

The Book of Zephaniah
Naples Men’s Bible Study: 12-14-18

The Name Zephaniah Means: “Yahweh has _____”

Date of Zephaniah’s Writings: around 640 - 609 BC

Historical Setting: Israel had experienced God’s discipline through the Assyrian invasion and exile (722 BC). For more than 50 years, Judah had been under Assyrian oppression and pagan influence. The Babylonian kingdom was on the rise. Most likely, Zephaniah was written *before* Josiah’s reforms began.

Apocalyptic Literature: “A special kind of literature used to reveal mysteries about about heaven and earth, humankind and God, angels and demons, and the world to come.” (*Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*)

Recurring Theme: “_____” is used here more than any other prophetic book (23x)

Purpose: “_____ Judah and Jerusalem of the imminent judgement and devastation coming upon them because of their rebellion and disobedience. This is designed to indicate future cataclysmic judgement and _____ Israel **to hope** and trust in the Lord because of His promise of future restoration, healing, and blessings for the faithful remnant of Israel (Zeph. 1:2-2:7; 3:12-18).” (*Moody Bible Commentary*)

1:2-3: Coming Judgment On The Entire Earth

Vs. 2-3 use the Hebrew word “אָסַף”
 “Asoph” - *utterly sweep away, destroy, completely sweep away*
 Used 3 times to indicate the certainty of the decision, it will happen

Genesis Order of Creation (1:20-27)	Zephaniah Order of Destruction
Fish	
Birds	
Beast	
Man	

1:4-18: Coming judgment on Judah and Jerusalem

V. 17-18 remind us that _____ and _____ cannot buy us a ticket of escape from God's wrath.

2:1-3: Admonition to repent

2:4-11a: Judgment against the nations

The Day of the Lord has 2 parts: an _____ and a _____.

4-7: _____ will be the first nation judged by God.

8-15: _____ and _____ East of Israel, are the next to be judged.

Paul also warned Gentiles against arrogance towards God's people in Rom. 11.

"The nations are exceedingly dull in learning how greatly they displease the Lord when they deal in pride against the nation whom He has chosen as His medium for world-wide blessing" - Charles Feinberg

3:1-5: State of Jerusalem

3:6-8a: Assyrian campaign review: Failure

3:8b: Worldwide judgment

3:9-20: Hope amidst judgment: Spiritual & physical restoration

11-13: Israel will experience _____.

14-17: Israel will experience _____.

18-20: Israel will experience _____.

The prophet Zephaniah, by focusing on "the day of the LORD," continually forced the reader to look for that day when Israel comes to know her Messiah, and He will fulfill every promise He made to the nation. (MBC)