

September 27

READ ZEPHANIAH
AND HAGGAI

ZEPHANIAH CHAPTER 1

THE word of the LORD which came unto Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hizkiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

2 I will utterly consume all *things* from off the land, saith the LORD.

3 I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumblingblocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD.

4 I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, *and* the name of the Chemarims with the priests;

5 And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship *and* that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham;

6 And them that are turned

back from the LORD; and *those* that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.

7. Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD *is* at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.

8 And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, that I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel.

9 In the same day also will I punish all those that leap on the threshold, which fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.

10 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, *that there shall be* the noise of a cry from the fish gate, and an howling from the second, and a great crashing from the hills.

11 Howl, ye inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down; all they that bear silver are cut off.

12 And it shall come to pass at that time, *that* I will search

Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.

13 Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof.

14. The great day of the LORD *is* near, *it is* near, and hasteth greatly, *even* the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

15 That day *is* a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.

17 And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.

18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured

by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

CHAPTER 2

GATHER yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired;

2 Before the decree bring forth, *before* the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD'S anger come upon you.

3 Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.

4 ¶ For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up.

5 Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the LORD *is* against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant.

6 And the sea coast shall be dwellings *and* cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks.

7 And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah;

they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening: for the LORD their God shall visit them, and turn away their captivity.

8 ¶ I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and magnified *themselves* against their border.

9 Therefore *as* I live, saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, *even* the breeding of nettles, and saltpits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of my people shall spoil them, and the remnant of my people shall possess them.

10 This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified *themselves* against the people of the LORD of hosts.

11 The LORD *will be* terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; and *men* shall worship him, every one from his place, *even* all the isles of the heathen.

12 ¶ Ye Ethiopians also, ye *shall be* slain by my sword.

13 And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and destroy Assyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation, *and* dry like a wilderness.

14 And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the cormorant and the bittern shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; *their* voice shall sing in the windows; desolation *shall be* in the thresholds: for he shall uncover the cedar work.

15 This *is* the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I *am*, and *there is* none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, *and* wag his hand.

CHAPTER 3

WOE to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!

2 She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God.

3 Her princes within her *are* roaring lions; her judges *are* evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.

4 Her prophets *are* light *and* treacherous persons: her priests

have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

5 The just LORD *is* in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

6 I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that none passeth by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is none inhabitant.

7 I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction; so their dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them: but they rose early, *and* corrupted all their doings.

8 ¶ Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination *is* to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, *even* all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, *even* the

daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

11 In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain.

12 I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.

13 The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make *them* afraid.

14 ¶ Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

15 The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, *even* the LORD, *is* in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.

16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: *and* to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.

17 The LORD thy God in the

midst of thee *is* mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

18 I will gather *them that are* sorrowful for the solemn assembly, *who* are of thee, *to whom* the reproach of it *was* a burden.

19 Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.

20 At that time will I bring you *again*, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.

HAGGAI CHAPTER 1

IN the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The

time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built.

3 Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,

4 *Is it* time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house *lie* waste?

5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages *to put it* into a bag with holes.

7 ¶ Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

8 Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

9 Ye looked for much, and, lo, *it came* to little; and when ye brought *it* home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that *is* waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

10 Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed *from* her fruit.

11 And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the moun-

tains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon *that* which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.

12 ¶ Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD.

13 Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, *I am* with you, saith the LORD.

14 And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

15 In the four and twentieth day of the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

CHAPTER 2

IN the seventh *month*, in the one and twentieth *day* of the month,

came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying,

2 Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying,

3 Who *is* left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? *is it* not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for *I am* with you, saith the LORD of hosts:

5 *According to* the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.

6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it *is* a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry *land*;

7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

8 The silver *is* mine, and the gold *is* mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

10 ¶ In the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,

11 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ask now the priests concerning the law, saying,

12 If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No.

13 Then said Haggai, If *one that is* unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean.

14 Then answered Haggai, and said, So *is* this people, and so *is* this nation before me, saith the LORD; and so *is* every work of their hands; and that which they offer there *is* unclean.

15 And now, I pray you, consider from this day and upward, from before a stone was laid upon a stone in the temple of the LORD:

16 Since those *days* were, when *one* came to an heap of twenty *measures*, there were *but* ten: when *one* came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty *vessels* out of the press, there were *but* twenty.

17 I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye *turned* not to me, saith the LORD.

18 Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, *even* from the day that the foundation of the LORD'S temple was laid, consider *it*.

19 Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless *you*.

20 ¶ And again the word of the LORD came unto Haggai in the four and twentieth *day* of the month, saying,

21 Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth;

22 And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses

and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.

23 In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Zerubba-

bel, my servant, the son of Shealtiel, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Zephaniah was no ordinary preacher. He was a great, great grandson of King Hezekiah, one of Judah's most famous rulers. He was of the royal line but, more important, he had the message of God on his lips and in his heart. Zephaniah preached during the time of godly King Josiah.

By all appearances it was a time of religious concern and consecration in the land. But Zephaniah knew the religious zeal of the people was not sincere. Their reforms were shallow. They had gotten rid of the idols in their homes, but not the idols in their hearts.

Zephaniah's message can be divided into three parts. Two of them deal with judgment and one with mercy. In chapter 1 God said, speaking of the land of Judah, "I will utterly consume all things from off the land." Nothing would escape His judgment. It would include even the beasts, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea. It would especially affect those who worshiped idols and those who had turned their backs on God. This judgment would virtually wipe out the land of Judah.

Chapters 2:4—3:7 indicate that God would also judge many other nations. Zephaniah names the various Gentile nations around Judah, and announces that God will judge them also for their sins.

Zephaniah closes with a message of promise that God will one day regather the people, punish the Gentile nations, and restore Israel and Judah to their land.

In order to understand the work of the last three prophets of the Old Testament (Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi), we must review Jewish history. The Book of Ezra recorded that Ezra took some 50,000 Jews, returned to the Holy Land (536 B.C.), rebuilt the altar, and started the sacrifices again. In 535 B.C., the foundation was laid for the Temple, but there was considerable opposition and the work stopped. It was the work of four godly men that finally brought the task to completion. Those four were Zerubbabel, the governor; Joshua the high priest; and Haggai and Zechariah, the prophets. The whole purpose of Hag-

gai's ministry was to awaken the lazy people and encourage them to finish God's Temple.

There are four sermons recorded in the Book of Haggai. In chapter 1 Haggai's message is against putting self ahead of the Lord. The people had built their own houses and did not find time to build the house of the Lord. Haggai points out the selfishness of their hearts.

The second message is found in chapter 2:1-9. Here Haggai warns against looking back. The third message is recorded in verses 10-19. It deals with the failure to confess sins. The people expected material blessings the very day they began to work on the Temple, but Haggai explained to them that they were still unclean. They had not confessed their sins, and God would not bless them until they repented before Him and were cleansed.

The final message is in verses 20-23. It deals with unbelief, and was directed to the governor personally. No doubt Zerubbabel needed special encouragement as he directed the work of the Lord. Satan always attacks spiritual leaders. It is our duty to pray for them and work with them.

Perhaps Zerubbabel saw the great empires around him and feared for the future of the tiny remnant of Jews. Circumstances have a way of discouraging us as we seek to build a work for the Lord. God told Zerubbabel, through Haggai, that He would shake the heavens and the earth. He told him not to be afraid of these enemy kingdoms, because He would overthrow and destroy them.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink" (Proverbs 25:21).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 30: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 11.

BIRTHDAY TODAY

FRANK BRYANT

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1722

SAMUEL ADAMS WAS BORN.

1805

GEORGE MUELLER WAS BORN.

George Mueller is one of the great names in Christian history. He founded a great orphanage and fed nearly 1,700 boys and girls by faith. It is said many times there would be no meal for the children and dinner would be a couple of hours away. George Mueller would go to prayer and miraculously, from an unknown source, a truck would come with food for the next meal. History says that George Mueller prayed down over seven million dollars. He was filled with the Spirit. He was led to this fullness the first time he saw Christians on their knees. He went to a fellowship meeting in a home and was so impressed by seeing Christians kneel and pray that he too knelt and prayed, and God's power came upon.

1921

DR. JOHN R. RICE MARRIED LLOYDS McCLURE COOK.

Together this young couple attended seminary and launched into an evangelistic ministry that was to bring back city-wide revivals in America. Theirs has been a life of devotion, sacrifice, and service for the cause of Christ. Though Dr. Rice could have been a wealthy man, simply by taking the royalty and profits from his books, the Rices lived modestly through the years and gave to the cause of Christ. Since her husband's going home to be with the Lord in 1980, Mrs. Rice has continued to be a much sought-after conference speaker and ladies' seminar leader. Let us thank God for the ministry of Dr. John R. Rice and THE SWORD OF THE LORD, and for the loving contributions to the work by Mrs. Rice.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1817

HIRAM R. REVELS, FIRST BLACK U.S. SENATOR, born free, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

1862

FIRST LOUISIANA NATIVE GUARDS, THE FIRST BLACK REGIMENT TO RECEIVE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION, mustered into army. Regiment was composed of free blacks of New Orleans.

1867

LOUISIANA VOTERS ENDORSED CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION and elected delegates in first election under Reconstruction acts. The vote was 75,000 for the convention and 4,000 against.

1877

JOHN MERCER LANGSTON NAMED MINISTER OF HAITI.

1905

FIRST PUBLISHED BLUES COMPOSITION, W.C. Handy's Memphis Blues, went on sale in Memphis.

1940

BLACK LEADERS PROTESTED DISCRIMINATION IN THE ARMED FORCES and war industries at a White House meeting with President Roosevelt.

1950

EZZARD CHARLES DEFEATED JOE LOUIS IN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT in New York City.

1950

GWENDOLYN BROOKS AWARDED PULITZER PRIZE FOR HER BOOK OF POETRY, *Annie Allen*. She was the first black cited by the Pulitzer committee.

1950

RALPH J. BUNCHE, DIRECTOR OF THE U.N. TRUSTEESHIP DIVISION AND FORMER PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY, AWARDED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE for successful mediation of the Palestine conflict. He was the first black to receive a Nobel citation.

1950

CHARLES H. HOUSTON AWARDED THE SPINGARN MEDAL posthumously for his pioneering work in developing the NAACP legal campaign.

1954

SCHOOL INTEGRATION BEGAN IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND BALTIMORE, MD., public schools.

1966

NATIONAL GUARD MOBILIZING IN SAN

The Story of the Psalms

PSALMS 92

AUTHOR: David

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:

The story is unknown.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE:

This was a Psalm that was read every Sabbath day at home by every devout Jewish family. It was also popular in the homes of devout Jews, and it was read every morning and evening.

It was also read on the second day of the feast of tabernacles. This Psalm is what was often called a daily Psalm or a family Psalm. It was not one to be used as much at the house of God as it was at the family circle. Perhaps the key verse would be verse 2, "To shew forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night." This could be a theme Psalm for family altar or even for private devotion. It is a good Psalm with which to start the day or end the day. It is a very durable one in that it wears well and is always blessed.

Verse 10 is noteworthy. David says, "I shall be anointed with fresh oil." Of course, this anointing is symbolic of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Daily we should seek this fresh oil. This endowment of power comes only from God, and without it we are powerless, fruitless and barren.

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

**EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION:
SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY OF SCRIPTURES**

(Assignment 30)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning” link back on the DailyKJV page.)

The earth a round ball. (740 B.C.)

() Isaiah 40:22

It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants therefore are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in.

The earth hangs out in space on nothing. (1600 B.C.)

() Job 26:7

He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

Night time on one part of the globe when Christ returns.

() Luke 17:34

I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

Day time on the other part of globe when Christ returns.

() Luke 17:36

Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Christ holds the earth in its orbit.

() Colossians 1:17

And he is before all things, and by him all t hings consist. (hold together)