

## Communion Meditation

Zeph 1.1-9, 2.1-3      “Resist Superstitions”      November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**What? – v2-3 ~ “I will utterly consume everything from the face of the land”**

- Not a summary of Zephaniah / Judgment promised for Judah around 640BC
- Life became more & more difficult / Decades passed but judgment came

**Why? – v4-9 ~ “I will cut off every trace of Baal .. but also (syncretism) ..”**

- “Why is God sending judgment?”
  - v4-5 ~ The people worship idols, heavens, swear to Jehovah and others
  - v6 ~ No longer serve or seek Jehovah
  - v9 ~ “I will punish all those who leap over the threshold”

### Popular Superstitions

- Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> / Itchy palms (*right – \$ in, left - \$ out – scratch to undo it*)
- Walking under a ladder (*disturbing spirits – place thumbs at fingers juncture*)
- Breaking mirrors (*7 years bad luck - bury during full moon*)
- Horseshoes (*right-side up – pick up w/right hand – spit on it – throw over left*)
- Spilled salt (*throw a pinch over left shoulder to ward off spirits attracted by it*)
- black cats (*witches kept them – shape shifters – Napoleon / Hitler*)
- sneezing (*“God bless you – Gazuntheit” – ward off black plague in 1665*)

**“What was with leaping over the threshold?”**

- **Read 1 Sam 5.1-5** ~ “.. the Philistines took the ark .. to this day.”
- God was not pleased with people honoring that event in this way
- God deposed Dagon / Not stepping on threshold was to honor Dagon

**“Why are People Superstitious?”**

- It explains why bad things sometimes happen to them
- It gives them an illusion of control over difficult aspects of life
- It’s easy to scoff at some superstitions – But, do we ignore our own?
- If we miss devotions are we quick to believe anything bad is God’s rebuke?

**Our God is One – Yet He is also 3 Persons / Superstitions depersonalize God**  
**Pray to God when tempted by superstitious thoughts**