Eternity Daily Bible Study No. 275

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Zephaniah 2:1-7
Gather yourselves together; yea, gather, O nation not desired; (2) before the birth of the decree, the day shall pass like the chaff; yet not before the hot anger of Jehovah comes on you, yet not before the day of Jehovah's anger comes on you. (3) Seek Jehovah, all the meek of the earth who have done His justice; seek righteousness; seek meekness. It may be you shall be hidden in the day of Jehovah's anger. (4) For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a ruin. They shall drive out Ashdod at the noonday, and Ekron shall be rooted up. (5) Woe to the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! The Word of Jehovah is against you: Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will destroy you, so that no inhabitant survives. (6) And the sea coast will be pastures, meadows of shepherds, and folds for flocks. (7) And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed on them. In the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down in the evening, for Jehovah their God shall visit them and turn away their captivity.

Zephaniah chapter 2 predicts judgment on the Philistines, Moab, Ethiopia and Assyria. Most of these judgments fell during the conquests of either Nebuchadnezzar or Alexander the Great.

This prophecy in part concerns the Palestinians - who are the remnant of the old Philistines, and who well in the old Philistine cities such as Gaza. (The term Palestine was coined, (by the Romans I think) to insult the Jews by naming the land after their arch enemies the Philistines.) This prophecy predicts that Israel will occupy Gaza - which is news since Ariel Sharon is proposing a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza strip.

In these judgments a certain type of person will be spared: “Seek Jehovah, all the meek of the earth who have done His justice; seek righteousness; seek meekness. It may be you shall be hidden in the day of Jehovah's anger.” The word for meekness (awn-aw) means- humility, lowliness, gentleness. The meek are gently submitted to God, do justice and seek righteousness. These are “dwelling in the center of God’s will” and judgment passes them by.

The whole idea of judgment on cities and nations is foreign to most people. Even God’s judgments on individuals are hard to accept or many. But even Jesus spoke of judgments on cities:

Blessings,

John Edmiston johned@aibi.ph

[Special Project – Translation of Harvestime Church-Planting Courses into Tagalog]

We wish to employ a team of four Filipino translators for one year to translate the 21 Harvestime modules into Tagalog (the language of the Philippines). This will cost about $800 a month and we still have to raise $600 a month of this. We would like 30 people to donate $20 a month to make this happen (starting April). [To see the Harvestime courses go to: http://www.aibi.ph/harvest/]

If this interests you send a cheque to John Edmiston 21744 Grace Ave. Carson CA 90745 and include a note saying “For Tagalog Translation Project”. (The AIBI does not yet have a US bank account but we are working on it.) Or use our online donation process and send an email to me saying “For Tagalog Translation Project” and tell me about the donation so I know how to designate the funds. To donate online go to: http://www.aibi.ph/aibi/donate.htm

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