

Prophecy of Zephaniah: Part 2

The Three Angel's Messages

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We left off speaking about how God is going to not only destroy the idols of Babylon; the Dragon the Beast and the False Prophet; but He is also going to stretch out His hand upon Judah and Jerusalem because they are involved in Baal worship. We discovered what Baal worship is, and we see that at this time Israel is in this lukewarm condition. We continue with verse 6:

Zephaniah 1:6 And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.

God's people are halting between two opinions, between God and Baal, between God and mammon, trying to serve two masters; being lukewarm; being cold and indifferent; God says that there are those that because of worshipping Baal, have turned back from following God and they have not inquired after Him or sought after Him.

Turning Back

What does it mean when one turns back from the Lord? Of course they are worshipping Baal when they do this, they have turned back from following Him; they have turned their backs to the Lord. So prophetically, what does it mean to turn back from the Lord and that they have not inquired or sought after Him?

In Ezekiel 8:16 they have turned their backs to God as they are worshipping Baal, the sun god—eating things sacrificed unto idols and committing fornication.

And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.

So, when you turn your back on the Lord, you are turning your back on the temple of the Lord, and to turn your back on the temple of the Lord, is to turn your back on the Sanctuary. When you turn your back on the Sanctuary message, you are turning your back on the Investigative Judgment message—the 2300 days; the Daily in connection with the 2300 days; the Sabbath Truth; the Commandments; the Spirit of Prophecy; the Three Angel's Messages; Health Reform; Dress Reform; True Education; you are turning your back on the Third Angel's Message. And when you do so, the only other option you have, is to worship the sun in preparation for receiving the Mark of the Beast and the Seven Last Plagues and experiencing the Lake of Fire, which is the Second Death.

It is interesting that it says 25 men—that wasn't just a random number that Ezekiel called out. If you understand the Sanctuary, you'll understand that there were 24 elders, or helpers, to the one High Priest, so when we look at the number 25 here, it is talking about the whole leadership of the house of Israel turning their back on the Third Angel's Message, the truth for this time, and leading Israel as well, to do the same thing.

The 1980s

Now, this had a fulfillment in the time period of the 1980s, when Dr. Desmond Ford began his attack on the Sanctuary. Sister White told us the Demon of Heresy would come in among us with the teaching that there is no Heavenly Sanctuary. This has already come to pass; there are many people that have turned their back on the Sanctuary. When you turn your back on those truths, you are going to begin to keep Sunday. It has already been fulfilled in our history and it is going to be repeated again to the very letter.

Evangelism page 224: In the future, deception of every kind is to arise, and we want solid ground for our feet. We want solid pillars for the building. Not one pin is to be removed from that which the Lord has established. **The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary.** This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith. Where shall we find safety unless it be in the truths that the Lord has been giving for the last fifty years?--Review and Herald, May 25, 1905.

We are admonished to study Ezekiel 8-12, but especially Ezekiel 9, because it is going to be fulfilled to the very letter in the time period of the Seventh-day Adventist church. So, to turn your back on the Lord for Baal worship, is to turn your back on the Law of God; the Commandments; the Sabbath; the Spirit of Prophecy; and the Third Angel's Message.

Inquiring of the Lord

But it also says that they have not inquired after Him; they have not sought after Him. Now we learned earlier that when you want to inquire after God—Remember, when the Book of the Law was recovered, as they were repairing the breaches, Josiah said to his men, "Go and inquire of the Lord for me." Where did they go? They went to the Prophetess. So, to inquire of the Lord means to seek after the prophets.

Notice Isaiah 8:

8:19 And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? 20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

They are in complete, total darkness! Jesus is the Light of the world, Christ is not formed within such a person; He can never be formed within someone who rejects the Law and the Testimony; or the Commandments and the Spirit of Prophecy, which is the Third Angel's Message. The Bible says they are seeking after wizards and to those that peep and that mutter; those that have familiar spirits.

We already identified what that means. What does it mean when someone seeks after familiar spirits and wizards to go and inquire of them, like King Saul did? This is spiritualism. So, what do we find God's people being involved in at the end of the world, just before probation closes? They've turned their back on the Sanctuary truth, so they are preparing for the Mark of the Beast; and because they reject the Law and the Testimony, they are involved with spiritualism.

Spiritualism

Spiritualism is very vast; sometimes we think that spiritualism is just referring to one that claims he or she communicates with the dead. When we read throughout the Spirit of Prophecy, we are told that spiritualism is one of the masterpieces of Satan's deceptions. **One of the teachings of Spiritualism is that God is LOVE and that God does not condemn.** Have you ever heard people teach that God does

not condemn sin? God just loves everybody so much that He is not going to punish the transgressor that refuses to repent and turn from their wicked way? That is Spiritualism; Love-sick sentimentalism.

It includes when we speak about the health work as well. We are told that there are many ways to practice the healing art, but there is only one method that God can approve of—the Gospel of Health. The Eight Laws of health that He has given to us, the true remedies that are described in books like Ministry of Healing. But there are people that turn away from that counsel and they want to use the healing methods of the world. It's like one that chooses not to seek after God and His commandments for healing, the Laws that are written on our physical organism—the Laws are written on our cells, our tissues, our lungs, colon, all our organs—God's Laws are written there. There are people that say, "I am not going to seek after God, I am going to seek after Beelzebub to be healed," just like in the time period of Elijah. When we go after the world's methods to be healed, it is just like inquiring after Baal.

Why are we going after Baal? Is there not a God in Israel Who can heal us? Why are we depending on Drug Medication instead of the simple remedies that God has given to you and me. We find very clearly that spiritualism embraces almost every aspect of life. There are a lot of people that are spiritualists by their education; by their health practices; by the way that they dress as well. We can also be involved with spiritualism and not even know it. So, at the end of the world, the reason that people are worshipping Baal is because they have rejected the Third Angel's Message and rejected the Law of God; they are involved with spiritualism.

Worship the Most High God

God's people have forgotten how to worship the Most High God in spirit and in truth and in the beauty of holiness. So, what does God have to do? God has to send a message to His people to turn them back from following Baal; from following darkness and worldliness and apostasy and sin; and bring them back to God—to bring them back to a true worship experience—and how does He do that? He has to send an Elijah message.

Remember:

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: 6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Now, this was partly fulfilled in the days of Elijah. When you find that we are repeating the apostasy in the history of Ancient Israel in the days of Elijah, that means we need an Elijah message. Sometimes Seventh-day Adventists will say, "Well, we are the people of Elijah," and we are. And, "We're the people that are giving the Elijah message", and we are. But the Elijah message is twofold; there's an Elijah message for the world which says "Come out of her my people, don't be partakers in their sins and don't receive of their plagues." (Revelation 18:4). But then there is an Elijah message for you and me.

When Elijah came to Israel and he said, "How long halt ye between two opinions", he wasn't speaking to the Canaanites, was He? He wasn't speaking to the Philistines; He wasn't speaking to the Egyptians or the Babylonians—who was He talking to? Israel: so we have to recognize that the Elijah Message must first come to us. When it does, it is calculated, if we will receive it, to turn our hearts from following the devil, from following the sun-god, back to the true and living God. The Bible says:

1 Kings 18:36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at

thy word. 37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

Then the fire of the Lord fell from heaven; the people declared that the Lord was the God; and the prophets of Baal were taken and destroyed.

1 Kings 18:38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. 40 And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

What are we saying? When Elijah comes, he is going to restore true worship; true doctrine; true education; true music reform; true dress and health reform; all of these things—Elijah must come and restore all things.

1st Angel's Message

This is the work of the First Angel's message:

Revelation 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Somebody that is worshipping Baal, is not worshipping the Creator God. Somebody that is worshipping Baal, needs to receive, intellectually and spiritually, the First Angel's Message; the everlasting Gospel. That is the message that is designed to turn us away from Baal back to the Creator God. So there in Zephaniah 1:4-6, you can see the First Angel's Message right there in the prophecies of Zephaniah.

It's an Everlasting Gospel—what does that mean? It means that it is not just found in the Book of Revelation. The Everlasting Gospel can be found from Genesis, all the way to Revelation. The Three Angels are types and symbols and shadows that are veiled within these prophecies of the Bible. The First Angel's message is designed to bring us back to the Bible; back to the Spirit of Prophecy; back to the truths of the Third Angel's Message; away from spiritualism; away from the dangers of receiving the Mark of the Beast; enforced Sunday Worship.

Listen to what the Bible says as we continue in Zephaniah 1:

Zephaniah 1:7 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.

So here we see that the Lord has a sacrifice. This sacrifice is twofold. He has bidden His guests, the Bible says. When He comes, it says, the Lord is going to destroy all those that are in strange apparel. What is apparel? Apparel is dealing with the clothes that we wear.

Now what is this sacrifice? It's twofold. When the Bible says the Lord has a sacrifice, He has bidden His guests. Let's look at the first application. Where is the Lord's sacrifice? The Lord has bidden His guests; He has prepared His sacrifice; He is going to destroy all those who are in strange apparel.

Jeremiah 46:10 For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made

drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts **hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.**

Wait a minute; where has the Lord prepared His sacrifice here? In the North Country; what's the North Country in Bible prophesy? We're dealing with Babylon; we're talking about by the River Euphrates. Of course there is a literal application; but there is also a spiritual, worldwide application as well. So where is the Lord's sacrifice, where He is going to destroy them with His sword? He is going to war and fight against them; and these people are clothed with strange apparel.

Armageddon

God is going to revenge Himself of His adversaries; and He is going to make them drunk upon their own blood. The North Country is Babylon; but at the end of the world, we're not talking about literal Babylon, we're talking about spiritual Babylon.

Turn to Revelation 16:

Revelation 16:12 And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. 13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. 14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. 15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. 16 And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.

One of the primary roles of the three unclean spirits, the three-fold union of Modern Babylon, is to lead the world to the Battle of Armageddon. They also lead the world to make void the Law of God and to accept the Sunday Law—the Mark of the Beast.

Now, as the Bible speaks about the three unclean spirits gathering the kings of the earth and the whole world to the Battle of Armageddon, why do we find the insert in verse 15, why do we find Jesus saying, "Behold I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments"? That seems kind of strange to be talking about keeping your garments in the Battle of Armageddon. Well, if you understand the Book of Zephaniah, then it is not strange at all; remember; this is the Lord's sacrifice. This is going to be the mount of slaughter where the enemies of Israel are going to perish, and if you and I don't watch and keep our garments, we will end up at the mountain of slaughter, being destroyed with the rest of Babylon, and not on Mount Zion, where we belong with the Lamb, having the Father's name written in our foreheads.

At the end of the world, you are either on Mount Zion, or you are on the Mount of Slaughter.

Armageddon. Har: Mountain. Geddion: Slaughter. Mountain of Slaughter; Mountain of destruction.

We need to keep our garments! What are these garments? They are the garments of Christ's Righteousness. It is almost like our Battle armor for Armageddon. But if we are naked, and we are found in the shame of our nakedness, just like the Laodiceans will be, because they don't receive the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans; you're going to find yourself at the Battle of Armageddon, naked and ashamed. Crying for the rocks and the mountains to fall on you and hide you from Him that sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.

Revelation 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

If we are not in His garments, we definitely will not be able to stand. No one that is naked and ashamed will be able to stand. Remember Adam and Eve, when the Lord God was coming in the Garden? What did they do? They ran to hide themselves; why? Because they were naked. When Christ comes back again, the same thing is going to be repeated, because we are not clothed in His righteousness.

So that is the first application: God is going to have a slaughter at Babylon; Armageddon; those that are not clothed in His righteousness will be on the other side. They won't be prepared to stand during Armageddon.

Second Application

Now the second application: In Matthew 22, Jesus gave a parable of the Wedding Garment. The Bible says here:

Matthew 22:11. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Why did this man show up at the Wedding without having on the Wedding Garment? It's because he rejected the Wedding Garment. He was clothed in his own citizen's dress. He didn't think that he needed to dress for the occasion. So, it was a dishonor to the King, and also to the wedding ceremony as well. Why did this man not have on the Wedding Garment? Because he rejected the counsel that is given to Laodicea.

What does Jesus say to the Laodicean church?

Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and **white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed**, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

The 'White Garment' in Laodicea, that is the Wedding Garment of Matthew 22; it's also the Robe of Christ's Righteousness as well. If we are not clothed in Christ's Righteousness, we are clothed in strange apparel.

Now, every single garment that man wears, whether it's a jacket, a coat or a shirt, most of the time it normally has a tag on it inside. What is written on that tag? The name of the designer and maker of the garment, right? To let you know who the manufacturer of the garment is, right? Now when we talk about our spiritual garments, they also have a name on them as well; name represents character.

Let's ask the question in our minds; whose garments am I clothed with right now? Do they have the name of Christ on them? Or do they have the name of the world? Do they have the name of Satan? God, when He makes His garments, we're told that the righteousness of Christ is woven in the loom of Heaven, without one thread of human devising. In other words, the garments that we need to wear are not just garments that we can buy out of a shop; it's not something that we can weave together with our human skill and ingenuity; no—it's woven in the loom of heaven.

If our garments do not have the name-brand of Christ, or His character stamped on it, what does God say? If God looks at our garments and He doesn't see His name on it, what does He say? He says, "These

are foreign garments; I don't know these garments; they're strange to Me—where did you get those from? I did not clothe you in that. I didn't make that"

Fig-Leaf Aprons

It's like Adam and Eve; who told Adam to sew the fig-leaf apron? Where did he get that from? You know—we are told in the Spirit of Prophecy in the book Child Guidance, that Satan invented the fashions that leave the limbs exposed. When we look at that leaf garment, that garment was rejected by God—why? He said, "I will clothe them with coats of skin," symbolizing how we are to be clothed with the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. That fig leaf apron was rejected by God because; first of all, it doesn't cover man's body; but also it does not cover him in the righteousness of Christ.

Now, when the Bible speaks about these strange garments, the first time we read about strange garments is in the book of Genesis. The fig-leaf apron cannot clothe man physically or spiritually—only the Lamb of God; only Christ's righteousness can cover us where the shame of our nakedness doesn't appear.

Genesis 35:2 Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments:

Now wait a minute: why did Jacob tell his family to put away the strange gods that were among them and to change their garments and be clean? Because they were getting ready to go and worship the God of heaven. When we go into the presence of God we can't just wear any old type of clothing that we think is suitable or proper. "Change your garments" he said, "And put away your strange gods." What does that mean?

If they had strange gods amongst them, then what does that mean? Were they worshipping the true God of heaven? No: they were worshipping idols; false gods. May I suggest to you that the fact that the Bible says they had to be clean and change their garments, and put away the strange gods, was because **the garments they were wearing were a symbol of which gods they were serving and worshipping.** The garments they were wearing were indicating which gods they were serving.

You say, "Wait a minute; that's a strange and fanatical idea—you mean to tell me that by the way I dress, when someone looks at the way I dress, that it is a sermon? Or that it is a message as to which God I serve? Are you kidding me?"

We're told in inspiration that the way that we dress is an index to character. What you wear on the outside is nothing more than a reflection of what's on the inside of your heart. Are we saying that dress is to be a test of fellowship? No, we are not saying that. But the way you dress, shows who you are worshipping and who you serve. How do we know this?

Let's look at 2 Kings 10:

2 Kings 10:18 And Jehu gathered all the people together, and said unto them, Ahab served Baal a little; but Jehu shall serve him much. 19 Now therefore call unto me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his priests; let none be wanting: for I have a great sacrifice to do to Baal; whosoever shall be wanting, he shall not live. But Jehu did it in subtilty, to the intent that he might destroy the worshippers of Baal. 20 And Jehu said, Proclaim a solemn assembly for Baal. And they proclaimed it. 21 And Jehu sent through all Israel: and all the worshippers of Baal came, so that there was not a man left that came not. And they came into the house of Baal; and the house of Baal was full from one end to another. 22 And he said unto him that was over

the vestry, **Bring forth vestments for all the worshippers of Baal. And he brought them forth vestments.**

What does the word 'vestments' mean? Vestments are clothes. Bring out vestments for the worshippers of Baal. Now hold on—what was the purpose of this convocation? To worship who? The God of heaven? No; to worship Baal—but before the worship service can begin, why did they pass out clothes for the worshippers of Baal? Why did they do this before the worship service started? Could it be that when one worships Baal, they put on certain garments and put on certain clothing in order to worship Baal?

Now, Satan has a dress code. And I find that no one has a problem with Satan's dress standards. No one complains at all. But when you tell somebody about Volume One of the Testimonies to the church pg 456, Reform and Dress—all of a sudden people get so angry; people get so mad; people get so contentious. Why do people complain so much against God's standards of dress reform, yet we don't complain when it comes to the fashion world, which is controlled by Satan—nobody complains about that.

Now if Satan would have his worshippers put on certain clothes in order to worship him, then what about the God of heaven? The strange garments are connected to Baal worship. Baal worship is Babylonian worship; Babylonian worship is sun worship. They would put on certain garments in order to worship the sun. Satan would not let them wear any old kind of garments in his presence. Either we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ; worshipping the true God; or we are in strange garments, worshipping the gods of Baal. It's either one or the other. There is no in between or no grey area in the matter. We can't have on Baal's garments and Christ's garments at the same time. We're speaking about character here. The garments that you and I wear are a telling indicator of what's in our thoughts and our feelings. We're told in Testimonies for the Church volume 5, page 310 that:

If the thoughts are wrong the feelings will be wrong, and **the thoughts and feelings combined make up the moral character.** 5T 310.

So the way that we dress, that is an index to our character; the clothes that we wear are simply an index of our thoughts and our feelings; and many people in the world today, dress based upon their thoughts and their feelings: "I think this looks good"; "I feel this is acceptable"; "I don't see anything wrong with this." That's your thoughts and feelings.

I want you to go with me to Proverbs 7:

Proverbs 7:5 That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words. 6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, 7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, 8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, 9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: 10 And, behold, there met him a woman **with the attire of an harlot**, and subtil of heart.

Wait a minute: what does the word 'attire' mean? It means clothing. Now does the Bible say that this woman was a harlot? Or does it say she had on the garments of a harlot? It didn't say she was a harlot; but we would mostly assume that based upon what she was wearing, she is a harlot.

Now there are many of God's people today; the women of Zion, they may not be harlots by profession, but based upon what they are wearing—you can be wearing the attire of a harlot. It's possible that you can have on the garments of Babylon and be a sister of Zion. The same thing applies to men as well. Now, what business does a woman of Zion have, wearing the garments of Babylon? What sense does that make? Shouldn't a woman of Zion be wearing the beautiful garments of Zion?

Dress is dealing with character. This woman had on the attire of a harlot. Harlotry is connected to Babylon. Either we have the beautiful garments of Christ's righteousness, or we have the ugly, filthy, unclean garments of Babylon. What does the Bible say in Isaiah 64? There's a physical application and a spiritual application to this truth. Those that have on the garments of Babylon are clothed with confusion. They are in transgression. They are in Babylon.

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. 7 And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

So when we are clothed in our self-righteousness; the filthy garments; the garments of self-righteousness are the garments of Babylon. The worship of Babylon is idolatry; and at the foundation of all idolatry, is self worship. That's the greatest idol—the greatest war that is ever fought, is the war that is fought with self. And many people that struggle with the issue of dress reform, it's because, basically, self is still alive; they are not dead to the world. They have not truly been converted. They haven't been born again, and they don't have the love of Christ in their hearts.

When one loves Jesus, they are not going to struggle with what they are going to wear—if Jesus says, "I want you to wear this", they'll wear it.

Psalm 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

When the Law is within our hearts, we don't have a problem with any of the requirements that God asks of us.

Filthy Garments

The Bible lets us know here, that these filthy garments are self-righteousness. What are these filthy garments designed to do? Just like you see Adam and Eve wearing the fig leaf garments to cover their shame and their deformity of character; their nakedness of soul and spirit. Look at Isaiah 30:

Isaiah 30:22 Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.

The menstruous cloth is the filthy rags of self-righteousness in Isaiah 64:6. But what is the garment of self-righteousness used for? If you look at verse 22 it says you are going to defile the covering of your graven images. What are graven images? Sin; idols; idolatry; worldliness. So the garment of self-righteousness is used to cover up, or to excuse our what? Our sins and our defects and our shortcomings; that is what it is used for.

That's exactly what Adam and Eve were doing; they were trying to cover up their sin and shame. And then what did they do? In self-justification, Adam began to blame God for the reason why he fell. "Oh the woman that you gave me; if you didn't give me her, I wouldn't have fallen." When people have on the garments of self-righteousness, they always make excuses for the way that they are. They always blame other people; "Oh my husband; Oh my wife; Oh the children; Oh the church", always blaming everybody else for your own faults and for your own sins instead of blaming yourself.

Those are the garments of self-righteousness; those are the garments of Babylon. What does the Second Angel's Message say in Revelation 14:8?

And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

That is the Second Angel's Message. Those that are clothed in strange apparel, the garments of Babylon; the garments of self-righteousness, will be destroyed at Armageddon. They'll be lost.

The First Angel's Message: trying to turn God's people away from spiritualism and sun worship.

Second Angel's message: trying to get God's People to leave behind their self-righteousness, their filthy rags that cover their deformity of character; to lay all that down at the foot of the cross, and to put on the New Garments of Christ's Righteousness.

You can't put New Wine in an old bottle can you? What will happen? That old bottle will be destroyed. Can you put Christ's new garment on top of the old garment? You can't; you must be born again and renounce the ways of Babylon.

Zephaniah 1:9: In the same day also will I punish all those that leap on the threshold, which fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.

What is this talking about? Those that are leaping on the threshold? Remember the story of Mount Carmel, when Elijah challenged the Baal worshippers. He said, "Listen, you set up your altar and bring your sacrifice; I'll set up my altar and sacrifice; I'll pray to the God of Heaven, you pray to your gods, whatever God answers by fire—let him be the true God." Remember that story? How did the Baal Worshippers call upon their god, from morning, to noon and on to the evening? The Bible says they were leaping and they were cutting themselves with their knives and their lancets.

Leaping: what's another term for leaping? Dancing? Can you dance without music? You don't necessarily have to hear music playing; somebody doesn't have to start playing music, you can have it in your head—your head can be a radio or a juke box. You could just be dancing and somebody says, "What are you doing—what are you dancing to?" It's in your mind—in your head. But there was music that was taking place when those Baal worshippers were worshipping their God.

The Bible talks about those that are leaping on the threshold—this is Baal worship once again, going right back to 1 Kings 18:26-28. But what does it mean; they also fill their master's houses with violence and deceit. What is this? There's a story in the New Testament; Paul was preaching the Gospel and there was a certain woman that had a spirit of divination—she was demon-possessed. The Bible lets us know that this woman was being used as an agent of Satan to try and hinder the work of Paul and the Apostles.

Go with me in your Bibles to Acts 16:16.

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

Soothsaying—we have been talking about soothsaying; what is soothsaying? Spiritualism.

Acts 16:17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. 18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

This woman was into spiritualism; she was a fortune-teller; like a palm-reader or Tarot card reader—a psychic. She was someone that was making her masters a lot of money. When you continue to read the story, her masters got mad at Paul when he cast out the unclean spirit because that was the end of their wealth and fortune. When it is talking about filling their masters' houses with violence and deceit, again it is talking about spiritualism.

So God is talking about spiritualism; God is talking about those that are worshipping Baal; He's going to punish those that are in Zion that are involved with these things.

Zephaniah 1:10 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.

Now, wait a minute—what is Zephaniah talking about when he says: 1. There's going to be a great crashing from the hills: what's another word for hills? Mountains—so there is going to be a great crashing from the hills—when you think of crashing, what do you think of? Crashed? Something that is broken? Something that is destroyed? So there is going to be destruction in the mountains; great crying in the gates—what is this talking about?

Turn to Isaiah 22:1

The burden of the valley of vision. What aileth thee now, that thou art wholly gone up to the housetops?

Now we've read about this earlier in Zephaniah; what does it mean for the children of Israel to go up on the housetops? They are worshipping the sun—so here we have sun worship; Baal worship; apostasy; worldliness;

2 Thou that art full of stirs, a tumultuous city, a joyous city: thy slain men are not slain with the sword, nor dead in battle.

So wait a minute—not only are they worshipping the sun but they are having a good time while they do it; they're celebrating, with their music and with their potlucks and with their good times—worshipping the sun. A joyous city—tumultuous; having a great time; having great fun—in sin and in apostasy.

3 All thy rulers are fled together, they are bound by the archers: all that are found in thee are bound together, which have fled from far. 4 Therefore said I, Look away from me; I will weep bitterly, labour not to comfort me, because of the spoiling of the daughter of my people. 5 For it is a day of trouble, and of treading down, and of perplexity by the Lord GOD of hosts in the valley of vision, breaking down the walls, and of crying to the mountains.

Didn't we just read about this in Zephaniah 1:10? Now let's back up to verse 4; God says, "Labor not to comfort Me, I'm going to weep bitterly—don't comfort Me", why? "Because of the spoiling of the daughter of my people".

Robbers of Thy People

Question: if you have a marginal reference for the word 'spoiling', what does it say? This word spoiling literally means the robbing of my people. God is weeping and lamenting and doesn't want to be comforted—why? Because His people have been robbed. That's interesting—when God's people are robbed, this causes God to weep. Now when God's people are robbed, this isn't a good thing, why? In verse 5 it says this is a day of trouble and of treading down and perplexity.

Question: is there a power in Bible Prophecy that robs the people of God? Who are the Robbers of God's people; or the breakers of God's people; or those that violate God's people and desolate God's people; and trample under foot God's people?

Daniel 8:13 Then I heard one saint speaking, and another saint said unto that certain saint which spake, How long shall be the vision concerning the daily, and the transgression of desolation, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

So here we are talking about God's people worshipping the sun; on the roof-tops celebrating; not recognizing that the robber of Thy people is on his way to destroy, and to desolate, and to tread down God's people. It's going to be a day of trouble and perplexity for those in Zion that are involved with spiritualism and sun worship.

What is the Day of Trouble? The day when God's people are trodden down by the robbers of God's people—the King of the North? What Day of Trouble is that? It is the Sunday Law! Isn't that the picture that we see today? God's people celebrating; involved with New Theology, worldliness and apostasy; celebrating, while not knowing that probation is about to close—the King of the North is on his way to rob and to spoil and to desolate and to destroy God's people.

We don't even have a clue, because we are asleep in our lukewarm state needing to be awakened; needing to be revived; but the way God revives His people is by the More Sure Word of Prophecy. But if God's people aren't studying prophecy—they can't care less about Daniel and Revelation—how can they be prepared? How can they prepare themselves against that which Daniel and Revelation speaks about—the very focal point of Bible Prophecy—the Sunday Law?

And he says there is going to be a great crying to the mountains—wait a minute: is there ever a time period when you see people crying to the rocks and to the mountains to fall on them? Who are those people that cry to the rocks and to the mountains to fall on them? Who does Revelation say they are? It doesn't say the lost—but they are the lost; it doesn't say the wicked—but they are the wicked; but who does it say?

There is a connection with those who are in Zion, who are up on the house-tops worshipping the sun, not knowing that the hour of their visitation is upon them. We're being surrounded by the armies of Rome; religiously, politically and economically—and we're celebrating. We're having a good time. We're not entering in to that Day of Atonement experience, where we are afflicting the soul and weeping between the porch and the altar; fasting and praying and getting our houses in order, and our churches in order, and our families in order. The Day of Trouble is upon us and perplexity—when God's people will be robbed and spoiled.

Revelation 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Mark of the Beast

Now, the Bible says it's the captains, kings of the earth, rich men, it also says the poor men, it says the free men and the bond men. Now, wait a minute—who are those? The freemen, the bond men, the captains, the rulers, small and great—this is the description of those that are going to receive the Mark of the Beast. How do I know? By the very language—look at it again; it says here, every bondman, every free man; it says the great men and the rich men—they all hid themselves in the mountains, crying for the rocks and mountains. Look at Revelation 13 for a moment and follow the language:

Revelation 13:16 And he causeth all, both **small and great, rich and poor, free and bond**, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

Does that sound familiar? We just read it in Revelation 6:15. In other words, Zephaniah chapter 1:10, there is a great crashing from the hills—it is talking about those that are involved in sun worship; they are not preparing their characters for the close of probation; the King of the North is on his way; the Mark of the Beast will be enforced—the test is going to come to every soul; and if we receive the Mark of the Beast, we're going to end up crying to the rocks and mountains to fall on us, because we are not clothed in the righteousness of Christ. We're clothed in strange apparel, and we're going to be punished at the Lord's sacrifice.

Zephaniah 1:10 is talking about the destruction of those that receive the Mark of the Beast; not only in the world, but even those in Zion. They are going to be trodden down by the Papacy and it's going to be a day of trouble and God is going to weep with bitter tears, because throughout the ceaseless ages of Eternity, we'll be lost. The relationship we could have had with Christ—that seat that was prepared for us at that long table—it'll have to be empty. Someone else will fill its place, because I don't think it will be empty.

I want to bring out one other thing in Zephaniah 1:11.

Zephaniah 1:11 Howl, ye inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down; all they that bear silver are cut off.

Now, wait a minute: what does this mean; the merchant people who bear silver are cut off? What is this talking about? The silver is cut off? What is silver? What is that dealing with? Is there going to come a time when money is going to be cut off? Where money is going to depreciate in value? Does the Bible talk about an economic and financial crisis in prophecy? Where they are going to throw their gold and their silver away—to the moles and the bats?

When are the merchant men going to be cut off that bear the silver? What is this dealing with? Where is this pointing to? Did this happen in Zephaniah's day, or is this going to be fulfilled in our day? The merchant men—this is talking about the economics. This is talking about those who are struggling in vain to hold the business operations on a more secure basis. They are not able to solve the problems of moral corruption and pauperism and all these vices and these things that plague and afflict our nation.

“Those who hold the reins of government are not able to solve the problem of moral corruption, poverty, pauperism, and increasing crime of every type, manifest in all classes, from the highest to the lowest. They are struggling vainly to place business operations on a more secure basis. The great extremes of wealth and want produce unnumbered evils.” SpTA07 56.

When are the merchant men cut off? Notice Revelation 18:9.

Revelation 18:9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning, 10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come. 11 And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: 12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.

Did we miss anything? No, that pretty much covers everything, doesn't it?

Revelation 18:14 And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. 15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, 16 And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! 17 For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, 18 And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! 19 And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate.

When does this take place? When are the merchant men that bear silver cut off according to Zephaniah's prophecy? In Revelation 18, when these plagues begin to fall; and even before that, we know that there is going to be a financial crisis that's going to lead to the Sunday Law.

Did you notice how many times the merchant men said "Alas, Alas"? If you read from verse 9 to 19, they say "Alas, Alas" three times. What does "Alas, Alas" mean? It means woe, woe,—the three woes. Against who? They are saying 'Woe, Woe, Woe', against who? What great city? Babylon.

So you mean to tell me that there is a connection between the Three Woes and Babylon? Are not the Woes designed by God to bring down Rome—Pagan and Papal? Brethren; there is a direct connection with these prophecies—the Three Woes; Revelation 18; the economic collapse; the Sunday-Law crisis; it's all connected and it's found in the prophecies of Zephaniah.