

2. Proximity of the Judgment (Zeph. 1:7)

The judgment is about to occur.

a. Proof of the Proximity of the judgment (Zeph. 1:7c)

The proof of the proximity of the judgment is that Judah and Jerusalem are ready to be judged and the Lord has appointed the executors of that judgment and has set them apart for that purpose.

Note: The sacrifice which God has prepared is Judah and Jerusalem; and those who are invited to the sacrificial meal are the nations which God has appointed and set apart to war against Judah and Jerusalem in order to destroy them.

b. Effect of the Proximity of the judgment (Zeph. 1:7a)

The Lord's people are commanded to be silent before the Lord, i.e., to reverence Him and to humbly submit to whatever He wants them to do.

3. Classes of people affected by the judgment (Zeph. 1:8-13)

a. Princes, Royal princes, and their Retainers (Zeph. 1:8,9)

(1) Their identity

(a) Princes (Zeph. 1:8a)

They were the heads of the tribes and families who filled the higher offices of state. They were officers of the king.

(b) Royal Princes (Zeph. 1:8b)

They were the sons of Josiah and the sons of the deceased kings as well. They were members of the royal family.

Note: Josiah isn't mentioned because he was a righteous king and he wouldn't live to see the judgment that was to come. (cf. 2 Chron. 34:27,28)

(c) Retainers of the princes and royal princes (Zeph. 1:9)

(2) Their sin

(a) The princes and royal princes assumed the dress of the foreign nations with which they came in contact and despised their own customs of dress (Zeph. 1:8c). This was contrary to what the Lord has commanded, for their own customs of dress had been commanded by the Lord (cf. Num. 15:37-40 and Deut. 22:12).