

THE DAY OF THE LORD

Although we can affirm every day to be “the day of the Lord” in a general sense, the Bible depicts special days with that designation. Look up the texts below and check the boxes for the correct time reference from a modern perspective. You may need to examine the broader context for each.

	<u>Past</u>	<u>Future</u>	<u>Both</u>
Isaiah 13:6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joel 2:1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amos 5:18-20	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Obadiah 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zephaniah 1:7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Corinthians 1:8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1 Thessalonians 5:2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Revelation 6:17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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GOD'S CLEAR INTENTIONS

Zephaniah plainly declares God's intentions regarding sinfulness. Look through all 18 verses of Zephaniah 1 and summarize each declaration below. You should end up with nine entries.

God says He will . . .

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Considering the declarations as a whole, how are God's clear intentions for the people of Zephaniah's day relevant to us right now? Jot your conclusions below.

BIG LITTLE WORDS

Think of some little words that imply big impact and consequence. In that regard, put a two-letter word, a three-letter word, a four-letter word, and a five-letter word on the following lines.

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Compare and discuss your choices with a classmate. Then look at the beginning word of today's lesson text and write its opening word below.

_____! In what ways is this a “big little word”?

THAT DAY IS COMING

The title of today's lesson reveals God's plan: the day of His judgment will surely come. Read the predictions of Zephaniah 3:8. What personal and universal consequences are expressed or implied there? Jot discoveries below. (You might not need all five lines, or you may need to add more lines.)



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1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

How will the reality of God's pending judgment influence your daily living and your message to the world?

REMNANT CHARACTERISTICS

As you unscramble the words below, rate yourself as to how each characteristic describes you. Use the scale of 1 for “a little” to 5 for “very much.”

EPRU	_____	1 2 3 4 5
GALD	_____	1 2 3 4 5
FHLRTTUU	_____	1 2 3 4 5
CNFDNTOIE	_____	1 2 3 4 5
BEHLMU	_____	1 2 3 4 5

How do you plan to move your lowest score to the next higher number? Jot ideas below.

FEEL LIKE A REMNANT?

Which of the following do you sense in yourself (perhaps after being treated as such by others)?

- ____ I have lost most of any value I previously had.
- ____ I am unattractive and therefore rejected.
- ____ I frequently feel as alone as Elijah did in 1 Kings 19:10.
- ____ I am frequently “left on the shelf” as unusable.
- ____ I am a valued part of Christ’s glorious church (1 Corinthians 12:27).



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If you did not mark the last one, why not? How can you change the negatives you selected? Jot ideas below.

THE LIES PEOPLE TELL THEMSELVES

Today's text describes various behaviors that result from substituting lies for the truth of God (Romans 1:25), which produces a twisted mind (1:28). Below, list statements you have heard people use to justify illegal, immoral, or unethical behavior.



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What consequences have you suffered or witnessed others suffer as a result of such lies?

GLORIFY GOD

The evils listed in Romans 1:24-32 result in and from failing to glorify God. Fill in the lines below for personal improvement in this regard.

*To glorify God by my behavior in the week ahead,
I will do less _____ and more _____.*

*To glorify God by my thoughts in the week ahead,
I will do less _____ and more _____.*

*To glorify God by my words in the week ahead,
I will do less _____ and more _____.*

THE LAWS OF GOD

Romans 2:21-23 echoes what Jesus taught about the law. Fill in the blanks to identify how Jesus added to and/or clarified the law with which His Jewish audience was familiar.

What Jesus' Audience Knew

What Jesus Added and/or Clarified

Matthew 5:21, 22 _____

Matthew 5:27, 28 _____

Matthew 5:43-45 _____

How do Jesus' additions and clarifications address the inside of a person (thoughts and attitudes) as it relates to the outside of a person (behavior)?

CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART

After reading Romans 2:29, read Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4; and Ezekiel 36:26, 27. Then complete the three steps below.

Step 1

Inside the heart, note thoughts, feelings, actions, and attitudes that will help you to follow Christ more fully.

Step 2

Outside the heart, note hindrances to your walk with Christ that need to be cut away.

Step 3

Below, write a prayer for God's help and the Spirit's guidance in the circumcision of your heart.



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OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCES

Look up the Old Testament texts listed below. Next to each, record which verse(s) in Romans 3 quote(s) or otherwise reflect(s) the Old Testament text. Record any additional phrases from those texts that Paul does not include in his letter, but that further establish his statements.

Romans 3	Additional Phrase(s) of Explanation
Psalm 5:9 _____	_____
Psalm 10:7 _____	_____
Psalm 14:1-3 _____	_____
Psalm 36:1 _____	_____
Psalm 53:1-3 _____	_____
Psalm 140:3 _____	_____
Ecclesiastes 7:20 _____	_____
Isaiah 59:7, 8 _____	_____

THE IMPACT OF SIN

Review the sins listed in Romans 3:11-18, paying special attention to how your own sin has affected (and infected) other people. Below, write a note of apology and repentance in that regard, asking for forgiveness. Your note can be to a specific person or to humanity in general. (This is for your private use; your teacher will not collect these.)



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Next, write a prayer for God's help in being honest about how your sins have affected others, even as He forgives those sins.

THE SOBERING REMINDER

Find the 14 words out to the right, all from today's text, in the puzzle below; the words may be in any direction. The unused letters will then reveal the sobering four-word reminder from today's text. Write that reminder in the blanks below the puzzle.

F E O T R S S A L L H A R G V
E C S I S H W N N E D I R V R
S N M M O I O E P H G A A R M
I A C R X J R A J H C L A W W
C R T Q A J H H T E W O D E P
X A U I U T B E C E J S R C M
D E M S I R O G V A L D R Z D
U B T A V U E K P O P J M M M
B R F M S N O L X Z R E L U W
F O U N T D Q S Y H O R O Y M
D F E I E K O K U D P Z O R D
J S L E Y P O O J S H G D O Q
S E W M K J P T L P E D K L F
S U E T J Z V L R B T J M G K
R D S Y N M F H K H S P Q X Q



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Blood
Christ
Faith
Forbearance
Gentiles
Glory
Grace
Jesus
Jews
Just
Law
Prophets
Righteousness
Short

PAUL'S ARGUMENT AND GOOD NEWS

Skim through Romans 1:18–3:20 and identify texts that address the category below that you are assigned. Record the appropriate texts and summarize them in the space provided.

God's Wrath	Sin's Universality
God's Impartiality	God's Vindication

STACKING UP BENEFITS

Because of Jesus' dying for us on the cross, we can be sure that our hope for the future is secure. Find concepts from the lesson text to complete the list of benefits that Christians enjoy in the present.



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_____ **J** _____ by faith
 Peace _____ **U** _____ Christ
 _____ **S** into grace
 Glory in **T** _____
 Tribulation worketh _____ **I** _____
 Saved **F** _____ wrath
 _____ **I** _____ to God
 Shall be _____ **E**d through Jesus' life
 Reconciled by Jesus' **D** _____

SING A SONG OF HOPE

Using hymnals and/or other worship songbooks, list seven songs that express the hope and joy you have because of Jesus' death on the cross. Sing one song each day in the week ahead during your devotional time.



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WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Find the message hidden below by eliminating the words as indicated. The message revealed will read left to right, line by line. Write it in the blanks below the word matrix.

Delete words . . .

of three letters that begin with a vowel
that rhyme with *band*
naming flowers
that have exactly two *a*'s

containing the letter *b*
ending with a double consonant
naming colors
having two letters and beginning with a consonant

all	hand	the	will	lily	mallard
baptism	dahlia	mauve	any	wages	fanned
of	success	salad	sin	orange	remiss
land	our	do	body	its	is
mitt	death	stuff	grand	atlas	green
the	azure	end	stanza	gift	obey
tulip	humble	of	gray	canned	ask
fanatic	so	orchid	God	petunia	illness
yellow	is	sand	me	hub	eternal
miss	emblem	to	peony	life	go

_____;

_____.

In what ways do the two images below illustrate the truth of the revealed message?




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KNOW YOUR FEARS

From the choices given, select the one that correctly identifies the phobia named.

- ___ 1. Octophobia: fear of (a) the month of October; (b) the figure 8; (c) octopi.
- ___ 2. Gelotophobia: fear of (a) being laughed at; (b) gelatin dessert; (c) bridges.
- ___ 3. Dendrophobia: fear of (a) trees; (b) dentists; (c) teenagers.
- ___ 4. Tachophobia: fear of (a) being touched; (b) anything sticky; (c) speed.
- ___ 5. Obesophobia: fear of (a) obesity; (b) mirrors; (c) oboes.
- ___ 6. Coulrophobia: fear of (a) vegetables; (b) clowns; (c) priests.
- ___ 7. Astraphobia: fear of (a) cats; (b) flying; (c) thunder and lightning.
- ___ 8. Chromophobia: fear of (a) clocks; (b) colors; (c) chrome.
- ___ 9. Philophobia: fear of (a) falling in love; (b) Greek pastry; (c) people from Philadelphia.
- ___ 10. Venustraphobia: fear of (a) Venus flytraps; (b) meteors; (c) beautiful women.
- 
- A photograph of a person with blonde hair, wearing a white mask and a headband, looking down. The image is tilted and partially cut off on the right side.



Name some common fears:

OVERCOME YOUR FEARS

Write in the box below the verse from today's text that you find most useful in helping you overcome fears. Then post it in a prominent place this week to remind you of God's all-encompassing love for you.

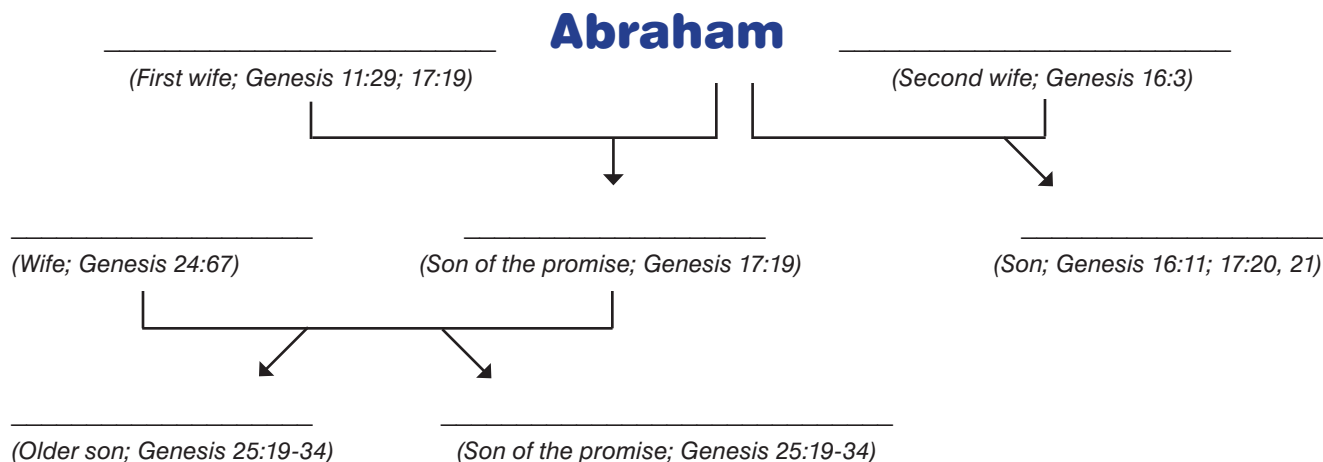
[illegible]

Hemerz

HOW WILL YOU SHARE THIS VERSE IN THE WEEK AHEAD WITH SOMEONE STRUGGLING WITH FEAR?

SONS OF THE PROMISE—AND NOT

See if you can fill in the blanks for Abraham's first two wives and their descendants without looking up the Scripture references.



1. What was included in the promise that God made to Abraham?
2. How was that promise fulfilled through the two “sons of the promise” above?

SPIRITUAL FAMILY TREE

Write in two of the frames the names of two people who have helped you on your spiritual walk.

In the remaining frame, write the name of one non-family member whom you can guide in spiritual growth.

Thinking of Paul's relationship to Timothy, whom Paul referred to as “my own son in the faith” (1 Timothy 1:2), how will you provide this guidance? Jot ideas below.



BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Match each headline below with one of the 14 verses from today's text. Each verse will be used only once.

- ___ A. Paul Wants Jews Saved
- ___ B. Will God Spare You?
- ___ C. Rich and Even Richer
- ___ D. Part Holy = Whole Holy
- ___ E. To Be Grafted on One Condition
- ___ F. Beware Highmindedness!
- ___ G. Gentiles Saved, Jews Jealous
- ___ H. God: Good but Severe Too
- ___ I. Gentiles Are of the Wild
- ___ J. It Would Be Like a Resurrection
- ___ K. Natural Branches = Perfect (re)Fit
- ___ L. Who's Supporting Whom?
- ___ M. Apostle of the Gentiles Sounds Off
- ___ N. They're Broken Off So I Can Be Grafted In



PART OF THE SAME TREE

The kingdom of God is for everyone! But it takes intention and effort to make sure everyone is “grafted in” fully. What can you and your church do better to make that happen for those listed below?

	What My Church Could Do	What I Should Do
Those with limited mobility		
The hearing impaired		
The mentally challenged		
The elderly		
The poor		
Different race or ethnicity		
The divorced		
Other _____		

CLEAR AS MUD?

An oxymoron is “a combination of words that have opposite or very different meanings.” Unscramble the oxymorons below. Then look at Romans 12:1 to see if you detect an oxymoron there.

1. romin criiss

2. diquil sag

3. lod sewn

4. nope creets

5. garler afhl

6. objum prishm

The two-word phrase in Romans 12:1 that could be considered an oxymoron is

WORDS OF WISDOM

Using today's lesson text, how would you counsel the following Christians?



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Beth: “I would really like to serve more at church, but my time and energy are stretched between taking care of my elderly parents and helping my widowed daughter with her children. I’m afraid that God is unhappy with me because so much of what I do isn’t very ‘spiritual.’”

Sam: “I have my Christian friends and church activities, but I also hang out with buddies I’ve known all my life who aren’t believers. I’m pretty good at compartmentalizing my life, but sometimes I feel like I’m two different people depending on whom I’m with.”



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Lesson 1

The Day of the Lord. The three New Testament references are obviously all future, referring to the day of Jesus' return. The Old Testament references are subject to much scholarly debate.

God's Clear Intentions. The nine declarations in Zephaniah 1 are recognized by the statement "I will," as found in verses 2, 3 (twice), 4 (twice), 8, 9 (reversed as "will I"), 12, and 17. The consequence of sin is punishment.

Lesson 2

Big Little Words. Many responses are possible for the first four lines. The three-letter word in today's text that indicates serious consequences is **woe!**

That Day Is Coming. See commentary on Zephaniah 3:8.

Lesson 3

Remnant Characteristics. Pure (v. 9), Glad (v. 14), Truthful (v. 13), Confident (v. 12), Humble (v. 11).

Lesson 4

The Lies People Tell Themselves. Possible responses (among many): Everyone else is doing it. I deserve it. It's my body; I can do with it what I choose. I won't get caught.

Lesson 5

The Laws of God. **Verses 21, 22:** Killing puts one "in danger of the judgment." / So does being angry with a brother. **Verses 27, 28:** Adultery is sin. / So are lustful thoughts. **Verses 43-45:** "Love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy." / Love enemies and pray for them.

A right inward attitude toward God and others will foster right actions that surpass the letter of the law.

Lesson 6

Old Testament References. **Psalm 5:9** → Romans 3:13a—inward part is very wicked, etc. **Psalm 10:7** → Romans 3:14—under his tongue is mischief and vanity, etc. **Psalm 14:1-3** → Romans 3:10-12—they become filthy, etc. **Psalm 36:1** → Romans 3:18—transgression of the wicked saith within my heart. **Psalm 53:1-3** → Romans 3:10-12—fool hath said in his heart, There is no God, etc. **Psalm 140:3** → Romans 3:13b—sharpened their tongues like a serpent. **Ecclesiastes 7:20** → Romans 3:10—[none] that doeth good, and sinneth not. **Isaiah 59:7, 8** → Romans 3:15-17—thoughts of iniquity, no judgment in their goings, etc.

Lesson 7

The Sobering Reminder

+ E + T + S S + + + + R G +
+ C + + S H W + + + + I R + +
+ N + + O I + E + + G A + + +
+ A + R + + R + J H C L A W +
+ R T + + J H H T E + + + + +
+ A + + U T + E C + + + + +
+ E + S I + O G + + + + +
+ B T A + U E + + + P + + + +
+ R F + S N + + + + R + + + +
+ O + N T D + S + + O + + Y +
+ F E I + + O + U + P + + R +
+ S L + + + + O + S H + + O +
S E + + + + + L + E + + L +
S + + + + + + + B T J + G +
+ + + + + + + + S + + + +

Phrase: *For all have sinned*

Lesson 7 (continued)

Paul's Argument and Good News. **God's Wrath:** 1:18-20, 32; 2:5-9. **God's Impartiality:** 1:19, 20; 2:11, 17-29; 3:9. **Sin's Universality:** 1:21-32; 3:10-12, 19, 20. **God's Vindication:** 2:2, 16; 3:3-5. **Note:** Learners may make a good case for inclusion of other passages.

Lesson 8

Stacking Up Benefits. Justified by faith (v. 1) / peace through Christ (v. 1) / access into grace (v. 2) / glory in tribulations (v. 3) / tribulation worketh patience (v. 3) / saved from wrath (v. 9) / reconciled to God (v. 10) / shall be saved through Jesus' life (v. 10) / reconciled by Jesus' death (v. 10).

Lesson 9

What Does It Say? The wages of sin is death; the gift of God is eternal life.

Lesson 10

Know Your Fears. 1-b; 2-a; 3-a; 4-c; 5-a; 6-b; 7-c; 8-b; 9-a; 10-c.

Lesson 11

Sons of the Promise—and Not. **First row:** Sarah (formerly Sarai), Hagar. **Second row:** Rebekah, Isaac, Ishmael; **Third row:** Esau, Jacob.

1. "I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:2, 3).

2. Isaac's grandchildren (Jacob's sons) were the ancestors of the 12 tribes of the nation of Israel.

Lesson 12

Behind the Headlines. A, v. 14; B, v. 21; C, v. 12; D, v. 16; E, v. 23; F, v. 20; G, v. 11; H, v. 22; I, v. 17; J, v. 15; K, v. 24; L, v. 18; M, v. 13; N, v. 19.

Lesson 13

Clear as Mud? 1. minor crisis; 2. liquid gas; 3. old news; 4. open secret; 5. larger half; 6. jumbo shrimp. The oxymoron from Romans 12:1 is "living sacrifice."