



THE DAY OF THE LORD IS NEAR

**An investigation into the prophets
Zephaniah and Habakkuk**

**With Jesse Bridges and
Oakleaf**

Tim

***Welcome! We are glad you are
here.***

RESOURCES

NASB and ESV Bibles

Notes on Zephaniah by Dr. Thomas L. Constable

Notes on Habakkuk by Dr. Thomas L. Constable

The Blue Letter Bible app

A Shelter in the Fury by Ronald B. Allen

When Life's Not Fair by Harlan Betz

Fresh Out of Amazing by Stacey Thacker

Rose Book of Bible Charts, Maps & Timelines

Hammond's Atlas of the Bible lands

Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament

The Bible Knowledge Commentary



HOMWORK OPTIONS

- ***“You get out of it what you put into it.”***
 - **Read, Read, Read!**
 - **Write, Write, Write!**
 - **Resources, Resources, Resources!**
- **Pick from the Homework Handout**
Or make up your own!
(Share when done if you like.)

LESSON FOUR AGENDA: CHAPTER 2, VERSES 1-7

THE REASONS TO GATHER
THE TIME TO GATHER
THE BENEFIT OF GATHERING
THE FAILURE TO GATHER
THE BLESSINGS FROM GATHERING
SUMMARY
“SO WHAT?”
NEXT WEEK

THE REASONS TO GATHER, V1

- How many references are there to “The Day of The LORD” in chapter 1?
 - I counted ~15 direct references:
 - v7, 8, 14 (2x), 18 “the day”
 - v9, 10, 15 “that day”
 - v12 “that time”
 - v15 (5x), 16 “a day of”

Think He is trying to get a message across?



THE REASONS TO GATHER, V1

- “Gather” quahash [kaw-shash’] = assemble, collect (yourselves), come together
- Reason One: Gather because you’ve been warned about what’s coming
- Reason Two: Gather because you realize your lack of shame
 - “without shame” lo kasap [lo kaw-saf’] = not desirable, longed for, or sought after, oblivious to their shame, feeling shameless despite their guilt
 - Because of their refusing to be ashamed, Jeremiah 3:3, 6:15 ([Verse List Handout](#))
- Reason Three: Gather because it is the means to avoid despair
 - A call to get right with the LORD, Joel 1:13-20, Joel 2:12-17 = becoming part of the Remnant = *only way to avoid despair!*

THE REASONS TO GATHER, V1

Let's review C1, v7 + 8 briefly: two kinds of sacrifices; one good, one not so much

- V7 “sacrifice” qadas [kaw-dash'] = separation, consecration, sanctify, dedicate, be holy
 - As in a **living** sacrifice, Romans 12:1 + 2
 - It is a good kind of sacrifice, desirable, with many benefits/blessings
 - In reference to the **Remnant**, c2:7 + 9, C3:8-20

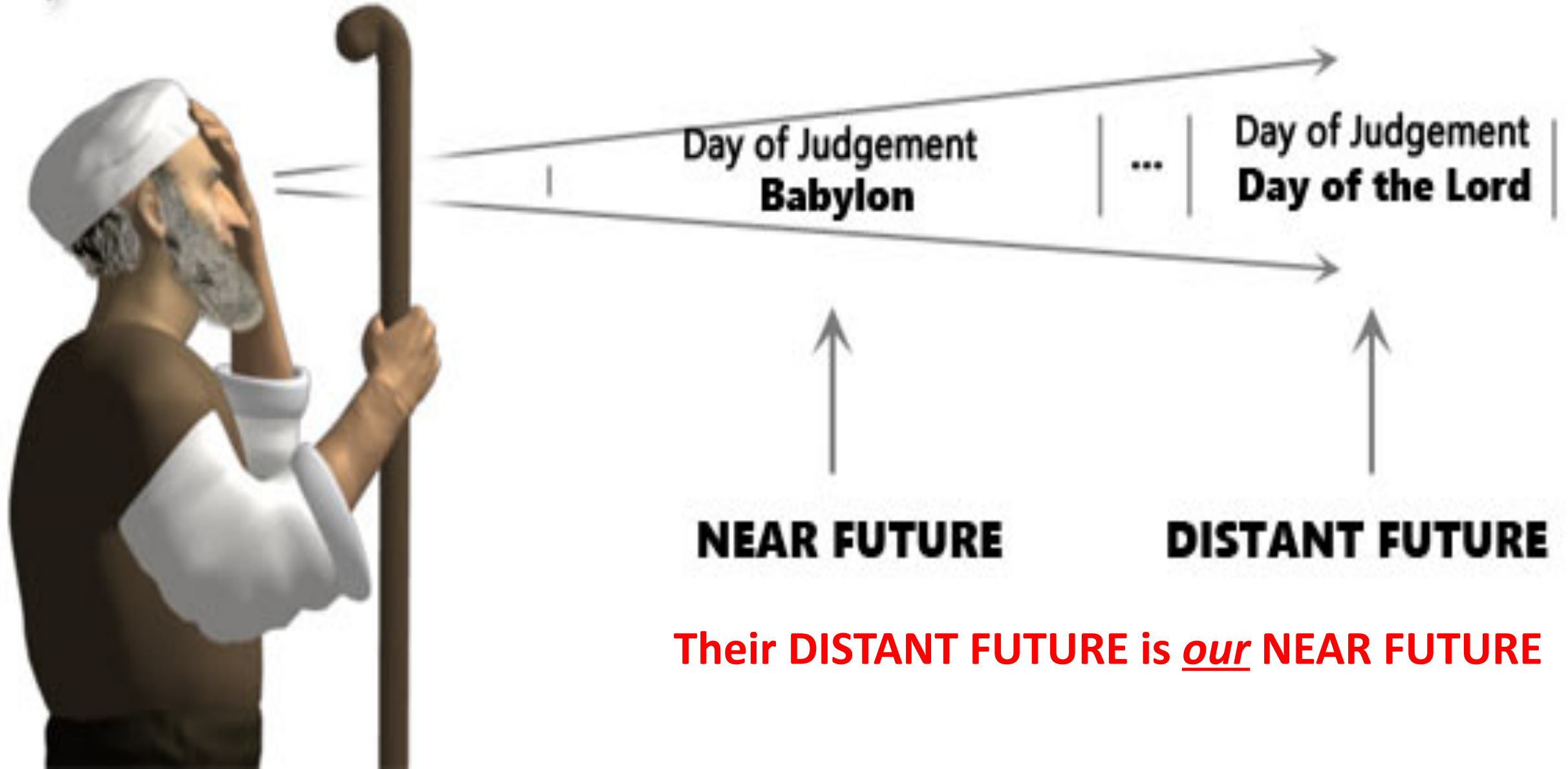
THE REASONS TO GATHER, V1

- V8 “sacrifice” zebach [zeh’ vahk] = covenant, Passover, annual, thank offering
 - All sacrifices involving death
 - “I will” involving punishment
 - In reference to the unbelieving, unfaithful Jews
- The contrast:
 - v7 sacrifice = Faith and Life
 - v8 sacrifice = Unbelief and Death
- Theme for V1-3?
 - “Avoiding the coming judgment”

THE TIME TO GATHER, V2

- “Before” terem [the’-rem] = not yet
 - The decree of judgment/punishment is read
 - The day (for the reading of the decree) passes like chaff
 - Blown by the wind, the chaff is removed quickly
 - In other words, time is about to run out
 - The LORD’s burning (“fierce”) anger comes upon you
 - The day of judgment – as described in C1
 - So, repent before it is too late to avoid the coming judgment
 - Do we not all have a limited amount of time to make our life altering decisions?:
Salvation, Submission, Service, Sacrifice...

Zephaniah



Their DISTANT FUTURE is our NEAR FUTURE

THE BENEFIT OF GATHERING, V3

- **3X “Seek” and a “Perhaps”**
 - “seek” baqash [baw-kash’] 3x = require like oxygen which is necessary for life, request as in strongly desire, secure as in cling to with an unwillingness to let go – like a scared child wrapped around the leg of its mother...
 1. **Seek the LORD**
 - Deut. 4:29, Psalm 27:4 (vs. Psalm 14:2), Luke 11:9
 - OT as in NT: an act of faith, wholehearted devotion, deep piety, speaking of being in a right relationship with God, Psalm 22:8



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THE BENEFIT OF GATHERING, V3

- 3X “Seek” and a “Perhaps”:
 2. Seek (even more) righteousness
 3. Seek (even more) humility
 - “All you humble”, already humble and obedient
“carried out His ordinances”
- Don’t be satisfied with where you are at – press on

Philippians 3:13 + 14, 2 Peter 1:5-8



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THE BENEFIT OF GATHERING, V3

- “Perhaps” ‘uwlay [oo-lah’ee] = if, suppose, unless
 - Conditional upon seeking
 - A “Know so” hope versus a “Hope so” hope
 - What does it take to have a “Know so” hope?
 - Knowledge of God and faith in His promises!
 - Verses?
 - John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Acts 4:12, Philippians 1:6

THE BENEFIT OF GATHERING, V3



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- “hidden” cathar [saw-thar’] = concealed, sheltered, secreted away
 - Implied “by God” [Remember the meaning of Zephaniah?]
- Examples?
 - Moses
 - in a pitch covered basket (“ark”)
 - In a cleft of the rock
 - The Remnant, Deut. 28:49-68, 32:1-47, Isa. 10:21 + 22, 11:11, 2 Kings 19:30 + 31, Romans 11:5, Amos 5:15 (versus Amos 8)
 - Us! Psalm 27:5

THE BENEFIT OF GATHERING, V3

"This is a beacon of hope for the committed, not an escape clause for the half-hearted." Ronald B. Allen, *A Shelter in the Fury*, p. 98.

We can see the parallel themes among the prophets in Isaiah, Zephaniah, Joel, Hosea, Habakkuk, among others:

- “The Day of the Lord” as days of judgment upon Israel and her neighbors
- A call to repentance... solely on God’s terms
- Not an unconditional promise, heavily conditioned on their response
- The Lord, in His steadfast love and compassion, sheltering the Remnant
- A return to God by the Remnant, having been filled with the Spirit of God

So, the place to gather is in the shelter of the Almighty God!

The only means to avoid the coming judgment

THE FAILURE TO GATHER, V4+5

- Consequences of failing to seek the LORD: the outpouring of the Lord's anger on Israel's neighbors
- All four compass points
- Starting with those to the West – Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and Ekron, and the seacoast ([Map Handout](#))
- Consequences of failing to seek the LORD:
 - Gaza: “abandon” azab [aw-zab'] = leave, let loose, forsake, depart from, let go, free from restraints, left to their own devices: left to face the consequences of their rejection of God – as are all who choose to ignore His plan, directions, instructions, and commands

THE FAILURE TO GATHER, V4+5

- **Consequences of failing to seek the LORD:**
 - **Ashkelon: “desolation” shemamah [shem-aw-maw’] = devastation, no longer able to support life, a wasteland, worse than a desert - as are all without the life-giving faith in Christ and the subsequent gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. See Amos 1:6-8, Jeremiah 25:15-20, 47:5-7, and Zechariah 9:5**
 - **Ashdod: “driven out” garash [gaw-rash’] = expel, thrust out, cast out, tossed aside, divorced, put away – Matthew 22:13**
 - **Ekron: “uprooted” aqar [aw-kar’] = pluck up, cut, hamstring: as in render worthless, unable to serve or survive**



THE FAILURE TO GATHER, V4+5

- And including the seacoast: the Cherethites, those with roots in Crete, and Canaan, land of the Philistines, Ezekiel 25:16
- “destroy” abad [aw-bad’] = perish, vanish, be exterminated, blot out, put to death by divine judgment, utterly, completely
- Theme for V4+5?

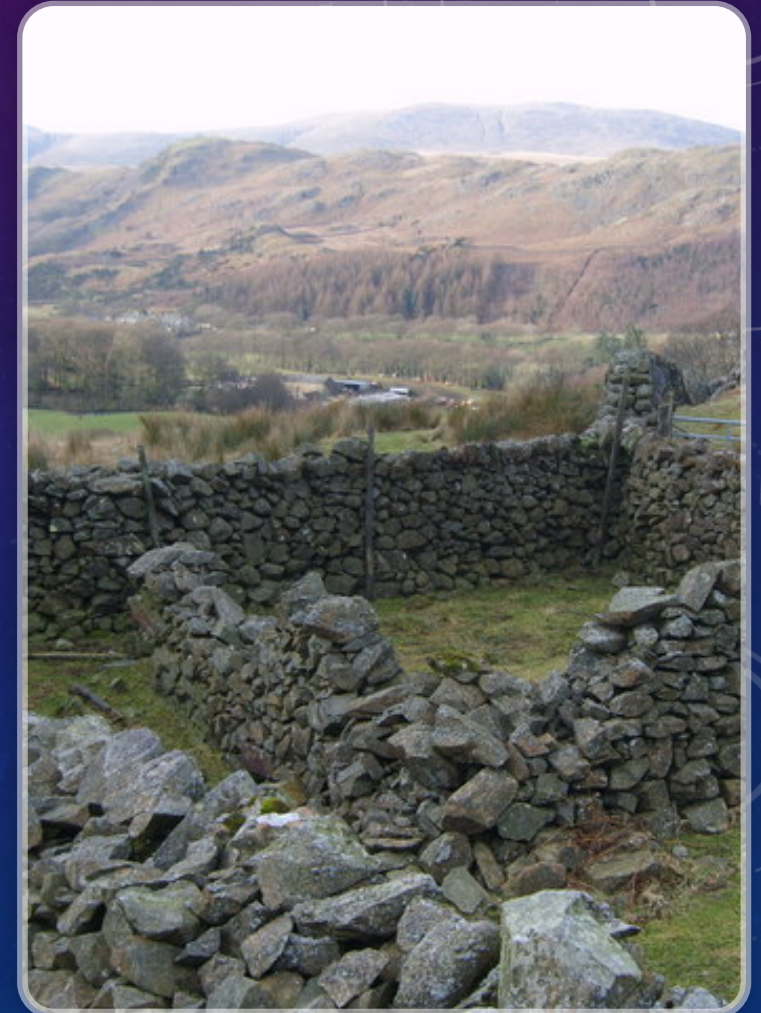
Consequences for failing to seek the LORD

THE BLESSINGS FROM GATHERING, V6+7

- Resulting from God's judgment upon their neighbors:
 - Pastures/meadows [naw-veh'] for their sheep
 - Caves/cottages [kaw-raw'] for the shepherds
(And may include wells for water)
 - Folds [ghed-ay-raw'] are corrals/walls/hedges to keep them safe from predators
 - Safe and secure under the shelter of the LORD
 - Restful repose for the faithful Remnant
 - Divine care, provision, and protection
 - Restoration of their wellbeing

Theme for v6+7?...

Blessings follow obedience



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SUMMARY



**HOW GOOD IS
GOD?**

(WARNINGS)



**HOW GOOD IS
GOD!**

(KNOWABLE)



**HOW GOOD
GOD IS!**

(HIDING PLACE)



**HOW GOOD
GOD IS!**

(REWARDER)

“SO WHAT?”

**HOW DOES OUR
SITUATION
COMPARE?**

**HOW DOES MY
SITUATION
COMPARE?**

**AM I GATHERING,
SEEKING,
TRUSTING,
EXPECTANT?**

**AM I CARING
TOWARDS THOSE
LESS FORTUNATE?**

**HOW AM I
MOTIVATED TO DO
HIS WILL?**

FOR
NEXT
WEEK...

Read Chapter 2, verses 8-15

Homework:

- Pick from the handout; or *make them up for yourself!*

Suggested word list:

- taunting, arrogant, plunder, terrify, starve, parched, pelican, securely, hiss; or *choose others you like!*



THANKS FOR COMING

HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT TIME...

Zephaniah Chapter 2, Lesson 4 Handout

Outline:

- I. The Reasons to Gather
- II. The Time to Gather
- III. The Benefit of Gathering
- IV. The Failure to Gather
- V. The Blessings from Gathering

Theme v1-3

Avoiding Judgment by seeking the LORD

Theme v4-7

Consequences from failing to seek the LORD

Scripture references:

Call to get right with the LORD – Joel 1:13-20, 2:12-17

Living sacrifice – Romans 12:1+2

Remnant – Zephaniah 2:7,9 3:8-20

Seek the LORD – Deut. 4:29, Psalm 27:4 (vs. Psalm 14:2), Luke 11:9, John 4:23

And being in a right relationship to God - Psalm 22:8

Pressing on – Philippians 3:13+14, 2 Peter 1:5-8

Knowledge of God and faith in His promises – John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Acts 4:12, Philippians 1:6

More of the Remnant – Deut. 28:49-68, 32:1-47, Isaiah 10:21+22, 11:11, 2 Kings 19:30+31,

Romans 11:5, Amos 5:15 (versus Amos 8)

Us! – Psalm 27:5

Ashkelon desolation – Amos 1:6-8, Jeremiah 25:15-20, 47:5-7, Zechariah 9:5

Ashdod driven out – Matthew 22:13

Canaan destroyed – Ezekiel 25:16

Holy Land: Then

