

THE POLLUTED CITY

Zeph 3:1,2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Pollution is a problem - air, water and land. There is also mind pollution. Drastic action and great expense being taken to clean them up
- B. Zephaniah wrote about a polluted city over 2500 years ago. Zeph 3:1 says: "Woe to her that is rebellious and **polluted!** to the oppressing city." (ASV) (woe an expression of grief)
- C. Zephaniah was not writing about air or water pollution. (If these old prophets lived today, they might write about air pollution - pollution by radio and television)
- D. Look at Zephaniah's description of that polluted city.

DISCUSSION:

I. "SHE OBEYED NOT THE VOICE" V. 2

- A. Whose voice? There are many voices. In verses 5 & 7 we learn that it is the voice of God
- B. They did not respect His authority, chapter 1:12. They treated His word as the fallible words of men.
- C. True even of the prophets and priests (v 4). Religious leaders not serious enough to earnestly teach and warn. They were light and frivolous, wanted no enemies and were eager to be popular. Sounds like a lot of preachers and writers of today!

II. "SHE RECEIVED NOT CORRECTION" V. 2

- A. Compare with Jeremiah's scroll Jer 36:23,24
- B. The Bible has quite a bit to say about those who will not receive correction
 1. Prov 15:5; 23:9; 12:15; 15:32
 2. You can tell the wise from the fool by the way they receive correction from those in authority

III. "SHE TRUSTED NOT IN JEHOVAH" V. 2

- A. God had delivered Israel from enemies many times:
 1. Egypt, through Moses leadership begins Ex 3
 2. Midian with Gideon and only 300 men Jud 7:7
 3. Canaanites who had 900 chariots of iron Jud 4:3,16
 4. Form Assyrians in Hezekiah's reign 2Chr 32:20-23
- B. Now afraid to trust God and call on Egypt for help.
- C. Today we are afraid to really trust God to do what he says he will do, we want to help Him out some.

IV. "SHE DREW NOT NEAR TO HER GOD"

- A. They still went through their forms of worship, but insincerely Isa 1:11-18; 29:13
- B. There are lots of religions now, lots of profession, but the word of God is ignored
 1. Multitudes call themselves religious but don't "Take time to be holy." etc

2. Much more enthusiasm over recreation - ball games or music shows as worship assemblies

V. "A REBELLIOUS ATTITUDE" .1

- A. "Woe to her that is rebellious." (ASV) V 1
- B. Their sin
 1. Not altogether neglect, lukewarmness, or weakness of flesh. People fall into these, then see their error and repent. They still have a respectful attitude toward God and his word
 2. In our text a spiteful, rebellious spirit or attitude, willful, stubborn, determined. (For parallels: Isa 65:2; Jer 5:23; Psa 107:11; Jer 6:16,17; Psa 78:7,8
- C. Rebellious persons
 1. Assume a "you-can't-make-me-do-it" attitude
 - a. Children to parents, members to preaching
 - b. Members and non-members to God's word
 2. Take delight in showing that they can't be made to act contrary to their wishes. Opposite of Isa 66:2
 3. They are deceived. They think they are winning, whereas, in fact, they are losing
 - a. Rebel against parents is against God Eph 6:1,2
 - b. Rebelling against godly elders is against God Heb 13:17
 4. If you have no fear of rebelling against God, you are traveling toward destruction.
- D. God could make you do anything He wants you to do.
 1. But He made you with a mind to think and endowed you with the power to choose
 2. One day when God says: "Depart, ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." You won't give Him a dirty, contemptuous look and say: "You can't make me do it."

CONCLUSION:

- A. We live in a very polluted country, lawmakers and courts concerned about certain kinds of pollution yet allow other kinds to go unchecked. We admire those who stand against pollution in the face of opposition and persecution, but do we have this same attitude in the spiritual realm?
- B. We need to fight pollution in our homes. Guard ourselves and children Matt 24:12
- C. If we fight we will be criticized, called names, etc. But pollution kills; it destroys -- bodies and souls.