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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Past</th>
<th>Future</th>
<th>Both</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 13:6</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel 2:1</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amos 5:18-20</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obadiah 15</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zephaniah 1:7</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Corinthians 1:8</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Thessalonians 5:2</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revelation 6:17</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 ten 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.

___ ___ ___ ___
___ ___ ___ ___ ___

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.)

1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 2, “That Day Is Coming” (Zephaniah 3:1-8, ESV)
**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).

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.

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Jesus’ Audience Knew</th>
<th>What Jesus Added and/or Clarified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 5:21, 22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 5:27, 28</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew 5:43-45</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.

__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 5, “Needing More Than Law” (Romans 2:17-29, ESV)
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Romans 3</th>
<th>Additional Phrase(s) of Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 5:9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 10:7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 14:1-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 36:1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 53:1-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psalm 140:3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecclesiastes 7:20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isaiah 59:7, 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.)

___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

☞ Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 6, “Struggling Under Sin’s Power” (Romans 3:9-20, ESV) ☞

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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.

FEOTRSSALLHARGV
ECISISHWNEDIRVR
SNMIOEPHGAARM
IACRXJRAJHCLAWW
CRTQAJHTEDEP
XAIUTBECEJSRCM
DEMSIROGVALDRZD
UBTAVUEKPOPJMMM
BRFMSNOLXZRELW
FOUNTDQSYHOROYM
DFEIEKOUPZORD
JSLEYPOOJSHGDOQ
SEWMJKTPLPEDKLF
SUETJZVLRBTJMGK
RDSYNMFHKHSPQXQ

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>God’s Wrath</th>
<th>Sin’s Universality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>God’s Impartiality</th>
<th>God’s Vindication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

J_____ _____ _____ _____ through faith

Peace _____ _____ U_____ ____ Christ

_____ _____ S ____ into grace

_____ _____ _____ Ter produces hope

_____ _____ ____ I ____ ___ produces endurance

Saved F_____ ___ wrath

_____ _____ ____ I ____ ___ to God

Shall be ____ ____ ____ Ed 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.

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________

____________________________________
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

that have exactly two a’s containing the letter b

ing naming flowers ending with a double consonant
d 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 the green

free 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?

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________
**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. Venustrophobia: fear of (a) Venus flytraps; (b) meteors; (c) beautiful women.

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.

________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

**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.

Abraham

(First wife; Genesis 11:29; 17:19)  
(Second wife; Genesis 16:3)

(Wife; Genesis 24:67)  
(Son of the promise; Genesis 17:19)  
(Son; Genesis 16:11; 17:20, 21)

(Older son; Genesis 25:19-34)  
(Son of the promise; Genesis 25:19-34)

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 true child in the faith” (1 Timothy 1:2), how will you provide this guidance? Jot ideas below.

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

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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 Arrogance!
___ 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What My Church Could Do</th>
<th>What I Should Do</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Those with limited mobility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The hearing impaired</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The mentally challenged</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The elderly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The poor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Different race or ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The divorced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ________________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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?

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.”

_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

*iStock*
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 ten declarations in Zephaniah 1 are recognized by the statement “I will,” as found in verses 2, 3 (twice), 4 (twice), 8, 9, 12 (twice), 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 woel.
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. 12).

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 anything with it what I choose. I won’t get caught.

Lesson 5
Old Testament References. Psalm 5:9 Romans 3:13a—their inmost self is destruction, etc. Psalm 10:7 Romans 3:14—miserable and iniquity are under his tongue. Psalm 53:1-3 Romans 3:10-12—they are corrupt, etc. Psalm 36:1 Romans 3:18—transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart. Psalm 53:1-3 Romans 3:10-12—fool says in his heart, “There is no God,” etc. Psalm 140:3 Romans 3:13b—make their tongue as sharp as a serpent’s. Ecclesiastes 7:20 Romans 3:10—no one who does good and never sins. Isaiah 59:7, 8 Romans 3:15-17—there is no justice in their paths, etc.

Lesson 6
Old Testament References. Psalm 5:9 Romans 3:13a—their inmost self is destruction, etc. Psalm 10:7 Romans 3:14—miserable and iniquity are under his tongue. Psalm 53:1-3 Romans 3:10-12—they are corrupt, etc. Psalm 36:1 Romans 3:18—transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart. Psalm 53:1-3 Romans 3:10-12—fool says in his heart, “There is no God,” etc. Psalm 140:3 Romans 3:13b—make their tongue as sharp as a serpent’s. Ecclesiastes 7:20 Romans 3:10—no one who does good and never sins. Isaiah 59:7, 8 Romans 3:15-17—there is no justice in their paths, etc.

Lesson 7
The Sobering Reminder

Lesson 7 (continued)

Lesson 8
Stacking Up Benefits. Justified by faith (v. 1) / peace through Christ (v. 1) / access into grace (v. 2) / character produces hope (v. 4) / suffering produces endurance (v. 5) / saved from wrath (v. 9) / reconciled to God (v. 10) / shall be saved by Jesus’ life (v. 10) / reconciled by Jesus’ death (v. 10).

Lesson 9
What Does It Say? The wages of sin is death; the free 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
1. “I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall 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

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.”