
Zephaniah

Introduction (1:1)

I. God's Destruction of Judah in the Day of the Lord (1:2-18)

A. God's Wrath toward His People (1:2-18)

1. The Cause of God's Wrath—Unfaithful Devotion (1:2-6)
 - a. A Clean Sweep of Humankind (1:2-3)
 - b. Judah's Idolatrous Backsliding (1:4-6)
2. The Consequences of God's Wrath—Unrelenting Destruction (1:7-13)
 - a. "Be Silent!" (1:7)
 - b. "Be Warned!" (1:8-13)
3. The Characteristics of God's Wrath—Unbearable Distress (1:14-18)
 - a. A Day of Wrath and Warfare (1:14-16)
 - b. A Day of Blindness and Bloodshed (1:17)
 - c. A Day of Helplessness and Hopelessness (1:18)

B. God's Warning to His People (2:1-3)

1. "Gather Together..." (2:1-2)
 - a. "...Before the Appointed Time Arrives"
 - b. "...Before the Fierce Anger of the Lord Comes Upon You"
 - c. "...Before the Day of the Lord's Wrath Comes Upon You"
2. "Seek the Lord..." (2:3)
 - a. "...through Humility"
 - b. "...through Obedience"

- c. "...through Righteousness"
- d. "...through Humility"

II. God's Defeat of the Nations in the Day of the Lord (2:4-15)

A. The Philistines (2:4-7)

1. Five Major Cities (2:4)

- a. Gaza
- b. Ashkelon
- c. Ashdod
- d. Ekron
- e. Gath

2. Four Word Plays (2:4)

- a. Gaza (*'azzah*, "strong") ... will be abandoned (*'azubah*, "abandoned").
- b. Ashkelon (named for a plant, fertility of the land) ... will be left in ruins (desolation).
- c. Ashdod ("stronghold, fortress") ... will be emptied at midday (weak, taken in broad daylight).
- d. Ekron (*'eqron*, "to root up") ... will be uprooted (*te'aqer*).

3. Three National Entities (2:5)

- a. The Kerethites
- b. The Canaanites
- c. The Philistines

4. Two Terrible Judgments (2:6-7)

- a. Destruction—A Place for Shepherds and Sheep Pens
- b. Transfer of Ownership—A Place for the Jewish Remnant

5. One Jewish Remnant (2:7)

- a. A Promised Remnant of Believers
- b. A Perpetual Remnant of Believers

B. The Moabites and Ammonites (2:8-11)

1. Insulting the People of God (2:8)
2. Incurring the Judgment of God (2:9-11)
 - a. Reduction of the Land (2:9a)
 - b. Redistribution of the Land (2:9b)
 - c. Redirection of Worship (2:10-11)

C. The Cushites (2:12)

D. The Assyrians (2:13-15)

1. Nineveh –A Dry and Desolate City (2:13)
2. Nineveh—A Forsaken and Forgotten City (2:14)
3. Nineveh—A Conceited and Careless City (2:15)

III. God's Disappointment with Jerusalem in the Day of the Lord (3:1-7)

A. The Corruption of the People (3:1-4)

1. The People (3:1-2)
2. The Princes (3:3)
3. The Prophets (3:4a)
4. The Priests (3:4b)

B. The Consistency of the Lord (3:5)

1. God is consistently righteous (3:5a).
2. God is consistently just (3:5b).

C. The Condemnation of the City (3:6-7)

1. The Destruction of the Cities of the Nations (3:6)
2. The Destruction of the City of Jerusalem (3:7)

IV. God's Deliverance of the Remnant in the Day of the Lord (3:8-20)

A. The Punishment of Israel's Enemies (3:8)

1. God will "stand up to testify."
2. God will "assemble the nations."
3. God will "pour out his wrath."
4. God will "consume the whole world."

B. The Purity of Israel's Remnant (3:9-13)

1. Redemption of the Nations (3:9)
2. Return of the Scattered (3:10)
3. Removal of the Proud (3:11-12)
4. Righteousness of the Remnant (3:13)

C. The Presence of Israel's King (3:14-17)

1. God's presence brings rejoicing (3:14).
2. God's presence brings courage (3:15-16).
3. God's presence brings peace (3:17).

D. The Praise of Israel's Name (3:18-20)

1. A Restored Joy (3:18)

2. A Restored Reputation (3:19)

3. A Restored Prosperity (3:20)