



# THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR

**AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE PROPHETS ZEPHANIAH AND HABAKKUK**

**WITH JESSE BRIDGES AND TIM OAKLEAF**

**WELCOME! WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE HERE.**

# LESSON TWO AGENDA

**HOUSEKEEPING**

**RESOURCES**

**HOMEWORK OPTIONS**

**CONSIDER THE SOURCE**

**CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES**

**SUMMARY**

**“SO WHAT?”**

**FOR NEXT WEEK**



# HOUSEKEEPING

- Bathrooms
- Emergency exits
- Comfort zones

# RESOURCES

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**NASB and ESV Bibles**

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**Notes on Zephaniah by Dr. Thomas L. Constable**

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**Notes on Habakkuk by Dr. Thomas L. Constable**

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**The Blue Letter Bible app**

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**A Shelter in the Fury by Ronald B. Allen**

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**When Life's Not Fair by Harlan Betz**

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**Fresh Out of Amazing by Stacey Thacker**

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**Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps & Timelines**

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**Hammond's Atlas of the Bible lands**

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**Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament**

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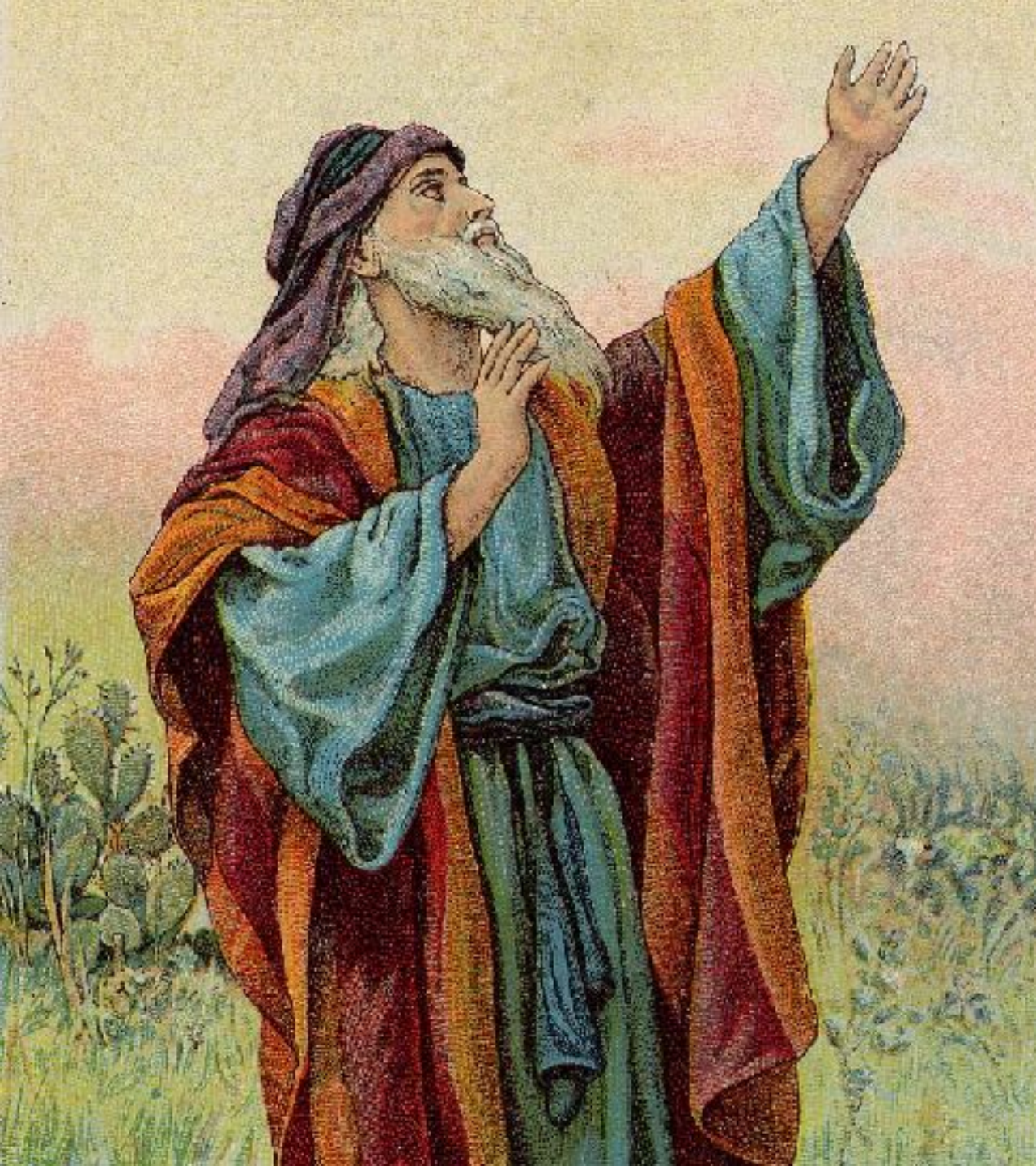
**The Bible Knowledge Commentary**

# HOMework OPTIONS

- **“You get out of it what you put into it.”**
  - What investment are you willing to make?
  - Minimally, read the passage each week – more than once if you can
  - Bring paper and pen
  - Who has additional resources they want to bring to class?
- **Pick and choose (Handout)**
  - Present when ready or with the appropriate lesson
- **Make up your own assignments!**
- **Individually and/or as a group of any size**

# CONSIDER THE SOURCE – OUR APPROACH TO GOD’S WORD

- **What would you consider to be the most important question to ask ourselves as we approach the Scriptures?**
  - **What does it say? What is God telling us? (original intent and harmonization)**
    - What story is being told?
    - How is it being told?
    - Why is it being told?
  - **Applications and implications (for today)**
    - What does it mean for us?
    - What are we to do in response?



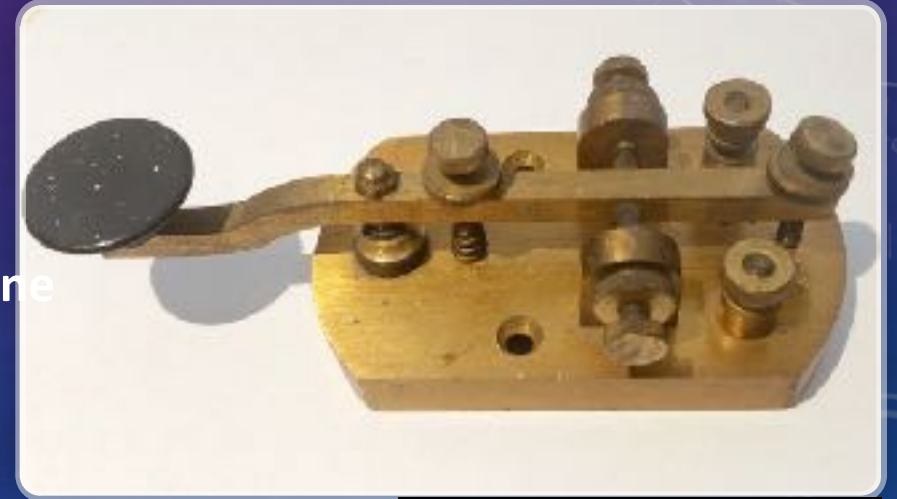
# CONSIDER THE SOURCE - JUST FOR FUN!

- The OT Prophets
  - Two designations?
  - Name them all?
  - Designate which is which?
  - List in chronological order?

(Handout or Homework)

# CONSIDER THE SOURCE – FROM THE BEGINNING

- **Chapter One, verse 1: “The word of the LORD”**
  - **The Source: from God**
    - Substance is authoritative
  - **The Messenger: a human**
    - Style is as unique as the individual writer
    - What is your favorite illustration for the process of divine revelation?
    - How about a telegraph transmission?
  - **Literary form?**
    - Poetic  
(with narrative exceptions; 1:1 and 2:10+11)



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# CONSIDER THE SOURCE

- **Textual criticism?**
  - **Predicting fall of Nineveh – 612 BC**
  - **Changes from poetic to narrative and back**
  - **One coherent message with unity and flow in a collection of oracles point to one author as ascribed to by its ancient supporters and conservative scholars**
- **Date?**
  - **Zephaniah's ministry 640-609 BC**
  - **Before or after Josiah's reforms? 622 BC**
    - **Impact may have strengthened the faithful remnant?**

# CONSIDER THE SOURCE

- **Location?**

- **1:4, 10-12**

- Judah, Jerusalem
    - Fish gate, Second Quarter
    - “Mortar” is a district of Jerusalem

- **Audience?**

- **Add 1:8 and 3:3+4 to the above**

- Southern Kingdom, Princes, Priests, Judges, and Prophets of Baal



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# CONSIDER THE SOURCE

- **Purpose?**
  - **Warnings of Judgment**
  - **Promise of Restoration**
  - **The Day of the Lord – more references than any other OT book**
  - **Called the Reader’s Digest of OT Prophecy: “Zephaniah alone emphasized more strenuously than them all the universality of its judgment while also surprisingly predicting the conversion of the nations as one of its fruits.”**  
**Walter C. Kaiser Jr., Toward an Old Testament Theology, pp. 223**

# CONSIDER THE SOURCE

- **Theology? (What to look for)**
  - **Sovereignty of God**
  - **Wickedness of man**
  - **God's justice and His priority on repentance**
  - **God's mercy and grace, His responsiveness to repentance**
  - **God's inextinguishable love of Israel and His focus on the remnant**
  - **God's plan of salvation**
  - **Apocalyptic eschatology**

# CONSIDER THE SOURCE

- **Theme?**
  - **The Day of the LORD:** “Perhaps 1:7 summarizes what the book is all about better than any other single verse: “Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the LORD is near” Dr. Thomas L. Constable
  - **“He is coming back, but first there are some things to get settled...” (TLO paraphrase):** “God will intervene in history, catastrophically, to judge humanity’s complacency and indifference, and to restore His people to the conditions of blessing that He originally intended for them to enjoy.” Adapted from G. Campbell Morgan, *Living Messages of the Books of the Bible*, 1:2:289-301.

# CONSIDER THE SOURCE

- **Theme? (cont'd)**
  - Regarding Zephaniah's writings: "His theme, accordingly, is little less than "the consummation of the world's history."” George L. Robinson, *The Twelve Minor Prophets*, p. 133.
- **Key Verse?**
  - Zephaniah 1:7, 14, 3:12, 15, or 17
  - Others? (Pick your own)
- **Key words/phrases? (Handout or Homework)**
- **Outlines? (Handout or Homework)**

# CONSIDER THE

# CONSEQUENCES

- Chapter One, verses 2-6: God's Judgment

- Theme: God's Judgment - Time to Clean House
- Verses 2+3 "I will" is a promise, guaranteed
- Judge **the world** – Universal Judgment
- "remove" asaph [aw-saf'] and sup [soof] = utterly consume, as in cease to exist
- "completely" kol [kole] = the whole, in its totality, "all means all"
- Remind you of anything?

**The flood, and the utter darkness and depravity of sin**

**Nuclear war on steroids...**

**"Destroyed by fire" verse?**

**2 Peter 3:10**



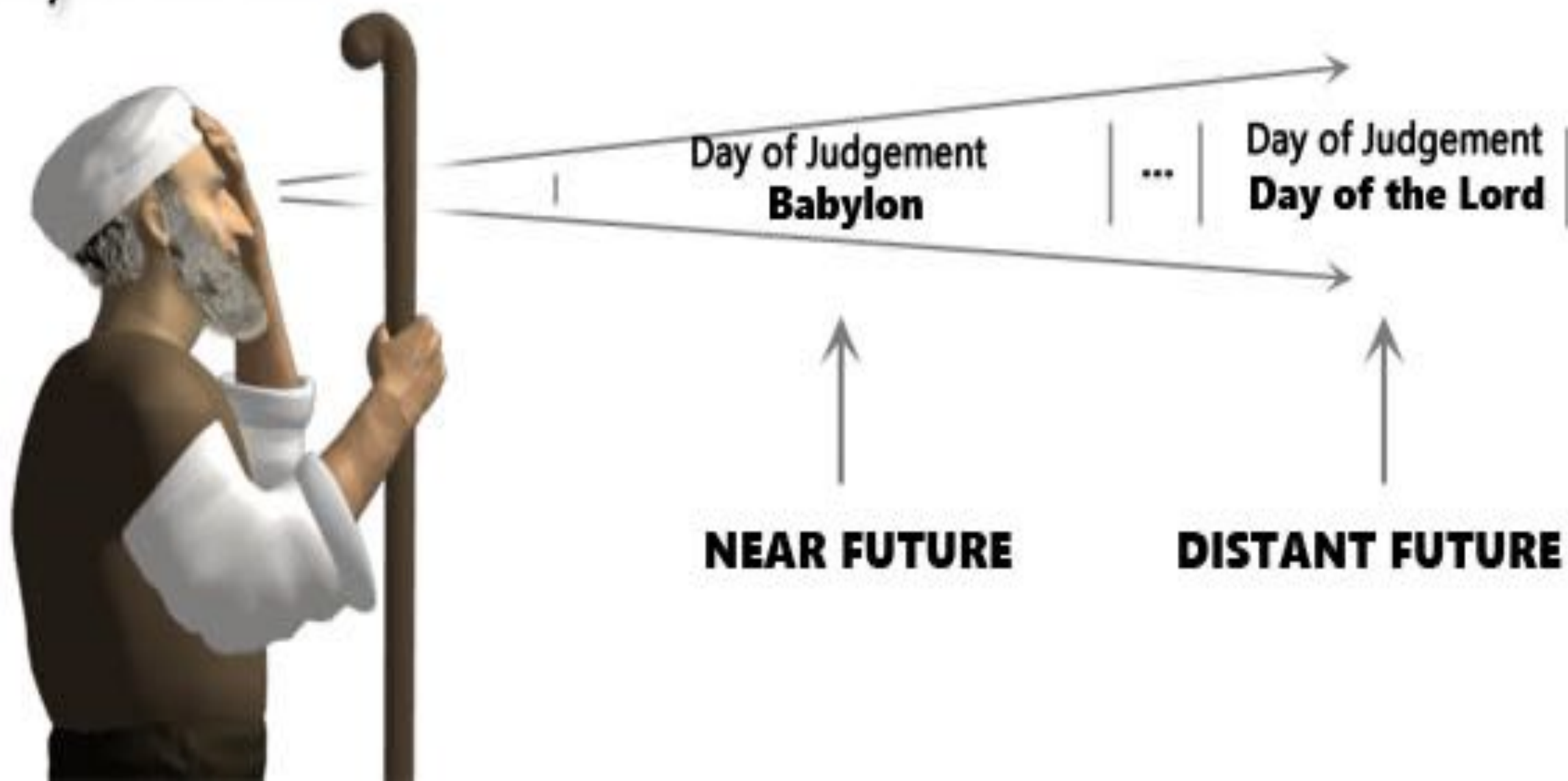
# CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES

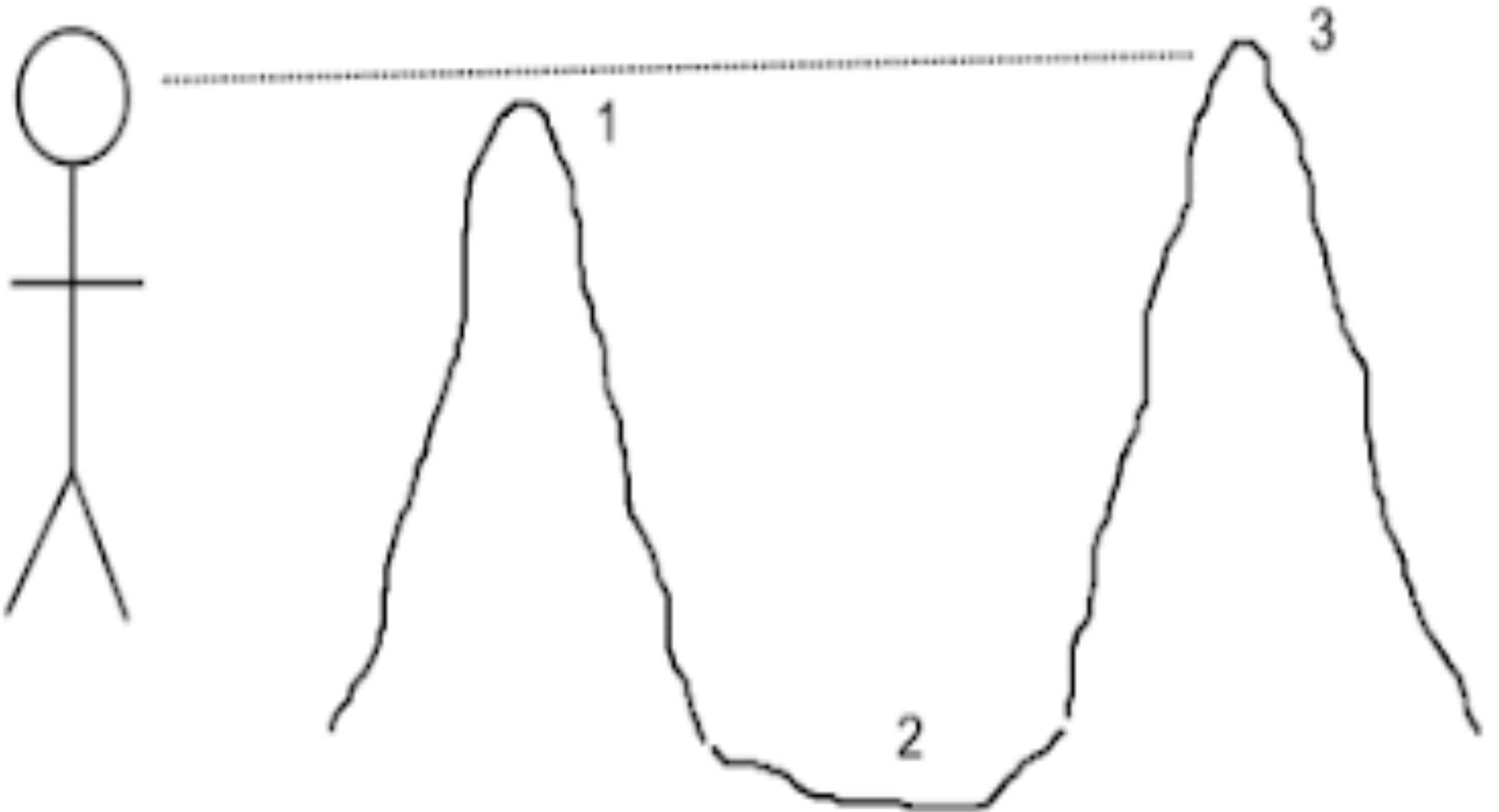
- Chapter One, verses 2-6: God's Judgment
  - Alt. Theme – Consequences for wrong choices
  - Verses 4-6 “I will” - more guaranteed promises
  - Judge **Judah and Jerusalem**
  - Near view versus Far view





# Zephaniah





# CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES

- Chapter One, verses 2-6: God's Judgment
  - Verses 4-6 Judging various **idolators** (See Jeremiah 2:13)
  - Baal worshippers, v4 "remnant"?
    - sar [sheh-awr'] = residue, remainder
    - Versus 2:7+9, 3:13: "remnant" she'eriyyth [sheh-ay-reeth'] = what is left, having escaped, descendants
  - Worshippers of astral deities, v5
  - Syncretists, v5 ("spiritual smorgasbord")
    - Milcom/Malcham/Molech – Ammonite child sacrifice
  - Apostates, v6 ("turn back" sug [soog] = renounce)
  - Unbelievers/pagans, v6



# SUMMARY



**THINGS TO  
COME  
(JUDGMENT)**



**IMPACT ON  
PEOPLE  
(DESTRUCTION)**



**AN OBVIOUS  
QUESTION  
(FROM A  
JEWISH  
PERSPECTIVE)**



**THE  
APPROPRIATE  
RESPONSE  
(SILENCE,  
VERSE 7)**

# “SO WHAT?”

What kind of audience am I?  
Am I an idol worshipper? Or  
am I submissive to the Lord's  
authority?

Have I accepted Christ and His  
finished work on the cross as  
all I need to be restored to a  
full relationship to God?

Do I see myself as deserving  
of punishment/discipline but  
blessed by God's magnificent  
grace?

How sensitive am I to sin in  
my life? Do I repentant quickly  
and easily? How willing am I  
to deal with it effectively? To  
what lengths am I willing to  
go in order to address it?

Do I live expectantly, looking  
for Christ to return? Am I  
looking forward joyously to  
Christ's return?

FOR  
NEXT  
WEEK...

Read Chapter One, verses 7-13  
and 14-18 (more if you like)

Homework:

- **Pick from mine (see handout) or make some up for yourselves!**

Suggested word list:

- **consecrated, punish, leap, stagnant, great day of the LORD, terrifying**
- **Or choose any others you like!**



**THANKS FOR COMING**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT TIME...**

## Z and H Examples of some Key Words and Phrases

1. Judgment(s) 1x **C.3, V.15**
  - a. punish 3X/anger/justice/indignation/retribution
2. I will 20X
  - a. variations 52X - in 53 verses!
3. Rebellion/disobedience/unfaithful/stagnant
4. Hope
5. Wrath/destruction/desolation/trouble/distress/woe
6. The (Great) Day of the Lord 7X all in the first 21 verses (of 53)
  - a. by inference an additional 17X (“that/the/a day/time”)
7. Sacrifice 2X **C.1, V.7+8**
8. Remnant 4X
  - a. 1 Baal, 3 Israel, inference 8X
9. Hope
10. Shelter
11. Repentance/Deliverance/Preservation/Restoration
12. Loss (“Vail of Tears”) versus Restoration (Precious Promises)
13. Millennium and Eternal State



# Zephaniah Outlines

## Constable's:

- I. Heading 1:1
- II. The day of Yahweh's judgment 1:2—3:8
  - A. Judgment on the world 1:2-3
  - B. Judgment on Judah 1:4—2:3
    1. The cause for Judah's judgment 1:4-6
    2. The course of Judah's judgment 1:7-13
    3. The imminence and horrors of Judah's judgment 1:14-18
    4. A call to repentance 2:1-3
  - C. Judgment on Israel's neighbors 2:4-15
    1. Judgment coming on Philistia 2:4-7
    2. Judgment coming on Moab and Ammon 2:8-11
    3. Judgment coming on Ethiopia 2:12
    4. Judgment coming on Assyria 2:13-15
  - D. Judgment on Jerusalem 3:1-7
  - E. Judgment on all nations 3:8
- III. The day of Yahweh's blessing 3:9-20
  - A. The purification of the nations 3:9
  - B. The transformation of Israel 3:10-20
    1. Israel's purification 3:10-13
    2. Israel's and Yahweh's rejoicing 3:14-17
    3. Israel's regathering 3:18-20

## J. Sidlow Baxter's:

- Look within! —wrath coming on Judah (1:1—2:3)
  - The purpose of Jehovah to judge (1:1-6)
  - The "day" of Jehovah "at hand" (1:7-18)
    - *And so*—plea to Jerusalem (2:1-3)
- Look around! —wrath on all nations (2:4—3:8)
  - West, east—Philistia, Moab, Ammon (2:4-11)
  - South, north—Ethiopia and Assyria (2:12-15)

- *And so*—"Woe" to Jerusalem (3:1-8)
- Look beyond! —after wrath, healing (3:9-20)
  - Conversion of Gentile peoples (3:9)
  - Restoring of covenant people (3:10-15)
    - *And so*—the new Jerusalem (3:16-20)

## **Zephaniah/Habakkuk Homework Assignment Options**

1. Read the text/passage for the next lesson every week.
  - a. More than once if you can.
2. Hand in a suggested theme for the book/text/lesson.
3. Write a paragraph tying the current passage to the theme you chose.
4. Write up an outline of the book/text/passage.
5. Look up cross references. Answer two questions for each one:
  - a. What is the connection between our text and this reference?
  - b. What makes it a legitimate/accurate connection?
6. Find a parallel passage and share its significance with the class.
  - a. E.g., **Isaiah 9-12**
7. Look up key words to determine their meaning. Submit your list of words for that day's passage/lesson.
8. Generate a list of all the things God hides. E.g., His face.
9. Write down any questions you feel were left unanswered or that you would like answered and submit them.
10. Write a paragraph to share with the class about how God is speaking to you through the text we are studying. How did the lesson, your homework, or your reading impact you personally and your walk with the Lord?