

Prophets of the Day of the LORD

*I will watch expectantly for the LORD;
I will wait for the God of my salvation.
Micah 7:7 (NASB)*

Trinity Bible Church
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Introduction

The prophets of Israel lived among a rebellious people. While the prophets raised their voices to speak the words of God, the chosen nation slipped deeper and deeper into sin. Deceit, oppression, violence, and most of all, Law-breaking, were the order of the day.

Israel's national covenant with God, the Law of Moses, prescribed specific consequences for disobedience, including exile among the nations. The prophets' gloomy task was to rebuke Israel for her sins and announce God's judgment.

However, the prophets of Israel were not heralds of bad news only. They were also messengers of hope. The prophets spoke of good news: A future event, on its way and quickly coming, which they called the Day of the LORD. On this day the LORD Himself will suddenly appear to act against His enemies and on behalf of His people.

The Day of the LORD, when it comes, certainly will not bring blessing to everyone. When the LORD appears, He will do battle against the ungodly nations of the earth, repaying them according to their deeds.

The nations' loss will be Israel's gain. The Day of the LORD will bring a permanent end to Israel's exile. With wonders displayed for all to see and with His mighty arm stretched out, the LORD will gather the remnant of Israel from all nations of the earth, and establish them in their own land.

The rebels of the nation of Israel will not be exempt from God's wrath on the Day of the LORD. In fact, on that day, the LORD will once and for all purge out the rebels of Israel (Ezekiel 20:38). Since the blessings of the Day of the LORD will only be enjoyed by the faithful remnant, the prophets urged repentance.

The Day of the LORD will not be the end of human history. Rather, it will usher in a golden age. The LORD Himself will dwell among His people in Jerusalem, reigning and rejoicing over them as their King (Zephaniah 3:15, 17). He will multiply the remnant (Ezekiel 37:37),

making them "noisy with men" (Micah 2:12, NASB). The abundance and prosperity which the nation never attained under the terms of the Law of Moses will be realized as each man sits under his vine and fig tree (Micah 4:4). Israel will be raised to prominence among the nations of the earth, and the nations will be compelled to pay homage to their King in Jerusalem (Micah 7:16-17). While the LORD enforces peace on earth, the nations will beat their swords into plowshares, and wars will cease (Micah 4:3).

The golden age foretold by the prophets marks the end of all persecution for God's people. While the LORD is reigning from Jerusalem, Israel will never again be dominated by foreign powers, and every voice raised to malign the people of God will be silenced (Micah 7:10).

The prophets had a forward-looking faith. They were watching and waiting for the LORD to suddenly act to accomplish the forgiveness of their sins and the exaltation of their nation (Micah 7:7, 18-19). In fact, they considered that both of these aspects of their salvation (forgiveness and vindication) would be accomplished by God at the same time: on the Day of the LORD.

Today, the people of God are no longer waiting for the LORD to "tread [their] iniquities under foot" (Micah 7:19, NASB) as the prophets were. The LORD has accomplished forgiveness of sins for His people at the cross. "It is finished," Christ has said (John 19:30). However, the LORD'S work is not done. He has chosen to accomplish salvation for His people not in one coming, but in two. Therefore, many (in fact most) of the blessings promised in the Prophets are yet to be fulfilled.

Today, as in the times of the prophets, the Day of the LORD draws near. The Lord Jesus Christ will soon appear as a warrior to trample His enemies under foot in His wrath and to vindicate His people forever. He comes to rule the nations with a rod of iron (Revelation 19:15) for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4), and He will fill the earth "with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14).

Schedule

September

- 5 Lesson 1: The Devastating Locust Plague
Joel 1
- 12 Lesson 2: The Invasion of the LORD'S Army
Joel 2
- 19 Lesson 3: Judgment in the Valley of Decision
Joel 3
- 26 Lesson 4: The LORD'S Vengeance upon Edom
Obadiah

October

- 3 Lesson 5: Judah's Incurable Wound
Micah 1-2
- 10 Lesson 6: Zion's Dominion in the Last Days
Micah 3:1-4:8
- 17 Lesson 7: The Deliverer from Bethlehem
Micah 4:9-5:15
- 24 Lesson 8: What the LORD Requires
Micah 6
- 31 Lesson 9: Watching and Waiting for the God of Salvation
Micah 7

November

- 7 Lesson 10: The God of Vengeance
Nahum 1
- 14 Lesson 11: The Lions' Den Devoured by Sword
Nahum 2-3
- 21 Lesson 12: Is There Unrighteousness with God?
Habakkuk 1:1-2:1
- 28 Lesson 13: The Just Shall Live by Faith
Habakkuk 2:2-2:20

December

- 5 Lesson 14: I Will Rejoice in the God of My Salvation!
Habakkuk 3
- 12 Lesson 15: Judah's Day of Distress
Zephaniah 1
- 19 Lesson 16: Every Knee Shall Bow
Zephaniah 2
- 26 Lesson 17: The King of Israel Is in Your Midst
Zephaniah 3

Scripture Memorization

Joel 2:12-13

Therefore also now, saith the LORD,
turn ye even to me with all your heart,
and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

And rend your heart, and not your garments,
and turn unto the LORD your God:
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and of great kindness,
and repenteth him of the evil.

Obadiah 15

For the day of the LORD is near upon all the heathen:
as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee:
thy reward shall return upon thine own head.

Micah 7:7

Therefore I will look unto the LORD;
I will wait for the God of my salvation:
my God will hear me.

Nahum 1:6-7

Who can stand before his indignation?
and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger?
his fury is poured out like fire,
and the rocks are thrown down by him.

The Lord is good,
a strong hold in the day of trouble;
and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Habakkuk 2:4

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him:
but the just shall live by his faith.

Scripture Memorization (continued)

Habakkuk 3:17-18

Although the fig tree shall not blossom,
neither shall fruit be in the vines;
the labour of the olive shall fail,
and the fields shall yield no meat;
the flock shall be cut off from the fold,
and there shall be no herd in the stalls:

Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty;
he will save,
he will rejoice over thee with joy;
he will rest in his love,
he will joy over thee with singing.

Who is this that comes from Edom?

Thomas Kelly, 1809

Albert L. Peace, 1885

1. Who is this that comes from E - dom, All his rai - ment stained with blood;
 2. 'Tis the Sav - iour, now vic - tor - ious, Trav - 'ling on - ward in his might;
 3. Why that blood his rai - ment stain - ing? 'Tis the blood of ma - ny slain;
 4. Might - y Vic - tor, reign for ev - er, Wear the crown so dear - ly won;

To the slave pro - claim - ing free - dom; Bring - ing and be - stow - ing good:
 'Tis the Sav - iour, O how glo - rious To his peo - ple is the sight!
 Of his foes there's none re - main - ing, None the con - test to main - tain:
 Nev - er shall thy peo - ple, nev - er Cease to sing what thou hast done:

Glo - rious in the garb he wears, Glo - rious in the spoils he bears?
 Je - sus now is strong to save, Might - y to re - deem the slave.
 Fall'n they are, no more to rise, All their glo - ry pros - trate lies.
 Thou hast fought thy peo - ple's foes; Thou wilt heal thy peo - ple's woes. A - men.

Lesson 1: The Devastating Locust Plague

Joel 1

Memory: Joel 2:12

Hymn: “Who is this that comes from Edom?”

The prophet Joel describes the crop destruction and misery brought by a recent locust plague. He urges the people to cry out to the LORD.

1. With what question does Joel begin his prophecy?
2. What event has caused such devastation?
3. What produce has been destroyed?
4. How has the house of the Lord been affected by the damage?
5. Why were the farmers (or husbandmen) to be ashamed?
6. Whom does the prophet direct to gird themselves with sackcloth?
7. What is the purpose of the fast and solemn assembly?
8. What event is described as at hand or near?
9. How have the animals been affected by the damage?

Lesson 4: The LORD'S Vengeance upon Edom Obadiah

Memory: Micah 7:7 and review.

Hymn: "Who is this that comes from Edom?"

Since the nation of Edom gloated in the day of Judah's misfortune and participated in the ransacking of Jerusalem, the LORD promises to destroy them. As for God's people Israel, when the Day of the LORD comes against all nations, they will find deliverance and push their borders outward.

1. What is the message of the envoy (or ambassador) sent among the nations?
2. How is Edom's dwelling place described?
3. What involvement will Edom's allies have in its downfall?
4. What crimes did Edom commit?
5. What event is drawing near for all nations?
6. Where will there be deliverance?
7. What images are used to describe the house of Joseph and Jacob and the house of Esau?
8. Who will possess the mountain of Esau?
9. What does Obadiah say about the kingdom?

Lesson 10: The God of Vengeance

Nahum 1

Memory: Zephaniah 3:17 and review.

Hymn: “Who is this that comes from Edom?”

Before Nahum addresses the LORD’S specific message of judgment to Nineveh, he describes the character of the LORD. The LORD is slow to anger, but He takes vengeance upon His adversaries, and no one can oppose Him. The LORD is merciful to those who take refuge in Him, and He promises to end foreign oppression for Judah.

1. Nahum’s prophecy is about what city?
2. How does Nahum describe the LORD?
3. What do the elements of nature described by Nahum reveal about God?
4. What is the LORD’S relationship to those who take refuge in Him?
5. What will the LORD do to His enemies?
6. What does the LORD say about the wicked counselor?
7. What does the LORD say to the one He afflicted?
8. What command has the LORD issued?
9. What is the good news for Judah?

Lesson 11: The Lions' Den Devoured by Sword Nahum 2-3

Memory: Review all verses.

Hymn: "Who is this that comes from Edom?"

The LORD will bring a great army against Nineveh. The city which once hunted other nations as prey will be plundered and destroyed. Nineveh's defeat is certain to occur. Her defenses are useless. The LORD will repay Nineveh for her crimes and set her up before the nations as an example of His judgment.

1. The LORD tells Nineveh (you) to prepare for what?
2. What will the LORD do for Jacob and Israel?
3. How does Nahum describe the splendor of the army He will bring against Nineveh?
4. How does Nahum describe Nineveh's defeat?
5. How is Nineveh like a den of lions?
6. What are Nineveh's crimes?
7. What lesson are the nations to learn from the judgment of Nineveh?
8. How will Nineveh be like No (No-amon or Thebes)?
9. How are the leaders of Nineveh described?

Lesson 14: I Will Rejoice in the God of My Salvation!

Habakkuk 3

Memory: Review all verses.

Hymn: “Who is this that comes from Edom?”

Habakkuk describes the coming of the LORD to judge the nations and save His people. The prophet commits Himself to trusting and waiting upon the LORD.

1. What is Habakkuk’s reaction to the answer he has heard?
2. What does the prophet ask the LORD to do?
3. Habakkuk describes the LORD doing what to the nations?
4. What do the elements of nature contribute to Habakkuk’s description of the LORD?
5. Whom will the LORD save?
6. What will the LORD do to the wicked?
7. How does Habakkuk express his fear of the LORD?
8. How does Habakkuk express his trust in the LORD?
9. What will the LORD do for Habakkuk?

Lesson 15: Judah's Day of Distress Zephaniah 1

Memory: Review all verses.

Hymn: "Who is this that comes from Edom?"

The Day of the LORD is coming quickly. It will be a day of violence, wrath, and trouble; and it will spell disaster for all those who are rebellious against the LORD in Judah and Jerusalem.

1. What will the LORD remove from the land?
2. The LORD will stretch out His hand against Judah in order to do what?
3. What is the right response to the knowledge that the Day of the LORD is near?
4. Who will be punished on the Day of the LORD'S sacrifice?
5. What will happen to the goods, houses, and vineyards of the wicked?
6. When is the Day of the LORD coming?
7. Zephaniah refers to the Day of the LORD by what other names?
8. Why will the Day of the LORD bring distress upon men?
9. What good will silver and gold be on the Day of the LORD?

Lesson 16: Every Knee Shall Bow Zephaniah 2

Memory: Review all verses.

Hymn: “Who is this that comes from Edom?”

The LORD invites the humble of the earth to seek Him now, that they may find safety on the Day of the LORD. When the Day of the LORD comes, several of Israel’s foreign enemies will be destroyed. The remnant of the LORD’S people will possess the land of these enemies, and all nations of the earth will bow before the LORD.

1. What advice is given to the nation without shame (or nations not desired)?
2. What comfort is given to those who follow that advice?
3. What will happen to the inhabitants of the land of the Philistines?
4. Who will possess the coast land?
5. What is the sin of Moab and Ammon?
6. Who will inherit the land of Moab and Ammon?
7. What message is addressed to all the nations of the earth?
8. What future is in store for Nineveh?
9. What is Nineveh’s sin?

Lesson 17: The King of Israel Is in Your Midst Zephaniah 3

Memory: Review all verses.

Hymn: “Who is this that comes from Edom?”

Jerusalem is rebuked because she persists in rebellion against the LORD and disregards His warnings. However, the Lord promises that one day He will pour out His wrath upon the nations and forever remove the rebels of Israel. On that day He will dwell on Mount Zion among His people as the King of Israel, and the nations will worship Him.

1. What crimes are committed in the rebellious city?
2. What measures did the LORD take so that His people would fear Him?
3. How did the LORD’S people respond to these measures?
4. The LORD says to wait for what?
5. What will the LORD give to the peoples?
6. Who will be removed from the midst of the LORD’S people on His holy mountain?
7. Who will remain in the midst of the LORD’S people on His holy mountain?
8. Why does the prophet call for Israel to rejoice?
9. What relationship will the LORD’S people have with the peoples of the earth when He restores their fortunes (or turns back their captivity)?

Minor prophets time line

