

Pray: You would not forget the great forgiveness God has brought into your life. With joy, you would continually revere that forgiveness.

Monday 5/12

Read: So just what were the people doing? Go back to **Proverbs 1:7**. We looked at this verse a couple of weeks ago in the context of "**the fear of the Lord**". Now consider the last half of that verse. The words are direct. The man who despises wisdom and instruction is a fool.

Application: **Zephaniah 1:2** tells us Jerusalem would listen to no one. They would respond only to their own wisdom, allowing no one to correct them. Now consider **II Timothy 3:16,17**. What does verse 16 identify as the source of profitable wisdom and instruction? What does verse 17 say about the value of that instruction?

Pray: Your spirit would listen to the wisdom and instruction found in the word of God.

Tuesday 5/13

Read: **Zephaniah 1:2** goes on to reveal even more about the sin of Jerusalem. They did not put their trust in the Lord. Their hopes were not hung on the promises of God. Instead, they trusted in the reliability of their own plans.

Application: The man of true wisdom will cover his whole existence in the promises of God. No aspect of his life will be outside the umbrella of God covenant with him. God has an omniscient plan for your life. Consider **Matthew 10:29-31**. Everything in your life is under the control of the loving and merciful will of God. Compare this with **Romans 8:28**.

Pray: For complete trust in God's providence for every aspect of your life.

Wednesday 5/14

Read: The wisdom packed 2nd verse of Zephaniah offer another glimpse at the sin of Jerusalem. The people of that city did not draw near to their God. What ingratitude and contempt the city of Jerusalem showed their God.

Application: The purification from their sins brought about by a covenant relationship with God allows God's people to spiritually enter into his presence. This drawing near is accomplished as you bring every thought, word and action into accord with the word of God, developing a holy dependence on him.

Pray: You would zealously partake in the privilege you have as a Christian to draw near to God.

Thursday 5/15

Read: There is no substitute for personal Bible study. However, the holy guidance of others is often helpful in our Christian walk. But it essential that we choose wise and godly people to assist us in developing a fruitful Christian life.

Application: Read **Zephaniah 3:3-4**. There are those who would distract you from your Christian life. You must use wisdom when turning to the teaching of others. They may say things we like to hear, but their words are not in accord with the teaching of God. As **II Timothy 4:3** states, they will say what our "**itching ears want to hear**."

Pray. God will bring people into your life who will honestly and sincerely assist you in gaining insight into the Bible.

Friday 5/16

Read: **Zephaniah 3:5** mentions the righteousness of God. There is no injustice in him. There is no failure in him. All things that God wills will come to pass. You can rest comfortably in the promises of God.

Application: If you are in Christ you are a new creation. No longer do you wallow in your sins. Rather, you are cloaked in the righteousness of Christ. For in Christ, your sins have been covered. While the prophet Zephaniah has thus far focused on the wrath of God, he will soon turn his attention to the mercy of God. See **Zephaniah 3:17**.

Pray: The peace and comfort you have in Christ will draw you near to God. That you will thirst after his righteousness.

Saturday 5/17

Read: Read **Zephaniah 3:6-8**. Before moving to the subject of God's mercy, the prophet is not quite through talking about the day of wrath that God promises. In these verses he discusses more about the "storm that comes before the calm".

Application: Here Zephaniah turns his attention from Jerusalem to the nations, discussing the coming judgment that awaits them. Verse 7 gives us a hint as to what God expects, giving insight into that which will save Jerusalem and the nations.

Pray: Giving serious consideration to the wrath that comes from disobedience. But also seriously considering the way out that God provides.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by Thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood;

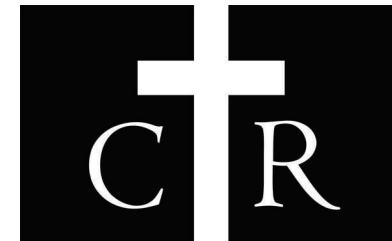
O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let Thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for Thy courts above.

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Taking Gathered Worship Home

Zephaniah-The Day of the Lord

Week of May 11, 2008



CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER

■ PRESBYTERIAN ■

As you might recall, in **Zephaniah 1:17** God spoke generally of his wrath towards mankind. These words of scripture reveal that God will "**bring distress on mankind**". Now, in the opening verses of chapter 3, God makes that admonition more specific. The warning of God's judgement is placed squarely at the feet of Jerusalem. The Jewish people, who are the direct benefactors of God's covenant, now stand in opposition to their Lord. Their disobedience has placed them directly in the path of God's wrath.

[Reading this week from Zephaniah 3:1-5](#)

Sunday 5/11

Read: Jerusalem has become an "**oppressing city**" (**Zephaniah 3:1**). She is "**rebellious and defiled**". Jerusalem has forgotten the mercy and forgiveness she has received from God.

Application: Read **Matthew 18:23-35**. Godly people and godly nations have received much from God. They are expected not only to receive the gift of God's mercy, but also to extend that mercy to others. Turning their backs on God's mercy was the heinous sin of Jerusalem.