

Zephaniah 1:7-14

Day of the Lord:

- This section is bracketed by the phrase “day of the LORD” (“day of YHWH”) in verse 7 and 14
 - 1:7 – “For the day of the LORD is near”
 - 1:14 – “The great day of the LORD is near...the day of the LORD is bitter.”
- Between verses 7 and 14 the “day of the LORD” is referred to as:
 - 1:8 – “the day of the LORD’s sacrifice”
 - 1:9 – “On that day I will punish...”
 - 1:10 – “On that day...a cry will be heard”
 - 1:12 – “At that time I will search Jerusalem...”
- In this section the day of the Lord is referred to 7 times in 8 verses which means the day of the Lord is the focus and Zephaniah is revealing more details concerning the day of the Lord.

Objects of Judgment:

- The objects of judgment become more focused as we move through chapter one:
 - 1:2-3 – the cosmos
 - 1:4-6 – Judah and Jerusalem
 - 1:8-9 – Jews in Judah
 - 1:10-11 – specific districts in Jerusalem

1:7 – “**Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.**”

3068 [e]	3117 [e]	7138 [e]	3588 [e]		3069 [e]	136 [e]	6440 [e]	2013 [e]
Yah·weh,	yō·wm	qā·rō·wḅ	kî	—	Yah·weh;	'ă·dō·nāy	mip·pe·nê	has
יְהוָה	יוֹם	קְרוֹב	כִּי	—	יְהוָה	אֲדֹנָי	מִפְנֵי	הֵסֵךְ 7
of Yahweh	the day	[is] at hand	for		GOD	of the Lord	in the presence	Be silent
N-proper-ms	N-msc	Adj-ms	Conj		N-proper-ms	N-proper-ms	Prep-m N-cpc	Interjection

	7121 [e]	6942 [e]	2077 [e]	3068 [e]	3559 [e]	3588 [e]
	qə·ru·'āw.	hiq·dīš	ze·ḅah	Yah·weh	hê·kîn	kî-
.	קְרָאיוֹ:	הִקְדִּישׁ	זֶבַח	יְהוָה	הִכִּין	כִּי
	His guests	He has invited	a sacrifice	Yahweh	has prepared	for
	V-Qal-QalPassPrtcpl-mpc 3ms	V-Hifil-Perf-3ms	N-ms	N-proper-ms	V-Hifil-Perf-3ms	Conj

1. Stop making such weak attempts at religion
2. Be silent. These people cannot defend themselves so stop talking. They have nothing to say.
3. Judgment is coming.

1:8 – “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.”

5921 [e] we·'al- וְעַל-	1	8269 [e] has·sā·rīm הַשָּׂרִים	5921 [e] 'al- עַל-	6485 [e] ū·pā·qad·tī וּפְקַדְתִּי	3068 [e] Yah·weh, יְהוָה	2077 [e] ze·bah זֶבַח	3117 [e] bē·yō·wm בְּיוֹם	1961 [e] we·hā·yāh, וְהָיָה	8
and		the princes	upon	that I will punish	of Yahweh	of the sacrifice	in the day	And it shall be	
Conj-w Prep		Art N-mp	Prep	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Prep-b N-msc	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms	

5237 [e] nā·kə·rī. נֹכְרִי:	4403 [e] mal·būš מַלְבוּשׁ	3847 [e] hal·lō·bə·šīm הַלְבוּשִׁים	3605 [e] kāl- כָּל-	2	5921 [e] we·'al וְעַל	4428 [e] ham·me·lek; הַמֶּלֶךְ	1121 [e] bē·nē בְּנֵי
foreign	with apparel	such as are clothed	all		and	of the king	children
Adj-ms	N-ms	Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	N-msc		Conj-w Prep	Art N-ms	N-mpc

1. YHWH consistently alternates as first person and third person through out the book.
 - a. “On the day of the LORD’s (3rd person) sacrifice – “I (1st person) will punish...”
 - b. This is consistently abrupt throughout the book, so this is not a scribal error or poor writing. This pattern occurs too often and is so obvious.
 - c. This altering between 1st and 3rd person is the LORD’s plan and the LORD’s direct involvement in the plan being revealed. The LORD plans and the LORD does.
2. YHWH will bring his punishment “on” – ‘al – (1:8 and 1:9) on four groups:
 - a. The leaders (officials and king’s children) (1:8)
 - b. Those with foreign apparel (1:8)
 - c. Those who leap over the threshold (1:9)
 - d. The violent (hamas) and deceitful (1:9)
3. “princes” or “officials” from *hassarim* is from *sar* meaning “chieftain, chief, ruler, official, captain, prince”.
 - a. This is best understood to be the governmental leaders (not specifically the sons of the king or the princes since they are mentioned next.
 - b. Notice there is NO MENTION of the KING!...because, the king was Josiah. He was in the midst of personal repentance and seeking after the LORD while leading a national reformation back to the book of Deuteronomy. So, “king” is not mentioned here. But, his officials and his sons are.
 - c. Punishment will begin with the national leadership
4. “children of the king” or “king’s sons” refers to the household of Josiah and specifically to Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim, and eventually, Zedekiah. (Jehoiakim’s son, Jehoiachin, would become king as a teenager and quickly be taken by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon and replaced with Zedekiah.)
 - a. When Josiah was in his 18th year (age of 26 in 622-621 BC) when the Book of the Law was found:
 - i. Jehoiakim was 12
 - ii. Jehoahaz was 10
 - iii. Zedekiah was not yet born (He was born in 619 BC)
 - b. If we assume the year was 617 BC then:
 - i. Jehoiakim is at least 16
 - ii. Jehoahaz 14 years old

- iii. Zedekiah is 2 years old.
 - c. Again, there is no mention of the King (Josiah) being punished. Only his sons and his officials.
 - d. Remember Zephaniah was a great-grandson of King Hezekiah just like King Josiah was also a great-grandson of King Hezekiah. Zephaniah may have been in the inner circle and around the royal family.
5. “those who array themselves in foreign attire”
- a. There are a couple of suggestions as to what this refers to:
 - i. One, this could merely refer to those who were willing to compromise their traditional customs and wear the contemporary clothing of the day which would have been heavily influenced by Assyrian culture along with Egyptian culture. This is deffinatly a possiblity, but it seems rather weak since culture and fashion are in constant change. (Even the Messiah was given the Greek version of his Hebrew name.)
 - ii. This phrase “foreign attire” – *malbus nakeri* – (malbush=raiment, attire; nakeri=foreign, alien) may be referring to the cothing woren by the priesthood (or, worshippers) of one of the foreign gods already mentioned in Zephaniah and in the accounts in 1 and 2 Kings: Baal, Milcom (Moloch), one of the starry hosts.
 - 1. 2 Kings 10:22-23, 25 – Jehu was cleansing Israel of Baal worship: “He (Jehu) said to him who was in charge of the wardrobe, “Bring out the vestments for all the worshipers of Baal.” So he brought out the vestments for them. Then Jehu went into the house of Baal with Jehonadab the son of Rechab, and he said to the worshipers of Baal, “Search, and see that there is no servant of the Lord here among you, but only the worshipers of Baal....So as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, Jehu said to the guard and to the officers, “Go in and strike them down; let not a man escape.”
 - 2. 2 Kings 22:14 – The husband of Huldah the prophetess was the keeper of the wardrobe for YHWH in Jerusalem: “So Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam, and Achbor, and Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah, son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe (now she lived in Jerusalem in the Second Quarter), and they talked with her. And she said to them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: ‘Tell the man who sent you to me, Thus says the Lord, Behold, I will bring disaster upon this place and upon its inhabitants, all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read.”
 - 3. See Matthew 21:
 - a. Matthew 21:33 uses the imagery of the unproductive vineyare of Isaiah 5
 - b. Matthew 21:42 refers to the leaders rejection of the chief cornerstone from Psalm 118
 - c. Matthew 22:11-13 refers to guest that appear at the wedding (takes place after the Lord’s return on the Day of the Lord) with the wrong clothes:
 - i. The Greek Septuigint translates Zephaniah 1:8 here says: “ἐνδεδυμένους ἐνδύματα ἄλλότρια” or

“*endedymenous endymata allotria*” or
 “wear strange apparel”/“clothed alien clothes”

- ii. The Greek in Matthew 22:11 says:
 “οὐκ ενδεδυμενον ενδυμα γαμου” or
 “ouk *endedymenon endyma* gamou” or
 “not being dressed in clothes of wedding”
- iii. One of the guest appears at the wedding feast after the Lord’s return on the Day of the Lord “being dressed” or “wearing apparel” (same wording in Greek in Zephaniah and Matthew) that was wrong, strange, not appropriate, foreign, etc. for the wedding.
- iv. All three illustrations then are taken from the OT and refer to Israel being rejected: vineyard, cornerstone, apparel (Isaiah, Psalms, Zephaniah)
- v. Zephaniah was referring to clothing worn before the Day of the Lord; Jesus was referring to clothing worn on the Day of the Lord. The results were the same.
- vi. Zephaniah sees large numbers of foreign attire before judgment.
 Jesus sees merely one who has slipped into the wedding with foreign attire after judgment had begun.

1:9 – “On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master’s house with violence and fraud.”

4390 [e] ham-mal-'im	1931 [e] ha-hū;	3117 [e] bay-yō-wm	4670 [e] ham-mip-tān	5921 [e] 'al-	1801 [e] had-dō-w-lēg	3605 [e] kāl-	5921 [e] 'al	6485 [e] ū-pā-qad-tf,
הַמְמַלְאִים	4	הַהוּא	בַּיּוֹם	וְעַל-	הַדּוֹלֵג	3	עַל	9
who fill	that	in day	the threshold	over	those who leap	all	on	And I will punish
Art V-Piel-Prtcpl-mp	Art Pro-3ms	Prep-b, Art N-ms	Art N-ms	Prep	Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	N-msc	Prep	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs

4820 [e] s	2555 [e] hā-mās	113 [e] 'ā-dō-nē-hem	1004 [e] bēt
וְעַל	וּמְרָמָה:	וּבְחֵץ	בְּיַת
-	and deceit	with violence	their masters' houses
Punc	Conj-w N-fs	N-ms	N-mpc 3mp

1:10 – “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.”

8179 [e] miš·ša·'ar	6818 [e] ṣə·'ā·qāh	6963 [e] qō·wl	3068 [e] Yah·weh	5002 [e] ne·'um-	1931 [e] ha·hū	3117 [e] ḅay·yō·wm	1961 [e] we·hā·yāh
מִשַׁעַר	צְעָקָה	קוֹל	יְהוָה	נֹאֵם	הַהוּא	בַּיּוֹם	וְהִנֵּה 10
from Gate	of a [mournful] cry	the sound	Yahweh	says	that	on day	And there shall be
Prep-m N-msc	N-fs	N-msc	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Art Pro-3ms	Prep-b, Art N-ms	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms

1389 [e] mê·hag·gə·ḅā·'ō·wt.	1419 [e] gā·dō·wl	7667 [e] we·še·ḅer	4932 [e] ham·miš·neh;	4480 [e] min-	3215 [e] wī·lā·lāh	1709 [e] had·dā·gīm,
מִהַגְּבָעוֹת:	גָּדוֹל	וְשֹׁבֵר	הַמִּשְׁנָה	מִן־	וַיִּלְלָהּ	הַדְּגָיִם
from the hills	loud	and a crashing	the Second Quarter	from	a wailing	the Fish
Prep-m, Art N-fp	Adj-ms	Conj-w N-ms	Art N-ms	Prep	Conj-w N-fs	Art N-mp

1:11 – “Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off.”

3772 [e] niḵ·re·tū	3667 [e] ke·na·'an,	5971 [e] 'am	3605 [e] kāl-	1820 [e] niḍ·māh	3588 [e] kī	4389 [e] ham·maḵ·tēš;	3427 [e] yō·šə·ḅē	3213 [e] hē·lī·lū
נִכְרְתוּ	כַּנְעַן	עַם	כָּל־	נִדְמָה	כִּי	הַמַּכְתֵּשׁ	יֹשְׁבֵי	הַיִּלְלוּ 11
are cut off	merchant	the people	all	are cut down	for	of Maktesh	you inhabitants	Wail
V-Nifal-Perf-3cp	N-ms	N-msc	N-msc	V-Nifal-Perf-3ms	Conj	Art N-ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-mpc	V-Hifil-Imp-mp

3701 [e] kā·sep.	5187 [e] ne·ṭī·lē	3605 [e] kāl-
כֶּסֶף:	נֹטְיֵלִי	כָּל־
money	those who handle	All
N-ms	N-mpc	N-msc

1:12 – “At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, ‘The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.’

5216 [e] ban·nê·rō·wt;	3389 [e] ye·rū·šā·lim	853 [e] 'et-	2664 [e] 'ā·ḅap·pés	1931 [e] ha·hī,	6256 [e] bā·'êṭ	1961 [e] we·hā·yāh
בְּנֵרוֹת	יְרוּשָׁלַם	אֶת־	אֲחַפֵּשׂ	הִיא	בְּעֵת	וְהִנֵּה 12
with lamps	Jerusalem	-	[That] I will search	that	at time	And it shall come to pass
Prep-b, Art N-mp	N-proper-fs	DirObjM	V-Piel-Imperf-1cs	Art Pro-3fs	Prep-b, Art N-cs	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms

3824 [e] bil·ḅā·bām,	559 [e] hā·'ō·mə·rīm	8105 [e] šim·ré·hem,	5921 [e] 'al-	7087 [e] haq·qō·ḅə·'īm	376 [e] hā·'ā·nā·šīm,	5921 [e] 'al-	6485 [e] ū·ḅā·qad·tī
בְּלִבְכֶם	הַאֲמֹרִים	שִׁמְרֵיהֶם	עַל־	הַקִּפְּאִים	הָאֲנָשִׁים	עַל־	וּפְקֹדֹתַי
in their heart	who say	complacency	in	who are settled	the men	on	and punish
Prep-b N-msc 3mp	Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	N-mpc 3mp	Prep	Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	Art N-mp	Prep	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs

7489 [e] yā·ré·a'.	3808 [e] we·lō	3068 [e] Yah·weh	3190 [e] yē·ṭīb	3808 [e] lō-
יַרְעֵ:	וְלֹא	יְהוָה	יַיְטִיב	לֹא־
will He do evil	nor	Yahweh	will do good	not

1:13 – “Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.”

1004 [e] bāt·tīm	1129 [e] ū·bā·nū	8077 [e] liš·mā·māh;	1004 [e] ū·bāt·tê·hem	4933 [e] lim·šis·sāh,	2428 [e] hê·lām	1961 [e] wə·hā·yāh
בָּתֵּימָם	וַיִּבְנוּ	—	וּבְתֵיבָתָם	לְמַשְׁטָהּ	חֵילָם	וְהָיָה 13
houses	and they shall build	a desolation	and their houses	booty	their goods	Therefore shall become
N-mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3cp	Prep-I N-fs	Conj-w N-mpc 3mp	Prep-I N-fs	N-msc 3mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms

3196 [e] yê·nām.	853 [e] 'eṭ-	8354 [e] yiš·tū	3808 [e] wə·lō	3754 [e] kə·rā·mīm,	5193 [e] wə·nā·ṭə·'ū	3427 [e] yê·šê·bū,	3808 [e] wə·lō
יַיִנָּם:	אֶת־	יִשְׁתּוּ	וְלֹא	כַרְמִים	וְנִטְעוּ	יִשְׁבוּ	וְלֹא
their wine	-	drink	but not	vineyards	and they shall plant	inhabit [them]	but not
N-msc 3mp	DirObjM	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	N-mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3cp	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt

1:14 – “The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.”

3117 [e] yō·wm	6963 [e] qō·wl	3966 [e] mə·'ōḏ;	4118 [e] ū·ma·hêr	7138 [e] qā·rō·wḅ	1419 [e] hag·gā·ḏō·wl,	3068 [e] Yah·weh	3117 [e] yō·wm-	7138 [e] qā·rō·wḅ
יוֹם	קוֹל	מְאֹד	וּמְהֵרָה	קָרוֹב	הַגָּדוֹל	יְהוָה	יוֹם־	קָרוֹב 14
of the day	the noise	quickly	and hastens	[it is] near	the great	of Yahweh	day	[is] near
N-msc	N-msc	Adv	Conj-w Adv	Adj-ms	Art Adj-ms	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Adj-ms

1368 [e] gib·bō·wr.	8033 [e] šām	6873 [e] šō·rê·aḥ	4751 [e] mar	3068 [e] Yah·weh,
גִּבּוֹרִים:	שָׁם	צָרַח	מֵרָם !	יְהוָה
the mighty men	there	Shall cry out	is bitter	of Yahweh
Adj-ms	Adv	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	Adj-ms	N-proper-ms