



Zephaniah was the *Polaroid Prophet* of royal descent. His lineage goes back to Hezekiah...to David. He provided brief snapshots of the messages of the longer "major" prophets Isaiah & Jeremiah. Strangely, while preaching during King Josiah's amazing restorations, he never mentioned them. I wonder why? Perhaps Jeremiah hints at the answer — "...Judah hat not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD." Jeremiah 3:10b

B.L.U.F. (bottom line up front): *There's a great day coming!*

1. Ignoring God has Consequences...on God's N

1:1-2:3; 3:1-7

- 1) Judgment is Coming! 1:2-9, 12, 14-15, 18
- 2) Grace is Offered 2:1-3
- 3) Grace is Spurned 3:1-7

2. Ignoring God has Consequences...on God's W

2:4-15

3. Seeking God brings Consequences...to God's P

3:8-20

- 1) Removes S v. 11
- 2) Rejoices Over S v. 16-17
- 3) Gathers Saints T v. 19
- 4) Exults I v. 20



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God sings to me?!?

Synopsis: Zephaniah was one of the last prophets of Judah before the nation fell to the Babylonian invaders. Josiah, who reigned over Judah during Zephaniah's ministry, was the last of the righteous kings of this Southern Kingdom. So the Jews had the offer of much spiritual guidance and help in those years. Their sin in rejecting this light from God is a dark chapter of their history. (Irving Jensen, *Jensen's Survey of the Old Testament*, p. 441)

Zephaniah ministered during King Josiah's great reformation of Judah.

"But Zephaniah saw deeper than the skin; he saw the hearts of the people, and he knew that their religious zeal was not sincere. The reforms were shallow; the people got rid of the idols in their homes, but not the idols in their hearts. The rulers of the land were still greedy and disobedient, and the city of Jerusalem was the source of all kinds of wickedness in the land. Even today, many believers lack discernment and think that every 'religious movement' is a genuine work of the Lord." (Warren Wiersbe, Whole Bible Study Course, Zephaniah)

Outline:

Theme: *Through Judgment to Blessing*

Compare the 1st verse (1:2 – after introduction verse) to the last verse (3:20)

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| <p>I. Day of the Lord – Judgment! 1:1-18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Destruction of All Things v. 1-3B. Causes of Judgment v. 4-9C. Nature of Judgment v. 10-18 <p>II. Day of the Lord – Salvation! 2:1-3:20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Salvation Offered 2:1-3:8B. Remnant Among Nations Saved 3:9-10C. Remnant Among Israel Saved 3:11-13D. Joy of the kingdom 3:14-20 |
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"...I will utterly consume all things from off the land....I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth...."

Key Verses: 1:2 & 3:20

The Cliff Notes of the Prophets: "If anyone wished all the secret oracles of the prophets to be given in a brief compendium, let him read through this brief Zephaniah." (Bucer, commentary written in 1528, quoted in Twombly, p. 106)

Today's Preacher:

- 1st Honesty – preach sin & judgment
- 2nd Grace – offer mercy
- 3rd Optimism – end with hope