

**Zephaniah 1:7–16**

**7** Be silent before the Lord God!  
For the day of the Lord is near;  
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice  
and consecrated his guests.

**8** And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—  
“I will punish the officials and the king's sons  
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

**9** On that day I will punish  
everyone who leaps over the threshold,  
and those who fill their master's house  
with violence and fraud.

**10** “On that day,” declares the Lord,  
“a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,  
a wail from the Second Quarter,  
a loud crash from the hills.

**11** Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!  
For all the traders are no more;  
all who weigh out silver are cut off.

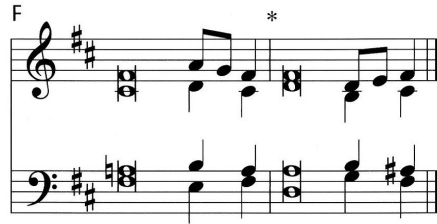
**12** At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the men  
who are complacent,  
those who say in their hearts,  
‘The Lord will not do good,  
nor will he do ill.’

**13** Their goods shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.”

**14** The great day of the Lord is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;  
the mighty man cries aloud there.

**15** A day of wrath is that day,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,

**16** a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

**Psalm 90:1-12**

**1** Lord, you have been our | dwelling place\*  
in all gener- | ations.

**2** Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth |  
and the world,\*  
from everlasting to everlasting | you are God.

**3** You return | man to dust\*  
and say, “Return, O chil- | dren of man!”

**4** For a thousand years in your sight  
are but as yesterday when | it is past,\*  
or as a watch | in the night.

**5** You sweep them away as | with a flood;\*  
they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the | morning:

**6** in the morning it flourishes and | is renewed;\*  
in the evening it fades and | withers.

**7** For we are brought to an end by your | anger;\*  
by your wrath we | are dismayed.

**8** You have set our iniquities be- | fore you,\*  
our secret sins in the light of your | presence.

**9** For all our days pass away  
un- | der your wrath;\*  
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.

**10** The years of our life are seventy,  
or even by reason of strength | eighty;\*  
yet their span is but toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we | fly away.

**11** Who considers the power of your | anger,\*  
and your wrath according to the | fear of you?

**12** So teach us to number | our days\*  
that we may get a heart of | wisdom.

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

## Matthew 25:14–30

<sup>14</sup>[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup>So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup>But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have

been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”