

ZEPHANIAH

A 5 Day Bible Study



Read Zephaniah 1:1

1. Who was Zephaniah and what can you infer about him from his heritage?
(see Micah Day 1 for background on Hezekiah)
2. From 2 Kings 22:1-23:25, list key facts about the reign of King Josiah.
3. What was the state of the nation before Josiah became king?
4. Despite Josiah's reforms, what was the Lord's posture toward the people of Judah?
(see 2 Kings 22:17 & 23:26-27)

The people of Jerusalem gave lip service to the covenant under Josiah, but history shows their hearts were unchanged. How does this impact the way you pray for others?

Read Zephaniah 1:1-18

1. Besides Judah in general (v. 4), what specific groups would be judged? (1:2-9)

What about this prophecy seems to point to Judah's near future, and what points to the end of time?

2. List all you learn about the Day of the Lord from 1:7-18.
3. Idolatry is cited as a reason for God's wrath. Read Exodus 20:3-6 and Isaiah 42:8 and record God's posture toward idolatry.

How would you define an idol? What idols are prevalent in our culture, and what is God's disposition toward them?

4. What belief in verse 12 led to complacency? When is it easy to become complacent in life?

What modern idols threaten to derail your wholehearted worship of God?

Read Zephaniah 2:1-3:7

1. In verses 1-3, what was the appropriate response to Zephaniah's warning, and what outcome did he hope for?

What phrases in 2:1-3 indicate the timing and urgency of Zephaniah's admonishment?

2. Warnings went out to cities of Philistia (2:4-7), and other nations (2:8-15). What predominant sins were called out in v. 8, 10 & 15, and what would be the consequences of this sin?
3. Why do you think God hates pride so vehemently? (also see Ps 10:4, Isa 45:5-6)
4. The sins of Judah are brought to light in 3:1-7. Of what were God's people guilty?
5. What attributes of God are highlighted in these verses?

1 Thessalonians 5:2 tells us that the final Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. What will you do to be ready for that day?

Read Zephaniah 3:8-20

1. Look at the instruction in verse 8. What were God's people waiting for?
2. What was promised to the remnant of God's people in 2:6-7 & 9?
3. Record details of the glorious hope prophesied in 3:9-13. How is the faithful remnant characterized?
4. A distinct shift in tone occurs in chapter 3. What actions are encouraged in verses 14-15, and for what reasons?
5. List all the statements of what God will do in v. 16-20.
6. When were, or when will, these promises be fulfilled?

Read Jeremiah 29:11-14. From what has God "brought you back?"
Write a prayer of praise to the God who redeems!

Read Zephaniah 3:16-17

1. Meditate on these two verses. Read them several times, perhaps in a few different versions of the Bible, letting them wash over you.
2. Write out these verses phrase by phrase on the left side of the page. On the right side, think about what this truth means for you personally. An example is given.

On that day it shall be said...

Fear not/do not be afraid

What this means for me...

I not only have the option, but am commanded to resist fear. If God commands it, it is possible.

What is your most significant takeaway from this book?

