



#1 A Fearful Picture of God's Wrath

#2 A Comforting Picture of God's Love

Hottest Book in The O.T.?

- “I will...consume (1:3); utterly consume (1:2); stretch out my hand (1:4); cut off (1:4); punish (1:8–9); search...and punish (1:12); bring distress (1:17); make speedy riddance (1:18); destroy (2:5); reduce to nothing (2:11); lay bare” (2:14).
- And if that’s not graphic enough, see 1:15.
- References to “the fire of His jealousy,” His “indignation,” and His “fierce anger” (1:18; 2:2; 3:8).

Against Whom Is This Wrath Directed?

- An all encompassing judgment (1:2–3).
 - 2:4–15—mentions specifically Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Ethiopia, and Assyria.
- Nation of Judah and the city of Jerusalem (1:4–6).
- Those who sinned (1:17).
- Those who refused correction (3:2, 7).
- Who therefore refused to repent (2:1–3).

God's Wrath is Real

- He does not make idle threats, but He does offer this word of hope:
 - “Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD” (2:3).
- Righteous not always spared physical destruction, but would be spared eternal destruction.

Noticeable Change in Tone (3:9–20)

- The prophet speaks of the remnant that will one day be gathered in Christ (“in that day”; “at that time”).
- **“I will...restore (3:9); rejoice over you with gladness ...quiet you with love...rejoice over you with singing (3:17); gather (3:18); save (3:19); appoint you for praise and fame (3:19–20); bring you back” (3:20).**

These Blessings Given to Whom?

- Those in Christ.
- People from all nations (3:9–10).
- Those devoted to the one true God (3:9–10).
- Those who “serve Him with one accord” (3:9).
- The “meek and humble” (3:12), in contrast to the arrogant sinners described earlier (2:8, 10; 3:4).
- Those who strive against sin (3:13).