

MAJOR LESSONS FROM

ZEPH-AH-AH



- Part 1: chapter 1 – 3:8, universal judgment
- Part 2: chapter 3:9 to end, universal salvation
- Denunciations against false-worship and human-contrived religion
- After Judgment Day, survivors (remnant) are purified and able to call on God
- God expects the nations to abide by the same laws and commands He issued to Israel on Mt. Sinai

"Surely now you
will fear Me...!"



- Zephaniah 3:7 Words of a disappointed God
- Verse 7 points the finger to Jerusalem and Judah
- Jeremiah 5:3 Says the same thing, different words
- The people of Judah saw what God did to the nations and to Ephraim/Israel yet they are in denial
- Faith in religious beliefs and denials results in sin

The Rise & Fall of Nations & Empires

WHY?



- Demise of nations is always due to moral degradation and denial of basic God dynamics
- We are designed to learn from history... but too many do not!
- **Kareth** = cut-off from God
- Romans 11:19 – 21
- Judah believed once-attached-always-attached
- No matter for who, branches can be removed! Be terrified

THE LORD DECLARES

Just Wait!

ONE DAY I WILL STAND
UP AS A WITNESS..

Zephaniah 3:8

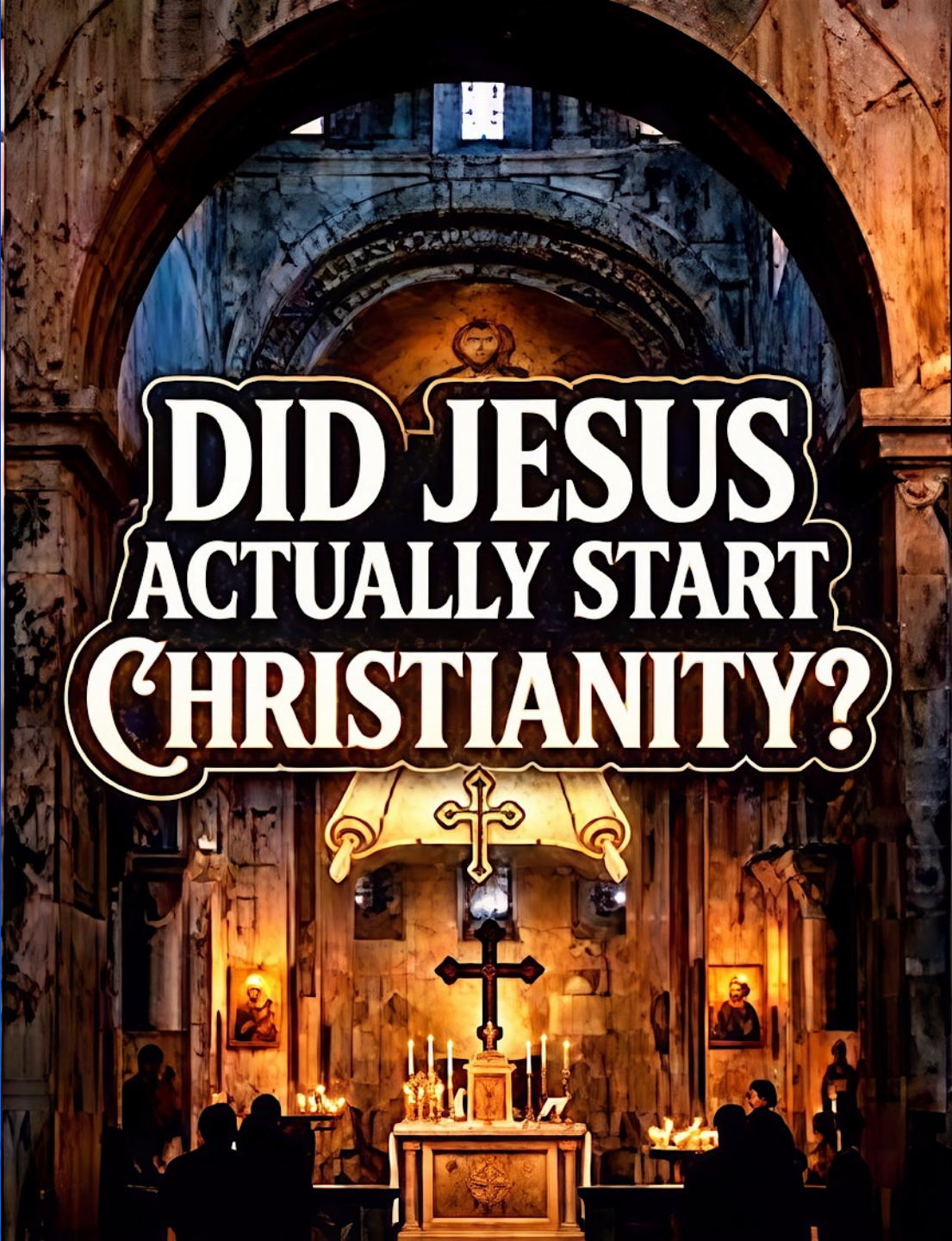
- Zephaniah 3:8 is a summation of what has been said
- The devastations that Israel will suffer will be the result of God assembling the nations for battle
- YLT 3:8 “...For the day of My rising for PREY...”
- Due to poetic parallels, “gather nations, gather kingdoms” means the same thing
- Unique: Every letter of the Hebrew alphabet is used

- Zephaniah 3:9
- **Ki az** = For then, meaning “after that”
- **Haphak** = to turn (not to change)
- “Convert” is NOT the same as “to turn”
- Many Bibles uses a translation path of Hebrew to Greek, Greek to Latin, Latin to English
- The meaning of words in a language evolves over time

The Conversion of Saint Paul ?



- A historical reconstruction is needed to know what those Bible words meant to the author and his audience
- Some Hebrew words represent entire concepts
- Traditional scholarship is that Yeshua started a new religion that disavowed the Torah and the Prophets



DID JESUS ACTUALLY START CHRISTIANITY?

PAUL'S “CONVERSION” EXPERIENCE ???



- Krister Stendhal
- Paul did NOT convert; to convert would mean he became a Gentile!
- Paul continued his lifelong faith
- Traditional Christianity says that Bible words are “magic”; they change with the times and so does their meaning

Paul was AGAINST conversion



- Jews did NOT make a distinction between Gentiles and Pagan Gentiles
- Jews to remain Jews; Gentiles to remain Gentiles; one was to turn from worshipping false gods to the God of Israel
- 1Thess 1:9 “You turned to God from idols”
- **Strepho** = turning to, changed in Latin to **coverso**, and then in English to convert

- Paul uses adoption as an example
- Paul expected Gentiles to “turn” from their false gods to the One True God
- Jews are resistant because the Church demands they convert from being a Jew
- Romans 2:25 – 3:6
- Zephaniah 3:9 People are to turn from any corrupted faith to the faith of the Bible

