

Wednesday Bible Study – 4-14-2010  
Pastor Rod Pamer

The Restoration of Israel Revealed . . .in the Church Today.

Zephaniah 3

- 1 Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!
- 2 She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God.

Zephaniah 3.1, 2 New Living Testament

- 1 How terrible it will be for rebellious, polluted Jerusalem, the city of violence and crime.
- 2 It proudly refuses to listen even to the voice of the LORD. No one can tell it anything; it refuses all correction. It does not trust in the LORD or draw near to its God.

Will go to Psalm 73.25

The Prophecy of Zephaniah

This prophet is placed last, as he was last in time, of all the minor prophets before the captivity, and not long before Jeremiah, who lived at the time of the captivity.

Zephaniah prophesied "in the days of Josiah" according to Zeph. 1:1, which would be between 642 and 611 B.C.

The prophecy begins with the nation's sin and the fearful retribution coming at the hands of the Chaldeans.

Zephaniah foretells the general destruction of Judah and Jerusalem by the Chaldeans.

The Chaldeans were tied in with Babylon...

with Nebuchadnezzar being the most famous Chaldean king.

We read about them as the enemy of God's people, who with Babylon came and took away into captivity the young men ...called

the good figs.... of Judah into captivity....including Daniel and the three Hebrew children.

Because of the sins of Judah and the holy city of Jerusalem, God was provoked to bring their ruin upon them by these Chaldeans their enemies, and calls them to repentance.

This is a type or reference to the grace of the gospel.

Explain: GOD's purpose....even in judgement... is to bring sinners to repentance.

That is what HE did then ..... and does now.

The second chapter dooms the persecuting states in the neighborhood as well as Judea itself.

And finally the third chapter .... which is the setting for our lesson tonight.....denounces Jerusalem, but concludes with the promise of their return out of captivity in due time.

But the message in chapter 3 addresses the sinful state of Jerusalem with is what brings the judgement of GOD as administered by the Chaldeans.

### Condition of Jerusalem

#### Zephaniah 3

1 Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!

#### 1. Woe

alas.....woe! .... what is called onomatopoeia.... WOE!

Watch out!

#### 2. she is filthy

**filthy**: means simply that.

Also..... rebellious.

#### 3. **polluted**

to defile, desecrate, to stain

to declare impure, to be removed, as a priest from sacred ministry.

to cast away, reject.

---refers rather to her inward moral filth, in spite of her outward ceremonial purity.

In the Hebrew this word refers to women who have prostituted their virtue.

The Hebrew is moreah; a play on the name Moriah, the hill on which the temple was built; implying the glaring contrast between their filthiness and the holiness of the worship on Moriah in which they professed to have a share.

4. the oppressing city  
    oppressing  
    used of fraud and cheating

NOTE:

It is a wonder that Jerusalem, the holy city, where God was known, and his name was great, should be the city of which this dark character here given, that a place which enjoyed such abundance of the means of grace should become so very corrupt and vicious.

It shows that the law made nothing perfect;

That spirit is in the world today.  
And is found in the worldly or backslidden church.

GOD says....Woe.... alas.....Watch out!  
Spiritual condition of many is filthy.  
Defiled, desecrated, stained, impure, should be removed as a priest from sacred ministry.

Scandals of the church world that involves the sexual sins....sexual abuse.... and the cover-up of such sin that goes clear to the top of the world's largest Christian church.

No wonder the prophet accuses the church of fraud and cheating.

One commentator made this statement concerning Israel's Spiritual condition during this time period:

Living without shame - the wicked think that they are getting away with something.

Consider .....

"She obeyed not the voice . . ."  
. . . she received not correction . . ."  
. . . she trusted not in the Lord . . ."  
. . . she drew not near to her God."

No wonder the prophet foretells of coming judgement....

Remember this:

- " God is aware of all.
- " God sees all.
- " God hears all.
- " God knows all.

#### Ecclesiastes 8

11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

The Story of Sin is full of sadness.

The Story of Salvation fills us with gladness.

Which story are you living this evening?

Matthew Henry:

The holy God hates sin most in those nearest to him. A sinful state is, and will be, a woeful state. Yet they had the tokens of God's presence, and all the advantages of knowing his will, with the strongest reasons to do it; still they persisted in disobedience. Alas, that men often are more active in doing wickedness than believers are in doing good.

① She obeyed not the voice . . .

Zephaniah 3.2 New Living Testament

2 It proudly refuses to listen even to the voice of the LORD.

It is our duty to be obedient to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Wholehearted Obedience is required:

Deuteronomy 26

16 This day the Lord thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.

Obedience is the price of success:

Joshua 1

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Obedience is better than sacrifice:

1 Samuel 15

22 And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

When I think of this Passage it reminds me that God simply wants me to be obedient to Him - NOT try to do good things to please Him -

BUT simply do what He says to do. Then He can trust me and then I can glorify Him.

When He can trust me and I can glorify Him - GREAT THINGS HAPPEN!

This particular Scripture also reminds me of how simple God's instructions can be at times - simple, but NOT easy!

I've heard it said, "we're educated well beyond our obedience." That's true! Many times I know the right thing to do. The right thing is simple - BUT I don't carry it out because of what it will cost me.

Obedience opens the Door to His Kingdom:

Matthew 7

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Obedience can be called "The Imperative Duty of Life."

Acts 5

29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

(Story of the Three Hebrew Boys)

② . . . she received not correction . . .

New Living Testament: No one can tell it anything; it refuses all correction.

The umbrella of authority.

See 1 Kings chapters 1 and 2

David near death.

God had appointed Solomon.  
Adonijah gathered ...

1 Kings 1

5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

7 And he conferred with Joab the son of Zeruah, and with Abiathar the priest: and they following Adonijah helped [him].

Joab .....

Faithful to David

Did not stand with Absalom...

But followed after Adonijah.

Nathan and the high priest spoke for GOD that Solomon was to be king.

Proverbs 13

24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Discipline is correction driven by love!

HEBREWS 12

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected [us], and we gave [them] reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

10 For they verily for a few days chastened [us] after their own

pleasure; but he for [our] profit, that [we] might be partakers of his holiness.

The sign that says to you "Pain" should on the reverse side say, "God is working."

Pain is the path to peace!

**C.S. Lewis**

"God whispers in our pleasures. He speaks in our conscience. He shouts in our pain!"

definition: Discipline:

Instruction or training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character; control gained by enforcing obedience or order; orderly or prescribed conduct or pattern of behavior; self-control.

③ . . . she trusted not in the Lord . . .

**New Living Testament**

2 ... It does not trust in the LORD....

**Acts 2**

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

We have lived to see the "Untoward Generation" Simon Peter declared would come - a generation when Satan would try to:

- " Divert your attention from God's Word.
- " Destroy your faith in God's Word.
- " Frustrate your faith in God's Word.

" And, dampen your enthusiasm in God's Word.

When a generation does NOT Trust God it will forsake God's Word!

When a generation forsakes God's Word there is:

- " Very little meaning to the marriage vows.
- " Very little respect for the property of others.
- " Very little modesty.
- " Very little reverence for the things of God.
- " Burdens are heavier.
- " Nights are darker.
- " Problems are larger.
- " Questions are harder.
- " Demands are greater.
- " Heartaches are bigger.
- " Pressures are stronger.
- " Save YOURSELF from this untoward generation.

#### Psalm 20

7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.

④ she drew not near to her God.

did not meet him where he appointed and where he promised to meet her. She stood at a distance, and said to the Almighty, Depart.

end

#### Psalm 73

##### Psalm 73

25 Whom have I in heaven [but thee]? and [there is] none upon earth [that] I desire beside thee.

26 My flesh and my heart faileth: [but] God [is] the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

28 But [it is] good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

