

June 12, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
A warning heeded is a disaster avoided

PROMISE FOR THE WEEK:
The Bible is filled with example and teaching on how to avoid all the pitfalls of sin; and if we will learn from its people and precepts, the struggles and battles of life we can win. —Hess

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.
(1 Cor 10:11 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 3, 2006)

Series: Toward A New Salvation
UNIT: Judgment and Salvation

NEXT WEEK

Joy For The Faithful
(Zeph 3:9-14, 20)

The Consequences of Disobedience Zeph 3:1-8

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches that there are always **Consequences of Disobedience**. The **study's aim** is to show that God's standards of sin and righteousness do not change, and sin must be punished. The **study's application** is to understand that we can so order our lives that we are in a place of blessing, not in a place of judgment.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

What awaits the person who does not acknowledge his or her sins before God? The answer is absolute loss, in every sense of the word. The unrepentant one loses God, salvation, heaven, and glory and instead inherits all the outpouring of God's righteous anger and wrath. Nothing should keep us from repenting and trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. The consequences of disobedience are incalculable. The background of this text—the declining days of the southern kingdom of Judah—includes severe backsliding, disobedience, and unbelief on the part of many. Every strata of society was represented in this willful departure from God and His law, including the prophets, priests, judges, and princes (Zeph. 3:3-4). God would show no favoritism; His judgment would come upon the whole lot of them and would extend out to all the nations. Perhaps the most frightening word in this text is "wait." The Lord was saying, "Just wait. My judgment is coming." No doubt all of us can identify with the emotional tension produced by such a warning. "Wait until your father gets home." "Wait until the principal sees what you did." "Wait until the police finish their investigation." "Wait until the troops are ready." When you are in the guilty seat, this kind of waiting is not a pleasant experience. The language is designed to make the sinner feel the weight of his sins, disobedience, and unbelief. What happens when the waiting is over? That is when God comes in judgment. There is vivid descriptive language for God's actions in this text. He "[gathers]" the nations. He "[pours]" upon them His anger. This is a picture of systematic and complete judgment. God will make no mistake. No sinner deserving of judgment will be missed. The consequences of godless disobedience will be perfectly just and thorough. The emotional dimension of this judgment on God's part is equally arresting. God's "indignation" will be poured out. This is a term for intense anger. It is the proper way to describe God's response to impenitent sinners. His patience reaches an end. God's "fierce anger" is spoken of later in the verse. This is God's burning offense over godless disobedience. Finally, further in Zephaniah 3:8, it is said that "the fire of [God's] jealousy" will consume the unbelieving nations. This is also a term for strong emotion; it is God's zeal to bring judgment. Thus, several different terms for God's anger are used. Just one term was not enough to convey all that God's judgment means. How foolish we are to dismiss God's holy judgment for sin! The Bible piles up descriptive term after descriptive term in the hope that we will finally understand. God does not look at sin and disobedience the way we do. We tend to dismiss them. We excuse ourselves. But God is deeply offended. Thus, all men must be taught to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

THE DISOBEDIENCE (ZEPH 3:1-4)

Rebellion (1)

Rebellion is being stubborn and not listening to God (Zech 7:11-12)

Rebellion is despising the counsel of God (Ps 107:11-12)

Rebellion is having an unbelieving heart that turns away from God (Heb 3:12)

Rebellion is trying to carry out plans that are not God's (Isa 30:1)

Rebellion is arrogance and idolatry (1 Sam 15:23)

Unrepentant (2)

Unrepentant because of stubbornness (Rom 2:5)

Unrepentant and stiff-necked people will be destroyed (Prov 29:1)

Unrepentant, but God can show His mercy (1 Tim 1:16)

Unrepentant in spite of God giving time to repent (Rev 2:21)

Wicked leaders (3-4)

Wicked leaders over helpless people (Prov 28:15)

Wicked leaders that God will punish (Isa 1:23-24)

Wicked leaders that practices bribery (Mic 3:11)

Wicked leaders that try to stand and fight against God (Ps 2:2-5)

Wicked leaders that rely on their own earthly wisdom (1 Cor 2:6)

THE JUDGMENT (ZEPH 3:5-6)

Righteous justice (5)

God judges in righteousness and with justice (Ps 9:8)

Justice that comes from the plans of the righteous (Prov 12:5)

Justice that comes from doing right (Prov 21:3)

Justice that comes from insight (Ps 119:98-100)

Righteous devastation (6)

Devastation because of suppression of truth by wickedness (Rom 1:18)

Devastation because not knowing God (2 Thess 1:8-9)

Devastation to weed out sin and evil (Matt 13:41)

Devastation on those who are disobedient (Eph 5:6)

Devastation because of following our sinful earthly nature (Col 3:5-6)

THE CONSEQUENCES (ZEPH 3:7-8)

Punishment (7)

A punishment of being shut out from the presence of God (2 Thess 1:9)

A punishment filled with God's wrath (Rev 14:10-11)

A punishment of being thrown into the lake of fire (Rev 20:15)

A punishment because of rejection of the truth (Rom 2:8)

Wrath (8)

Wrath that is a dreadful thing to face (Heb 10:31)

Wrath that is poured out by the righteous judge (Ps 7:11)

Wrath that makes the recipient an object of horror (Ezek 5:15)

Wrath that is poured out in response to detestable conduct (Ezek 7:8)