

“A Day to Remember Forever”

Zephaniah 1:7-13
February 27th, 2022

What is the most important day ever?

A day for the superior, scoundrel, sloth, skeptic, sinner, saint, self-centered, self-loathing, etc.

A message for the horrified, the broken hearted, and those who are experiencing hardship

No one will eternally forget the day of the Lord

Opening PRAYER

CONTEXT: Sermon Series: Shelter from the Storm

Brief background of the book of Zephaniah

1:1 *God revealed* the present condition of Judah through Zephaniah’s genealogy

Come through the gate of 1:1 and 2 Tim. 3:16 with me!

1:2-6 *God revealed* His holy response to those who do not hear, heed, and herald the Word of the Lord

Continue in the same vein today

The sermon text is Zephaniah 1:7-13

TIMELESS TRUTH: Prophets proclaim punishment through poetic heart piercing paintings

I.e., prophets passionately proclaim punishment through poetry so people may be saved and sanctified

- Paint images to convey meanings
- Paint with words to express messages loaded with emotional impact

T/S By way of preview, today we will discover 5 aspects of the day of the Lord

You will at some point and to some degree experience all 5

- I. A Heavenly Hush
- II. A Heavenly Horror
- III. A Heavenly Heartbreak
- IV. A Heavenly Hunt
- V. A Heavenly Hardship

T/S: Now let's enter into the prophecy

I. The Day of the Lord is a Heavenly Hush

The Day will either silence you or you will try to silence it

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!

Understand the *Who* before we unpack the *what*

What If? (Video)

Everything changes when you silence yourself before the Lord

T/S Now what does it mean to be silent?

Literally to "hush" and to be in awe of God

Be silent **BECAUSE** of His presence- *imagine a lion*

- *To be* faithful in submission to God's authority
- *Men are not silent* when they refuse to hear the Word
- *Silence is spiritual warfare*- No war in hearing the world
- *Silence* is so much more than to be quiet- it is surrender

T/S Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near

i. What is the Day of the Lord?

A Sovereign sentence and the worst day ever

Overthrows the enemies of Israel *AND* Israel (See Amos)

It has near and far fulfillments

Men meet God's judgment and His wrath is poured out

Do you see the importance in being silent?

Do you see the importance of the day of the Lord?

We need to be biblically silent (born again) because God's judgment is near

The heavenly hush points us to the Gospel

T/S: Now in v8 and onward we are shown what happens to those who do not heed the Heavenly hush

II. The Day of the Lord is a Heavenly Horror

Not a fairy tale, fiction, or a film

the LORD has prepared a sacrifice & consecrated his guests

The LORD describes Himself as a priest

Judah is the *sacrifice* (God addresses Judah directly in v4)

The Babylonians are *His consecrated guests* (Jer. 32:26-29)

Set apart for a holy end even though their purposes, aims, and passions were unholy

T/S I think the Jews were shocked by this and many will be shocked on judgment day

*8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—
“I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire*

a. The Lord God Searches and Slaughters the Superior

God will visit and examine the hearts of men

The lite *feel* the most protected from harm, but find themselves at the top of God's list of those He promises to punish

Wealth will not protect from wrath

i. Why? *Arrayed in foreign attire*

God's people were told what to wear and what not to wear

See God's providence and commands extend themselves to the smallest matters

The choice of the foreign attire is the choice to conform to the world

The main question for us is...

Are you clothed in Jesus' robes of righteousness?

If so, you are distinguished by a Christlike imperishable beauty not by the perishable beauty of clothing and cosmetics

*9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud*

a. The Lord God Searches and Slaughters Scoundrels

The focus is not the act itself but what was gained by it (possessions) and how it was gained (violence and fraud)

Anger without any good effect is heart murder (Matt. 5:21)

***Fraud* is any form of intentionally twisting the truth**

Cheating on a test, lying to parents, friends, employer, etc.

You may want to think your sin is not that bad

The thought of God punishing every sin is horrifying; however, your horror can be turned into happiness in Christ

Christ took our horror so that our hearts may be healed

T/S This point brings us to our next point

III. The Day of the Lord is a Heavenly Heartbreak

He wants us to hear the severity of God's judgment against sin through the cries of Jerusalem so that we may cry out

*10 "On that day," declares the LORD,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.*

a. This is a Self-Saturated Sorrow

I think of 9-11 when I think of this scene

There is no escape from His judgment- utter hopelessness

*11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off*

What is happening in this scene?

God broke their hearts and brought about hard times

**They were worshiping their success, jobs, wealth, and goods
so He took it all away**

Is your heart broken? It is because of sin. Jesus can heal you

Christian, we all have broken hearted people in our lives

Remember when and how God healed your broken heart

Remember, the lost will spend eternity weeping in hell

Remember, God breaks hearts to heal them

T/S: Heavenly heartbreaks come through a Heavenly hunt

IV. The Day of the Lord is a Heavenly Hunt

Not like a policeman conducting a speed check

*12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,*

a. The Lord God Searches and Slaughters Sloths

Complacency- settled in sin like dregs, concrete, frozen water
What happens when you rub your hands together?

Rub your life against the word of God and the church

Guard against complacency and become more like Jesus

*T/S The prophet shows us that spiritual slothfulness
flows out of a skeptical heart*

*those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'*

a. The Lord God Searches and Slaughters Skeptics

- What you believe totally impacts the way you live
- Skepticism is the root of spiritual slothfulness

Do you see that this heavenly hunt is a good thing?

Everything changes when I realize God is my Judge

The realization of my guilt before God leads me to the cross

Christian, pray Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

T/S: A heavenly hardship is the fruit of the heavenly hunt

V. The Day of the Lord is a Heavenly Hardship

God has completed his hunt and now it is time to bring hardship on his people

*13 Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.*

a. The Self-Sufficient are Sufficiently Emptied

What they valued & worked so hard for was taken away in the blink of an eye because they did not make the Lord God their strength, authority, and treasure

The heavenly hardship is heavenly grace!

Better to have your house burned down if it leads you to repentance than to remain self-sufficient and be thrown into the eternal fire (John 15:6)

God prescribes hardship for His children to empty them of self-sufficiency and to fill them with Christ dependency

The lost fall into greater degrees of self-pity, self-absorption, self-sufficiency, and the worst of all, a greater hostility

*Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.”*

Self-securities, namely those things we strive after to possess, whether tangible or intangible, are spiritual poison because they blind us from our true spiritual need, namely, forgiveness and transformation in and through Jesus.

Christian, your hardship flows from God's purposeful action (Ro. 8:28)

The purpose of heavenly hardship for the Christian is purification (1 Peter 1:6-7)

God may take your health, wealth, and everything you got in order to break you so that you may be healed

T/S: Let us remember and never forget what we have seen, heard, and felt today

REVIEW: The Day of the Lord is...

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|-------------|------------------------------|---|
| I. | A Heavenly Hush | |
| II. | A Heavenly Horror | |
| III. | A Heavenly Heartbreak | <i>Each aspect carries you to the Gospel!</i> |
| IV. | A Heavenly Hunt | |
| V. | A Heavenly Hardship | |

It is a Day you will remember forever!

T/S: Let me bring this to a close and tie it altogether

Are you *resting in eternal fire*? ***Come to Christ!***

Are you rescued but *returning to the fire*? ***Come to Christ!***

Rescued from the fire? ***Go for Christ!***

Today's message is a message for all people and especially
for the church

Isaiah 59:1- *the LORD's hand is not so short that it cannot save*

If His arm is not too short to save and we are His body, then
we ought to reach out as far as our hands can possibly
extend to those who are on fire

May the Lord God *hush your heart* so you may truly hear Him

May the Lord God *horrify your heart* so you may find shelter in
Christ from the storm of His wrath

May the Lord God *break your heart* so you may be truly healed
from sin

May the Lord God *hunt your heart* so you may be found guilty
and run to be justified by faith in Christ

*Dear father, bring to us, according to your grace and mercy,
the degree of hardship necessary to either save or make us
more like you. Amen and amen!*