

CW 103: THE DAY OF THE LORD

- I. Uses of “The Day of the Lord”
 - A. To speak of judgment
 - 1. God’s wrath and anger - Zephaniah 2:1-3
 - 2. A past judgment - Lamentations 2:21, 22
 - B. To speak of a climactic future judgment - Joel 3:14-21
- II. Day of the Lord prophecies of dual meaning - Isaiah 13:5-10; Mark 13:24-37
- III. Day of the Lord prophecy partially fulfilled - Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16-21; Revelation 6:12, 13
- IV. Characteristics of the Day of the Lord
 - A. Judgment upon Israel - Amos 5:18-20; Jeremiah 30:5-9
 - B. Changes in nature
 - C. Darkness in the sun, moon, and stars - Isaiah 13:10; Joel 2:31; 3:15; Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:12
 - D. Nations judged for their rebellion against the Lord - Joel 3:19; Psalm 2
 - E. The salvation of Israel - Joel 2:32; Zechariah 12:10
 - F. Blessing, restoration, and prosperity for Israel - Joel 3:18-21
- V. Timing of the Day of the Lord
 - A. Daniel 9:24-27
 - B. 1 Thessalonians 5:9
- VI. New Testament expressions related to believers
 - A. The day of our Lord Jesus Christ - 1 Corinthians 1:8
 - B. The day of the Lord Jesus - 1 Corinthians 5:5; 2 Corinthians 1:14
 - C. The day of Christ - Philippians 1:10; 2:26

Why are these expressions different? - 1 Thessalonians 5:9
- VII. The end of the world
 - A. The earth destroyed, and created new - 2 Peter 3:10-13
 - B. This occurs after the 1,000 year reign of Christ - Revelation 21:1

Zephaniah Outline

Tsfanyah contrasts the DARKNESS of God’s judgment with the BRIGHTNESS of God’s blessing. The lineage of Tsfanyah is the longest of any prophet, and traces him all the way back to King Hezekiah.

He prophesied during the reign of King Josiah of Judah (640-608 B.C.), many date the timing of Tsfanyah’s prophecies to 624-25 B.C. This would place his prophecies during Josiah’s reforms. He was contemporary with Jeremiah and Nahum.

The theme of his writings is “the Day of the LORD”. **Intro: v.1**

CHAPTER 1 - THE DAY OF THE LORD

I. THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL BRING COMPLETE DESTRUCTION V.1-6

a. Thorough and Complete Judgement **v.2**

i. $\text{הָאֶסְאָף הָאֶסְאָף}$ (to *completely and totally* destroy) from: הָאֶסְאָף

ii. This is referred to as repetition of emphasis

1. זָהָב זָהָב = “pure gold”

2. שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם = “perfect peace”

iii. “from on the face of the land”

iv. וְהִכַּרְתִּי “I will cause to be cut off”

1. This word is used in both verse 3, and 4

2. 4 times in Leviticus referring to the execution of one who transgressed God’s Law.

b. Of Man and Beast **v.2,3**

i. This is reminiscent of Genesis 6:7

ii. ⁷ *And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*

c. Of Idol Worship **v.4**

i. “Remnant of Baal”

ii. Keep in mind, Josiah’s reforms were likely underway at the time of this prophecy.

d. Of Idol Worshipers **v.4**

i. **2 Kings 23:4-20**

e. Of Those who Give Credence to Jehovah, and False gods **v.5**

i. מְלִכָם means “their king”, but is also another name for Molech, as seen in **1 Kings 11:5,7,33**

⁵ *For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after **Milcom** the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁷ Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for **Molech**, the abomination of the children of Ammon. ³³ Because that they have*

*forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and **Milcom** the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.*

ii. This verse has the idea of “Swear by the LORD *and yet* swear by Malcham”

iii. **You may say**, “Worshipping God *and* false gods isn’t as common among Jews today.”

1. **An Orthodox Rabbi whom I knew in Cleveland, told our Hebrew class about the time that he met a Lakota Indian. He said that he discovered that whom the Lakota worship as “The Great Spirit”, we worship as HaShem.**
2. **An Israeli man whom I knew in Cleveland was convinced (and encouraged by his rabbi) that “Elohim” is really *the Nibiru*, and ancient race of alien beings whom the Sumerians worshipped as gods. According to my friend, these ancient aliens created everything.**

iv. It was amazing, trying to convince both these men (and others) that the God of Israel is not the same as Allah, or The Great Spirit, or the Nibiru!

f. **Of Those who turned from Jehovah to worship False gods v.6**

i. There will be many who turn to worship the Antichrist in the Tribulation period.
Rev. 13:4-8

ii. ***4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. 8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.***

g. **Of Those who have never Sought Jehovah v.6**

i. **Rev. 16:9-11, 21**

ii. ***9 And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory. 10 And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, 11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds...21 And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.***

II. THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR V.7-14

a. God is Here.

b. He has prepared a sacrifice.

i. This is Not the death of Christ

ii. This is the “Sacrifice in Bozrah”

1. “For the LORD hath *a sacrifice in Bozrah*, and a great slaughter in the land of Idumea.” (Isa 34:6)

2. “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. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? 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. *For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come.* And I looked, and there was none to help; And I wondered that there was none to uphold: Therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; And my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth.” (Isa 63:1-6)

iii. This is the “Great Sacrifice upon the Mountains of Israel”

1. ¹⁷ And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to *my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood.* ¹⁸ Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. ¹⁹ And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of *my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you.* ²⁰ Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD. ²¹ And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. ²² *So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.*” (Eze 39:17-22)

c. He will punish the leadership

d. He will punish idolaters

e. He will punish those swift to commit iniquity

f. He will punish the common man v.10-14

III. THE DAY OF THE LORD WILL BE HORRIFYING V.15-18

CHAPTER 2 - THE DESOLATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

I. A HINT OF ESCAPE V.1-3

II. THE DESTRUCTION OF JUDAH'S ENEMIES V.4-15

a. The Philistines V.4

i. Gaza

ii. Ashkelon

iii. Ashdod

iv. Ekron

b. The Nation of the Cherethites & Canaan V. 5-7

c. Moab & Ammon V. 8-10

d. All Heathen People's and gods V.11

e. Ethiopia V.12

f. Assyria and Nineveh V.13-15

CHAPTER 3 - THE DAWN OF SALVATION

I. THE DARKNESS BEFORE THE DAWN V. 1-7

a. This is the Final Woe upon Jerusalem

b. This is Similar to Amos' pronouncement of Judgement upon all of the nations surrounding Judah, and then focusing on the judgement that Judah itself deserves.

II. THE WAIT IS OVER! V. 8-13

III. REJOICE IN THE LORD!! V. 14-20