

b. Sinners will be destroyed (Zeph. 1:3d)

3. Reason for the Judgment (Zeph. 1:3e)

The reason for the judgment is the sin of man (Zeph. 1:3e). This is why the destruction of man from off the earth is mentioned at the end of verse 3.

Note: The irrational creation - beasts, i.e., animals that move upon the ground, birds of the air, and fish of the sea will be destroyed on account of the sin of man (cf. Gen. 6:7).

C. Announcement of the Lord that judgment will come upon Judah and Jerusalem (Zeph. 1:4-2:3)

1. Results of the Judgment (Zeph. 1:4b-6)

a. Complete abolition of every kind of idolatry (Zeph. 1:4b)

Note: Baal or Baal-worship stands for every kind of idolatry.

b. Destruction of all idolatrous priests (Zeph. 1:4c)

(1) The priests appointed by the Kings of Judah for the worship of the high places and the idolatrous worship of Jehovah (cf. 2 Kings 23:5a)

(2) The priests who conducted literal idolatry (cf. 2 Kings 23:5b)

Note: The names of both the idolatrous priests of Jehovah and the literal priests of the idols will be cut off, so that not only will the persons referred to by these names disappear, but even their names will not be heard any more.

c. Destruction of all the worshippers of idols (Zeph. 1:5)

(1) Those who worshipped "the host of heaven," i.e., the sun, moon, and stars on their housetops (Zeph. 1:5a)

Note: These people erected an altar on the flat roof of their houses and worshipped the sun, moon, and stars there chiefly by burning incense (cf. Jer. 19:13) and offering sacrifices (cf. 2 King 23:12) to them.

(2) Those who unite Jehovah and other gods in their worship (Zeph. 1:5b).

Note: These people worship Jehovah and acknowledge that He is their God by swearing by Him, but they also acknowledge that Molech is their god by swearing by him.

d. Destruction of all who are religiously indifferent (Zeph. 1:6)

These are the people who have either renounced the worship of Jehovah (Zeph. 1:6a) or who do not concern themselves about Him (Zeph. 1:6b)