 4) 22 March.....Obadiah 1.....Compassion for Lost People
- 5) 29 March.....Zechariah 1-12.....The Promised Messiah
- 6) 05 April.....Luke 24:1-12.....The Declaration
- 7) 12 April.....Luke 24:19-35.....The Promise Fulfilled
- 8) 19 April.....Zechariah 13-14.....A Refined People
- 9) 26 April.....Habakkuk 1-2.....Hard Questions, Hard Answers
- 10) 03 May.....Habakkuk 3.....Awestruck
- 11) 10 May.....Haggai 1-2.....Seek God First
- 12) 17 May.....Malachi 1.....True Hope
- 13) 24 May.....Malachi 2.....Faithful
- 14) 31 May.....Malachi 3.....A Pure People

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
Zeph 3:1-4	<p>Jerusalem/Israel has become Despicable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-4. 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): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Rebellious 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Defiled 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Tyrannical 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Would not listen to sound wisdom 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Did things her own way (ignored good advice) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Did not want to trust in her Maker 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Took no action to willingly draw near to God 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Her rulers robbed the poor 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Her judges stripped the poor clean 10. <input type="checkbox"/> Her prophets were reckless and treacherous 11. <input type="checkbox"/> Her preachers/priests polluted their office 12. <input type="checkbox"/> They mishandle God's word ("<i>done it violence</i>") • vv5-7. God gives justification for taking action <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 befall 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
3:8-13	<p>The Righteous are Called to Wait for God to Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Righteous endure the same hardships as the wicked? PERHAPS. Remember, Scripture gives precedence of the righteous suffering and perishing along with the wickedEzek 21:3-4 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)

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.)
3:14-20	<p>The Future Will be a Time for Rejoicing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv14-16. God will be in the midst of His people – so why fear for anything? • v17. Even God will give shouts of joy over His people • v18. "<i>The accumulated sorrows of your exile will dissipate. I, your God, will get rid of them for you. You've carried those burdens long enough</i>" [Message] – This passage conveys God will wipe away all tears; we won't have any shame over our past sins for God will remove them as far as the east is from the west • v19. God will remove the wicked (possible allusion to Rev 20, post-Millennial – when the wicked are cast into the Lake of Fire) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God will also "<i>gather the lame and outcast.</i>" Even the once-handicapped (mental, physical, emotional) will now see their difficult times as even more reason to rejoice in their Savior as they are given special rewards and recognition <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Isaiah 56:4-5 – <i>A name is given to the once-handicapped that is better than sons & daughters</i> 2. Micah 4:6-7 – They will be assembled into a strong nation 3. Zephaniah 3:19 – Great honor given to them • 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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