

Zephaniah

Key Verse:

Zephaniah 2:3 Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord's anger.

Meekness is not **weakness**! Meekness is the removal of self from the **equation**.

Purpose: Warn **Judah** of impending judgment

Author: **Zephaniah** - Jehovah has **treasured** or protected

To Whom Written: Judah (the **Southern** Kingdom)

Date written: **642-621** BC

Number of Chapters: **3**

Number of Verses: **53**

Introduction to Zephaniah

- Zephaniah identifies himself better than any of the other Minor Prophets.
- He traced his lineage back to his great-great-grandfather, Hizkiah (whom we know as **Hezekiah**), king of Judah.
- Zephaniah was of the **royal** line.
- The days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of **Judah** (**Zephaniah 1:1**)
- Zephaniah was the last of the prophets before the **Captivity**.
- He was contemporary with **Jeremiah**
- He is credited with helping to **start** the revival during the reign of Josiah.
- The same theme as the Gospel of **John**
- John is called the apostle of **love**
- Zephaniah is the prophet of **love** through punishment

Love often leads to **discipline** through **punishment**

Zephaniah 3:17 The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Zephaniah 3:1 Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!

- The Book of Zephaniah is filled with the **wrath** and judgment of God, but there is the undertone of the **love** of God

The Term “Jealousy” occurs **twice** in this book.

Zephaniah 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

Zephaniah 3:8 Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: **for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.**

- God is jealous of the love those who are **His**.
- He is jealous for the love of **mankind**.
- His jealousy is for the **affection** of His people

Outline

I. Who am I? (Zephaniah 1:1)

A. Son of a King – Great grandson of King **Hezekiah**

B. Days of **Josiah**

C. May have led to the **Temple** Revival (II Kings 22-23 II Chronicles 34-35)

II. The great day of the Lord (Zephaniah 1:1-2:3)

III. God lashes out on Israel's **enemies** (Zephaniah 2:4-18)

IV. God's punishment on **His** chosen city (Zephaniah 3:1-8)

V. Israel shall eventually **repent** (Zephaniah 3:9-20)