

“The Seriousness of Sin”

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I. **Opening Text:** Zephaniah 3:1-2; 1:17-18

II. **Introduction:** In chapter 1 verse 1 through chapter 3 verse 8, of the book of Zephaniah, the Lord pronounces His Wrath and Judgment against the sinful people of Israel and its surrounding nations. In chapter 3 verse 1, He decrees woe (lamentation, grievous distress, affliction, trouble, sorrow, grief, deep mourning, a funeral dirge) against the inhabitants of Jerusalem who chose to be filthy (lifting up themselves, rebelling against God, mistreating themselves in the process) and polluted (soiled, desecrated, by “repudiating” [disowning, denying, casting off, God, rejecting Him as if he had no Authority]). God reveals in chapter 3 verse 2 that the reason why He punished the people was because they chose to not obey (hear intelligently, attentively, and to tell) His Voice, receive (take) correction (chastisement, warning, instruction, restraint: doctrine, discipline, rebuke), trust (hie to for refuge, be confident or sure in) in Him, nor draw near (approach) Him. In chapter 3 verse 12-13, the Lord states that a remnant, a small percentage of those who were supposed to be His people would live for Him, by living free from iniquity, or sin. In verse 17 of chapter 3, it is mentioned that these, who choose to love the Lord enough to put away all sin, are those who He will choose to save, rejoice over, and even joy over with singing.

This picture of God’s Wrath, poised as a black storm cloud, about to pour forth its deluge upon heads of the sinful majority of the earth’s inhabitants, is the same today. In the 18th chapter and 32nd verse of the book of Ezekiel, and in 1 Timothy 2:3-4, and 2 Peter 3:9, the Lord declares clearly that He has absolutely no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather wills for all to repent, be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth, and not perish. Yet, as in Noah’s day in which only 8 souls were saved (1 Peter 3:20), as it is today, and as it will be at the 2nd Coming of Christ for Final Judgment (Matthew 24:37; Luke 18:8), the vast majority of people will perish in the lake of fire.

In fact, the Lord Jesus Christ even states, in Matthew 7:21-23, the majority of people that profess to be followers of Him will perish in Hell, because they live secret lives of iniquity, or sin. This shows the seriousness of sin. In our discussion of the seriousness of sin, we will examine, Biblically, the definition of sin, the consequences of sin, the Solution to sin, and proclamation for others to forsake sin.

III. “Why should I live free from sin?”

- A. God commands you to live free from sin (John 8:11, 5:14; 1 Corinthians 15:34; Job 5:17,24; 1 John 2:1, 3:9, 5:18; Romans 6:18,22)
- B. God commands you to be perfect and holy (Matthew 5:48; Job 1:1; Leviticus 11:44)

IV. “What is sin?”

- A. Knowing to do good but not doing it (James 4:17)
- B. Breaking God’s Law (1 John 3:4)
 - 1. No other gods (Exodus 20:3; Luke 14:26)
 - 2. No idols (Exodus 20:4-6; Romans 6:16; 1 Corinthians 10:19-20)
 - 3. Do not misuse God’s Name (Exodus 20:7; Matthew 12:36-37; Philippians 2:10-11)
 - 4. Keep the Sabbath(Exodus 20:8-11;Matthew 11:28;Luke 10:38-2)
 - 5. Honor parents (Exodus 20:12; Matthew 15:3-6; Ephesians 6:1)
 - 6. Do not kill (Exodus 20:13; 1 Samuel 16:7; 1 John 3:15)
 - 7. Do not commit adultery (Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:27-28)
 - 8. Do not steal (Exodus 20:15; 1 Corinthians 6:10,19-20)
 - 9. Do not lie (Exodus 20:16; Ephesians 4:25)
 - 10. Do not covet (Exodus 20:17; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Samuel 18:6-9)

V. What are the consequences of sin?

- A. One sin separates you from God (Isaiah 59:2)
- B. One sin blots you out of God’s Book (Exodus 32:33)
- C. One sin makes you of the devil (1 John 3:8)
- D. One sin takes you out of God’s family (1 John 3:6-10)

- E. One sin makes God angry with you every day (Psalm 7:11)
- F. One sin makes God hate you (Psalm 5:4-5; 11:5-6)
- G. One sin causes your righteousness to be forgotten (Ezekiel 18:24)
- H. One sin causes you to die (Ezekiel 18:4)
- I. One sin causes you to be judged (Hebrews 9:27)
- J. One sin causes you to be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15)

VI. “How can I Biblically live free from sin?”

1. Repent, deny yourself, follow Christ, sin no more (Luke 13:1-5, 9:23, 14:25-33; John 8:11)
2. Repent and be converted (Acts 3:19)
3. Look unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:2)
4. Live continually in love (Proverbs 10:12; James 5:20)
5. Awake to righteousness and sin not (1 Corinthians 15:34)
6. Keep the fear of God before your face (Exodus 20:20; Matthew 10:28; Proverbs 8:13, 3:7)
7. Hide God’s Word in your heart and mind (Psalm 119:11; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6)
8. Allow the Holy Spirit to convince you of sin (John 16:7-11)
9. Obey your conscience telling you not to sin (John 8:9; Romans 9:1)
10. Know the good that you should do and do it (James 4:17)
11. See sin as exceedingly sinful (Romans 7:13; Exodus 20:3-17)
12. Resist unto blood in striving against sin (Hebrews 12:4)
13. Lay aside the sin that so easily besets you (Hebrews 12:1)
14. Suffer in the flesh (1 Peter 4:1)

15. Don't walk according to the course of this world (Ephesians 2:2)
16. Reckon yourself to be dead to sin but alive to God through Christ (Romans 6:11)
17. Submit yourself to God, resist the devil & he'll flee (James 4:8, Matthew 4:3-11)
18. Come out of the anti-Christ system (Revelation 18:4)
19. Love the Lord and hate sin (Psalm 97:10; Hebrews 1:9)
20. Don't fellowship with sin, reprove (confute [prove wrong by argument] admonish [warn]) it (Ephesians 5:11 Ezekiel 3:17-21; 2 Timothy 4:2)