

Through the Bible Course

**November 23, 1947**

## **Zephaniah**

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Key Thought: Day of the Lord

Key Verse: 1:14

Author: Zephaniah identifies himself with the royal house, being a great-great grandson of Hezekiah.

Time: About 625 BC, a contemporary of Jeremiah (at least during portion of his ministry). Israel carried captive and Judah still living indifferent to God.

Object: To warn of coming judgment and to comfort the hearts of the godly remnant who had not denied God. Zephaniah is a summary of what the other prophets have been saying.

- I. Chapters 1-2:3 – The general truths about the Day of the Lord – directed particularly against Jerusalem
  1. Verses 2-6 – Solemn warning of Jehovah’s judgment
    - a. Verse 6 – “Them that are turned back from the Lord and those that have not sought the Lord, nor inquired for Him.”
  2. Verses 7-18 – More detailed account of how awful threatenings would be carried out (Notice especially verses 7, 10, 11, 12, and 18).
  3. Chapter 2 verses 1-3 – A call to the remnant to seek the Lord
- II. Chapter 2:4-3:7 – Warnings and admonitions to the nations
  1. Here again as in so many other prophets we have foretold divine judgment upon the nations.
  2. Chapter 3 verses 1-7 – Here is description of moral state of Jerusalem in the prophets time.
    - a. Notice condition of princes, judges, prophets and priests
    - b. Verses 6, 7 – God says He punished nations hoping Judah would repent, “but they rose early and corrupted all their doings.”
- III. Chapter 3:8-20 – Encouragement and promise of salvation to those who repent
  1. Verses 8-13 – God will pour out His judgment
    - a. Verse 12 – a remnant shall be left
  2. Verses 14-20 – The godly remnant shall enjoy the favor of Jehovah

Three Lessons on “Day of the Lord” (Suggested by Dr. G. Campbell Morgan)

- I. Content of the Day of the Lord

1. Chapter 1, verses 2 and 12 – God will visit this earth in sudden, swift and irrevocable judgment. Refer to 2 Peter 3:10, 11.
2. Chapter 1, verse 14 – Not as in other days, but with supernatural judgment.

II. Extent of the Day of the Lord

1. Chapter 1, verse 12 – Judgment will be discriminative
  - a. Chapter 3, verses 1 and 2 – Judgment upon luxury and indifference
2. Chapter 3:3ff – results

III. Intent of the Day of the Lord

1. Chapter 3:14ff – The enthronement of the Lord
2. There will be a new order

Conclusion: Warning – 2 Peter 3:10-18