

### *Historical & Scriptural Placement:*

The prophet Zephaniah ministered in the Southern Kingdom of Judah between 640-609 B.C. His ministry occurred during the reign of the Godly King Josiah (2 Chronicles 34 & 35). Most believe Zephaniah's prophecies heavily influenced Josiah who made many critical reforms leading to the last, great, spiritual revival in Judah. According to verse one, if the Hezekiah mentioned was royalty, Zephaniah could have been a cousin of Josiah.

**Main Point:** With the Babylonian threat looming, Zephaniah prophesied concerning the coming judgment of Judah and further discusses the future Day of the Lord where God would judge all nations. Though there were many reasons God's judgment was inevitable, Zephaniah zeros in on the nations idolatry as being the primary cause. Judah was guilty of dual worship. They worshipped pagan gods in addition to the true God of Israel.

The book of Zephaniah is an important read because it bridges the gap of two seemingly contrary characteristics of God. Though the majority of Zephaniah's prophetic word is a raw description of God's judgment, the prophet does a wonderful job connecting God's punishment with His love. In many ways we only recognize God's love displayed in His blessings. Zephaniah challenges us to see God's love equally manifested in His judgment. In his explanation of what he calls the "Dark Side of Love", J. Vernon McGee says, "Love places the eternal security and permanent welfare of the object of love above any transitory or temporary comfort or present pleasure down here upon this earth."

**Key Verse:** Zephaniah 3:17: "The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

## THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH

### **SECTION #1: JUDGMENT OF JUDAH**

CH 1:1 INTRODUCTION OF ZEPHANIAH  
CH 1:2-3 SUMMARY OF GOD'S JUDGMENT  
CH 1:4-18 JUDGMENT OF JUDAH (IDOLATRY)

### **SECTION #2: JUDGEMENT OF THE NATIONS**

CH 2:1-3 INTERLUDE FOR SALVATION  
CH 2:4-15 JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS  
CH 3:1-7 JUDGMENT ON JERUSALEM  
CH 3:8 JUDGE & JURY

### **SECTION #3: THE END RESULT**

CH 3:9-13 PROMISE OF RESTORATION  
CH 3:14-20 GOD'S LOVE & HIS FAITHFULNESS



### *Day 1: Four Generations.....*

**Zephaniah 1:1 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Why was it significant that Zephaniah listed his genealogy out four generations (reference Deuteronomy 23:8)? (2). Why did God prohibit the Jews from intermarrying with their surrounding nations? (3). How many races did God create and why is this significant?

### *Day 2: Dual Worship.....*

**Zephaniah 1:4-6 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). According to this passage, in addition to idolatry, what crime were the people guilty of committing? (2). Why does Satan allow us to worship God in addition to our worship of idols? (3). Why is dual worship such a horrible crime against God?

### *Day 3: Shut Up.....*

**Zephaniah 1:7-9 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Why does God tell the children of Israel to “be silent in the presence of the Lord?” (2). When we hear the Word of the Lord, why is our first impression always to think of the other people who need to hear that message instead of thinking about ourselves? (3). How does self-denial and self-righteousness interconnect?

### *Day 4: Hide & Destroy.....*

**Zephaniah 2:1-3 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Why is the Lord encouraging people to seek His face? (2). What is being referred to with the phrase “the day of the Lord?” (3). In the face of God’s judgment, those seeking the Lord would be hidden from God’s judgement. How would the righteous be hidden from this event?

### *Day 5: I Am It.....*

**Zephaniah 2:13-15 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What core indictment concerning Niveveh God would judge her concerning? (2). What does it mean to be prideful and arrogant (3). Why does God promise to “resist the proud”? Why is He angered over human pride?

### *Day 6: God Song.....*

**Zephaniah 3:14-17 // THINKING POINT:** (1). Though the events of this world continue on a downward trajectory towards judgment, in what way should these verses provide encouragement (2). What insight does the reality that God will sing over His people give concerning His personality? (3). In what way will the “Mighty One” save His people?

**DEVOTIONS**

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