

**Series: The Minor Prophets**

**Lesson: 38. Zephaniah, pt. 1 – The  
Danger of False Reform**

**Passage: Zeph. 1**

- **Introduction (v1)**

- Author: Zephaniah—royalty?
- Date: Latter half of 7<sup>th</sup> Century B.C.
- Theme: the Day of the Lord
  - Violent (ch1)
  - Universal (ch2)
  - Purifying (ch3)

- **A Declaration of Total \_\_\_\_\_ (vv2–3)**

- God launches right into judgment!
- The judgment is \_\_\_\_\_.
- It is a reversal of \_\_\_\_\_ itself.

- **A Pronouncement of Judgment on Judah in \_\_\_\_\_ Terms (vv4–6)**
  - Six groups will be ‘cut off’:
    - False religions
    - False priests (both pagan and for YHWH)
    - False worshippers
    - Syncretists
    - Apostates
    - Atheists
  - God views any religious posture other than \_\_\_\_\_ faith in Him as equally damnable.
  - This judgment was fulfilled (in a near sense) with the Babylonian exile.
  
- **A Description of Those Who Will Be Judged in \_\_\_\_\_ Terms (vv7–13)**
  - What is the sacrifice, and who are the guests?
    - Since they didn’t have payment for sin, *they* were the sacrifice!
    - The ones who were about to ‘feast’ on them were the Babylonians—just instruments to carry out God’s will.

- Foreign influence was a problem because it affected their \_\_\_\_\_.
- All normal business would be disrupted—there will be no ignoring this judgment!
- God specifically seeks those who have succumbed to \_\_\_\_\_.

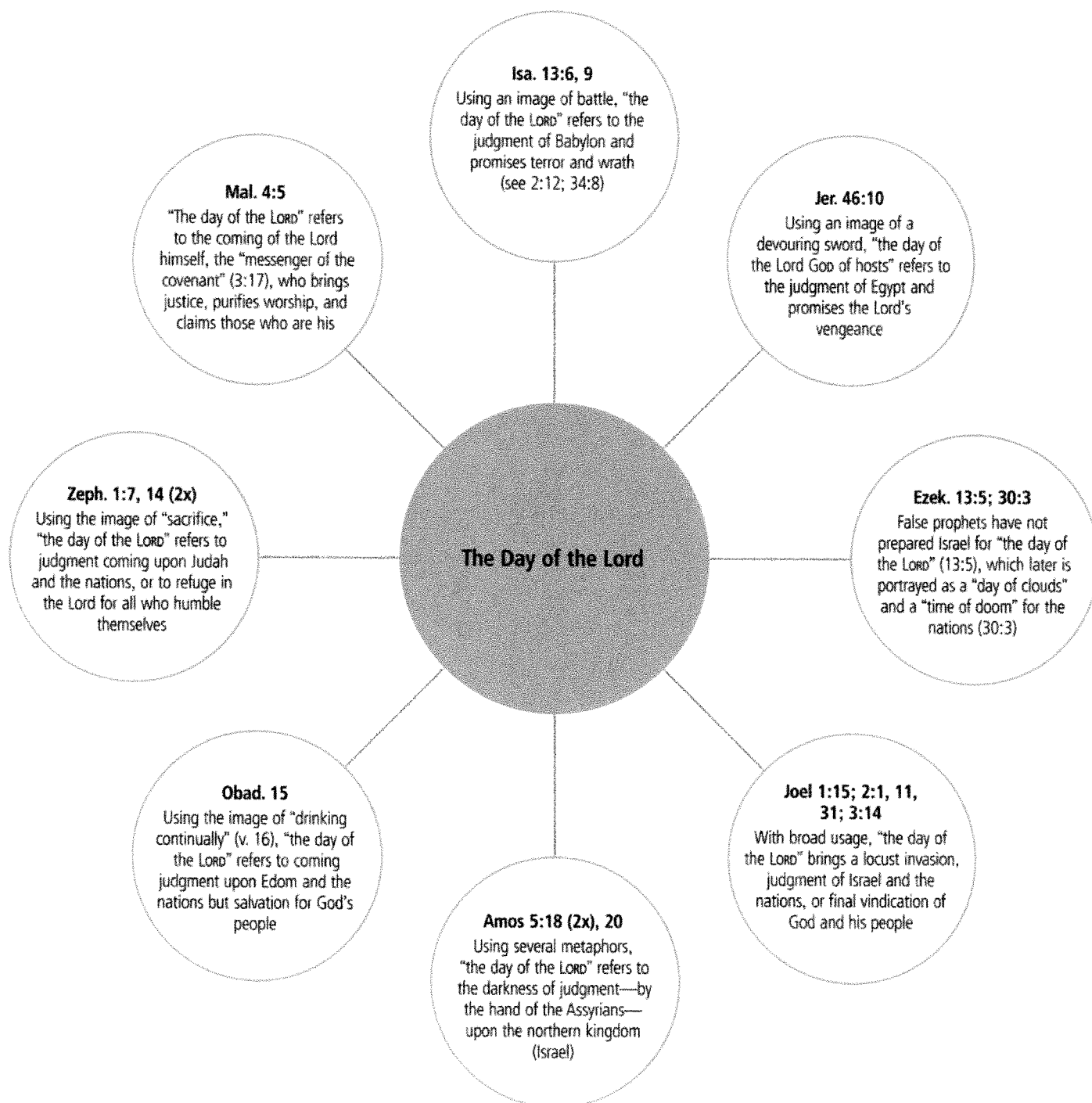
- **A Look at How Terrifying the Day of the Lord Will Be for the Whole**

\_\_\_\_\_ (vv14–18)

- It is \_\_\_\_\_!
- It is coming to ALL humanity.
- You can't \_\_\_\_\_ your way out.
- It is a result of God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- Even though the focus is on total destruction, a \_\_\_\_\_ is always implied.

# What Do We Do with This Text?

1. Reform has to start with the \_\_\_\_\_.



**Blanks:** Destruction, universal, Creation, Spiritual, exclusive, Earthly, religion, materialism, World, near, buy, jealousy, remnant, heart