

Outline of Zephaniah

The book of Zephaniah is about the Day of the Lord. Zephaniah is a great-great-grandson of king Hezekiah (Hezekiah, Amariah, Gedaliah, Cushi, Zephaniah) and he prophesied during the days of King Josiah. This puts his ministry around 640-630 B.C.

I. Introduction.....	1:1
II. Thorough Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem	1:2-18
A. Certain judgment on Judah	1:2-13
B. Description of the Day of the Lord	1:14-18
III. Call to Repentance	2:1-3
A. The meek entreated to seek God.....	2:1-3a
B. Judgment may pass over some.....	2:3b
IV. Judgment on the Nations.....	2:4-15
A. Judgment on the seacoast nations (west)	2:4-7
B. Judgment on Moab and Ammon (east).....	2:8-11
C. Judgment on Ethiopia (south).....	2:12
D. Judgment on Assyria, Nineveh (north)	2:13-15
V. Charges Against Israel	3:1-7
A. The rebellion of the people	3:1-4
B. The justice of God.....	3:5
C. Lesson from destruction of other nations not heeded	3:6-7
VI. Future Judgment and Blessing.....	3:8-20
A. Judgment and restoration of the nations	3:8-9
B. Israel gathered and regenerated	3:10-13
C. The King's presence the guarantee of blessing.....	3:14-20

Notes

- 1:12 suggests an attitude that God is irrelevant to the affairs of the day; that He will not care either way what happens. How false! Notice the use of the term “lamps” which indicates a thorough searching out for these types of people. They will not escape!
- Notice the “I will” statements of chapter 1 (2, 3 [3x], 4 [2x], 8, 9). There is no uncertainty here!
- Notice that the book initially describes the Day of the Lord as a period of great darkness (1:15).
- Note 2:10 where reasons are given for the destruction of the surrounding nations (pride, reproach and threats against God’s people Israel—see 2:8). 1:17 gives an additional reason, this for the judgment upon Judah and Jerusalem: sin.
- Note 3:1-2 where reasons are given for the downfall of Jerusalem (oppression, disobedience, unteachable, unbelief, not drawn near to God).
- Note 3:9ff where there is a period of great blessing.
- The end of chapter 3 predicts the fulfillment of Deut. 26:19, the exaltation of Israel.
- The “pure language” of 3:9 is not a universal language but is the fruit of regeneration for the nations. They will have pure speech as proof of what has happened to them. They will no longer heap insults, reproaches, and arrogant threats against Israel.