

Richard Todd Merz serving Christ meaning maturing each day / this occurs through study and then living!! Scripture, the most accurate book on the planet written over 1,500 years by an approximate (give or take a few per the dictionary) 40 authors [MOD 1 applied January 16, 2022]

APPLIED FORMAT
ZEPHANIAH CHAPTER 1

Scripture passage included then commentary underneath each verse
King James Version (KJV)

Verse (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.

There is an **upbeat** Christianity that proclaims that you do not need to be conscious of what you have done, just live free in the gospel message of Jesus Christ. Clearly, in this chapter that is incorrect.

Rest assured, that all humanity will be judged / tested before entering the Kingdom of God. To suggest otherwise, is what is called **upbeat** Christianity. Jesus Christ did not convey **upbeat** Christianity. Jesus Christ conveyed **submission** a very conscious Christianity.

God is a very jealous God.
What God owns; He owns.

Jesus Christ never uplifted Himself without first conveying **submission to God the Father's Will. Be incredibly careful with upbeat Christianity because it is not Scripturally based.**

Reference Matthew 26:39 (King James Version). "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt".

Jesus Christ was clearly very submission conscious **without sin**. Humanity is not to cling to the sins of the past, but Christianity **requires a very submission Christian conscious lifestyle.**

No one can live in the gospel of Jesus Christ without first being submissive to receive the mercy and grace to freely live. A free gift that has the requirement of submission that leads to repentance. Jesus Christ did not have to repent; He was sinless but had to submit.

Submission Consciousness Christianity goes up and down the generational line freeing no one of the requirement of submission no matter what a person's position is in life or no matter the status - that is what is seen in Verse (1).


SCROLL DOWN

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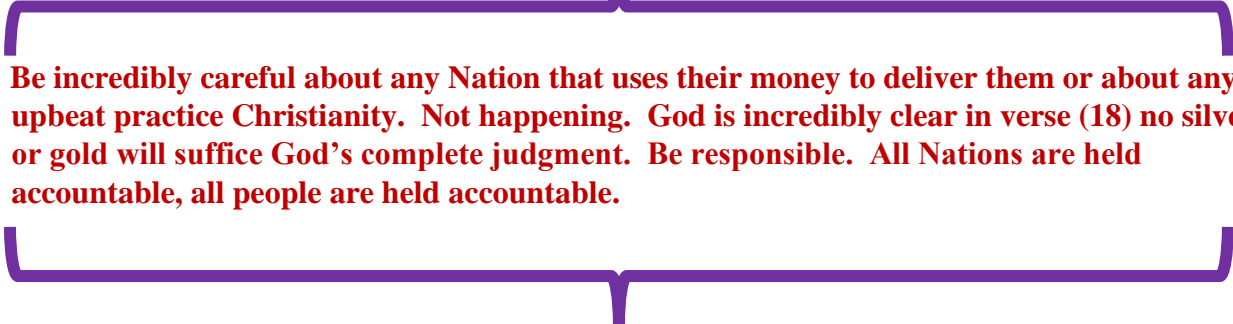

Verse (2): I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the LORD.

If there is any doubt that there is only one true God, that is absolutely removed in this verse. The verbiage is clear, the LORD will "...utterly consume all things..." as the only true God.

As restated from verse (1):



God is a very jealous God. What God owns; He owns. See verse (18) this chapter about the extent of God's jealousy. This complete chapter is about God's Judgment, so do not get caught up in upbeat Christianity at all. Do Get caught up in submission Christianity (see discussion verse (1). The do and the do not of God.



Be incredibly careful about any Nation that uses their money to deliver them or about any upbeat practice Christianity. Not happening. God is incredibly clear in verse (18) no silver or gold will suffice God's complete judgment. Be responsible. All Nations are held accountable, all people are held accountable.

Verse (3): I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumbling blocks with the wicked: and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD.

To build off verse (2), God defines consume:

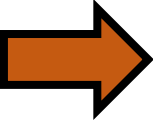
- Man
- Beast
- Fowls
- Fishes
- Stumbling blocks
- Wicked

SCROLL DOWN

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Verse (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;

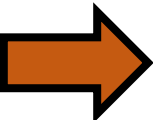
When it comes to matters of the true God, Judah and Jerusalem and the priests will be found guilty. Among the true believers there are false gods that creep into the faith to either replace the true God or to intermingle with strange gods. God is laying this matter out clearly that false gods and those who allow false gods to enter the courts of the living God will be cut off.



Therefore, God Himself authorizes paid priests and non-paid lay workers to ensure matters of truth are secure within the house of the Living God. The flip flop is that God will uplift the true remnant of God while rooting out the rift raft in the faith.

Verse (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;

This verse is an extension of verse (4) where the proclaimed true believers are on the housetops drawing attention unto the intermingling of the true God and the false gods. Any intermingling of the true God with anything else is an affront to the true living God.



Here is the reason, God is the creator everything else is created. No one created the true living God because He has always been in existence. To accentuate, God is the creator and everything else is created. God will not be mocked by the created. Therefore, God Himself authorizes paid priests and non-paid lay workers to ensure matters of truth are secure within the house of the Living God.

Verse (6): And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.

God is clear that those who turn away, have not sought matters of truth, or have not enquired of the living God are putting their own fate at risk. No one individual, group of individuals, Nation, or group of Nations have or will ever disprove the living God making it a necessity to seek truth and to enquire of the living God. Those who turn away from God are specified as coming to the forefront of the Lord.

SCROLL DOWN

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Verse (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.

No matter an individual's background, one thing is agreed upon is that this life will end.

God is viewed in this verse by scholars as the righteous judge to bring just due to God Himself as a reality that the age of Mercy and Grace will come to an end and in this verse the judgment is seen – a great vengeance upon the faulty free will of humanity – God bid guests to prepared punishment is what is in this verse (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). *Matthew henry's commentary on the whole bible*. Peabody, MA:

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The flip flop: It is far better to be The LORD GOD's guest as the blessing aspect of what occurs when obedient. That is an incredible humbling honor to serve the living God. What an amazing truth, the God of the Universe treats humanity like a proper guest. God prepares my food (enter your food), God prepares my drink, and God prepares my heart to feast under His mighty hand.

This outpours in the receiving of This Ministry Website Owner's Ministry Website in how I treat my guests properly. I provide full time pastoral effort as a non-paid lay worker to convey an accurate message of God which requires discussion among Christians and Non-Christians (Both equally welcome here) so anyone can comprehend the truth of God and grow in maturity. This very unconventional delivery has reaped great reception. Nothing less than the eternal state of life is at stake. At no point did I shave time away from anyone, I simply stayed up long, long hours until the Ministry Website was no longer in a state of birthing – much like standing up a traditional business no different. This Ministry Website Owners Website is grounded, and re-balance is at hand.

SCROLL DOWN

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Verse (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.

In verse (8), God is addressing Judah and Jerusalem concerning National leaders who will be first in line to receive the due punishment before anyone else to accentuate that true authority and power resides with God alone, and any affront to responsibility will be swiftly dealt with answering to God Himself (Henry, 2008). God views this specific irresponsibility as a contempt in their own Nation (Henry, 2008). This is equivalent to being contempt in a court of law - that severe to God. God provided the best clothing, but the upcoming National leaders sent for strange clothing to the point it reached the lower ranks who also indulged unpleasingly to God, unlike the very plain Jacob in God's sight (Henry, 2008). There was a falling away from God by National leaders who then drew upon themselves a specific discussion in Scripture. God empowers the obedient who then gain favor.

Henry, Matthew. (2008). *Matthew henry's commentary on the whole bible*. Peabody, MA:

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God's joint is balanced and no one, especially Nationally, will be simply set free without punishment. No, in fact, even more will punishment be delivered not by an alternate route but by the most swift and direct route to God possible. The joint punishment is all inclusive and not exclusive, so each National leader is specifically addressed by God in accordance with their legacy.

Verse (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.

Notice: Stemming from verse (8), there is no green card to rise up against National leaders during their times of being jointly punished. Rather, verse (9) indicates that during the same day God will punish those who intentionally bring violence or deceit because they entered the courts of their rival falsely seeking to add to their own leaders' houses, but instead bring guilt upon their own leaders by association (Henry, 2008). Notice the verbiage here is no doubt bad intent using the word "leap".

Henry, Matthew. (2008). *Matthew henry's commentary on the whole bible*. Peabody, MA:

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Verse (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.

Scholars did not provide a lot of aid on this particular verse. What is gleaned is that the prophet Zephaniah was most likely foreseeing an invasion of Jerusalem although there is debate about who the invading adversary would be (Dillard & Longman, 1994). This Ministry Website owner is not going to get into debates but will offer the foundational underlying truth that an invasion was very plausibly forthcoming (Dillard & Longman, 1994). Apparently, a great invasion using the verbiage of the verse.


Dillard, R. B. & Longman, T. (1994). *An introduction to the old testament*. Zondervan.

Again, the point of this Ministry Website is to offer the ground truth without debates. Certainly, this Ministry Website owner encourages further study on verses that grab hold of the individual.



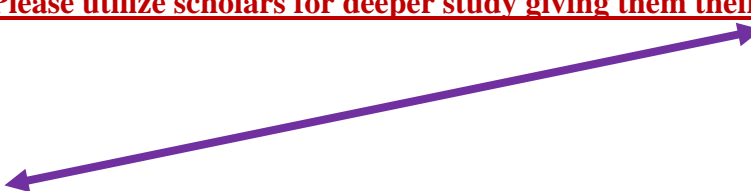
The takeaway is that God authorizes different types of Scripture offerings to reach many; provided the offering is credible. The truth is that the world itself would not be able to contain all the books of information about Jesus Christ.

You are welcome here at this education level friendly Ministry Website.



This Ministry Website is tailored for any education level, albeit this Ministry Website owner will study at the Doctoral level but present for anyone.

Please utilize scholars for deeper study giving them their due.



John 21:25 “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.” (King James Version).

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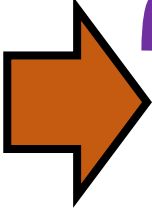
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Verse (11) Howl, ye inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down; all they that bear silver are cut off.

God addresses the wealthy Jerusalem merchants who believe they are above God's reach; all socioeconomic levels will experience hardship one way or another from a disobedient society (Henry, 2008). No one is excluded. The wealthy merchants can howl in despair more so than the needy because they are spoiled to begin with and find difficulties harder to manage when God brings it upon them.

Henry, Matthew. (2008). *Matthew henry's commentary on the whole bible*. Peabody, MA:

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Here in Verse (11), the pompous wealthy merchants can no longer run the table as God brings them a stunning blow to their built kingdom. There is a calling to account by God through the prophet Zephaniah that will untie the inner bonds of control. The wealthy merchants proved to be the stumbling block to God's true Joint by being carless of others and being a burden on all of society because their wealth was all of a sudden no longer a protection and deceived their standing (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). *Matthew henry's commentary on the whole bible*. Peabody, MA:

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Verse (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.



Notice the detail here, God will search Jerusalem with a candle to uncover the hidden agendas and problems of insulating excessive luxury and fat - and God will bring Joint punishment (Henry, 2008). God rapidly cut off the false state of Super Card utopia the wealthy merchants falsely thought they could hide behind and run the table from. God brought close at hand audits and intensified inspections with a candle close.

Henry, Matthew. (2008). *Matthew henry's commentary on the whole bible*. Peabody, MA:

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Verse (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.

God turned houses desolate, built homes were uninhabited, and planted vineyards became of no benefit. God ensured the wealthy merchants had no source of protection being like everyone else in society as the Joint punishment.

Verse (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.

This is indeed a great day of the LORD, where the mighty men will bitterly cry. The voice of the day of the LORD will be heard.

Verse (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,

Verse (15) speaks for itself – what “That day” of God’s wrath looks like.

- Wrath
- Trouble
- Distress
- Wasteness
- Desolation
- Darkness
- Gloominess
- Clouds
- Thick Darkness

SCROLL DOWN

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:
Verse (16) A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.

God's Word will ring true in that any high tower and fortified city or Nation will be sternly warned and, if necessary, removed from God's power. God's Joint is His to own no others. The, if, becomes will for all Nations at different times in history so look for the precursors of when the timetable is at hand. The timetable leads to a day of the LORD.

Revelation Chapter 13:3-4 (King James Version) reveals a truth that the Roman Empire has NEVER ceased to exist Separately only one of its heads was wounded, it got dispersed among the Nations and will be REVIVED - only the government ceased (Scofield, 1996). The REVIVED Roman Empire will come back in the form of 10 Nations strong- the Beast having GREAT authority in Scripture (Scofield, 1996).

Scofield, C. I. (1996). *The scofield study bible*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Verse (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.

From verse (16), God will bring such Nations under global distress and embarrassment. Then to top it off, removed from power and brought into submission of the one world order. There will be obvious signs of the stern warning before the submission will occur.

- Abuse monetary funds
- Justify their own wrong
- Renegade actions
- Unprecedented Political chaos

****All of this is a precursor to the rise of the REVIVED Roman Empire as the ONE World Order and an ascending of Satan into the place of World power. God will bring down stronghold Nations into submission. The Anti-Christ is waiting in the wing set to rise to power. All of this will lead to a day of the LORD.**

SCROLL DOWN

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Verse (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.

Notice very closely from Verse 15 to Verse 16 to Verse 17 and now Verse 18, not even all the silver and gold wealth any Nation thinks they can save themselves with will deliver them – not at all.

The stern warning in all these verses is that God's Joint must be instituted rightly being special and any affront will be swiftly dealt with including a speedy purging and downfall of any Nation on the planet.



God looks for strong Joint and does in fact uplift as an offering of healing as the Nations that are saved (not all) will be rebirthed Jointly aright as will be seen in Chapter 2 –

God calls the remnant. In the remnant, God can choose to hide his wrath and anger, and this will be studied in Zephaniah Chapter 2:3 (King James Version). "...it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger".