

Zephaniah I-3 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. From 2:1-3 what invitation did God give (v1-2, 3)? Who was offered the possibility of escape (v3)? Apply.

5. Using 2:4-7 who would be affected by God's judgment (v4, 5) and who would benefit from it (v6-7)? Why (v7)?

6. In 2:8-15 how would each of the three nations be judged (v9, 11, 12, 13-14)? What attitudes invoked this judgment (v8, 10, 15)?

7. According to 3:1-7 what had God done for Jerusalem (v5-6) and why would they be judged (v1, 2, 3-4, 7)?

8. From 3:8-13 what did God tell His faithful people to do (v8) and why (v8-9, 10)? What would happen to His people in that "day" (v11, 12, 13)?

9. Read 3:14-17. How are God's people told to respond (v14, 16) and why (v15, 17)? In what way do these verses apply to us now?

10. Looking at 3:18-20 what are the characteristics of those whom God will gather (v18, 19) and what will He do for them (v19, 20)?

11. Think back over Zephaniah. What will the negative and positive effects of the "day of the Lord" be and who will experience each? How can we apply that to our lives today?

Scripture to Remember

"The Lord has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you will fear disaster no more."

Zephaniah 3:15 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—Get on the Truth Train—(2 Timothy 2:14-26)

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. What were some of the sayings that your family passed on to you (for example, "waste not, want not")? Have you found them to be true?
2. Read 2 Tim 2:15. What does this verse tell us to do? How do most people get the truth they live by? Why is it so important to identify the source?
4. Give some examples of the world's wisdom that has crept into our minds, and some ways that the truth tends to get compromised today. Why does this happen?
5. Discuss why biblical truth often seems complicated. What are some of the "simple" truths that can direct our lives? How can we keep it simple?
6. Talk about some ways that we tend to add to the truth of the Bible and why we get into conflict over it. What causes this?
7. Why are our lives often the greatest contradiction to the truth? Do you think that what people really want to know about the Bible is whether or not it works?
8. If there is anything else from the message that impressed you, share it.



IN YOUR FACE

Studies in the Minor Prophets

July 6, 2008

Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 6, Issue 36



People Get Ready

Introduction to Zephaniah 1-3

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

In 1965 Curtis Mayfield and the Impressions recorded the hit song, “People Get Ready”, a song of hope of a day that was coming without racism. The prophet Zephaniah also spoke of a day that was coming that would end all evil—the “Day of the Lord”, referenced often in the prophets, that would not only eradicate the evil of all mankind, but also the evil in God’s people. Zephaniah’s prophecy began with God rebuking His people. While the entire earth would be stripped of both man and beast, He would specifically stretch out His hand against those of His people who practiced evil. This included both people and priests who worshiped the idols Baal and Milcom, those who bowed before the star gods, and all who had turned from following the Lord. Fur-

thermore, He would punish those who perpetrated violence, along with those who had become complacent thinking that the Lord would do nothing about their sin. While the day of the Lord was near, though, God graciously called the humble to seek Him so that perhaps they would be hidden from His wrath on that day. He would also retaliate against the proud among all nations on that day. This included the coastal areas of Philistia; their fertile pastures would be given to God’s people, revealing the positive side of judgment for those who followed God. Also, Moab, Ethiopia, and Assyria would receive God’s judgment, falling to the sword and becoming desolate and parched like a wilderness. God would respond like this primarily because of their arrogant atti-



It is good when God gets in our face and straightens us up through His Word.

tude towards Him. Even the proud of Jerusalem would come under judgment because of their rebellion. The book closes, though, with God’s promise of restoring His people. They would be purified, unified, and made secure by God. They would shout for joy as He removed His judgment, then sang quietly and shouted joyfully over them in love. Those who shared His heart, along with the lame and outcasts, would be restored. For both the evil and righteous the word from Zephaniah was “people get ready”.

Daily Study Questions for Zephaniah 1-3

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com, small groups, abf)

<p>1. Read Zephaniah 1:1-6. What message did God declare through Zephaniah against the earth (v2-3) and against Judah (v4-6)? What were they doing wrong (v4-6)?</p>	
<p>2. Using 1:7-13 what was coming (v7) and how should everyone react (v7)? What would God do on that “day” (v8, 9, 11, 12)? What would result (v10-11, 13)?</p>	
<p>3. Looking at 1:14-18 describe the “great day of the Lord” (v14, 15-16) and how it will affect men (17). Why will no one escape (v18)?</p>	

(Continued on Next Page)