Historical/Biblical Background to Zephaniah

1. Contemporary setting – Josiah the king
   • Wicked father and grandfather
   • Wicked sons and grandson
   • Spiritual revival

2. Dueling forces in Old Testament History
   • The Promise of God to Abraham.
   • The intractable sin of man

3. The prophets preached two outcomes.
   • The eternal wrath of God
   • The eternal blessing of God

4. Zephaniah’s message
   • The LORD will pour out His burning anger
   • The LORD will rejoice over His people with singing
Zephaniah – The Day of the LORD

The Coming Judgment
- A clean sweep
- LORD’S sacrifice
- The Day of disaster (1:14-16)
- He will bring distress upon mankind
- A full and sudden end of all the inhabitants of the earth

Why is God so angry?
- idolatry (1:5)
- not seek the LORD (1:6)
- foreign attire (1:8)
- violence and stealing (1:9)
- despise the LORD (1:12)

The Day of the LORD is near
- The true perspective for life
- Hebrews 10:28-31

What shall I do? What can I do?
Zephaniah

Theme: The Day of the LORD

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Amazing Grace
Zephaniah 2:1-4

Prepare yourself
  • Gather together
  • Shameless nation – a nation not desired
An sense of urgency
Seek the LORD
  • The seeker’s character
  • The seeker’s passion
Perhaps you may be hidden
The warning from history
Woe to the nations  
Zephaniah 2:5-15

Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites, Cushites, Assyrians

Inhabitants of the seacoast – Cherethites and Philistines
  • The Word of the LORD is against you
  • Total destruction
  • The remnant will possess the land

Moab and Ammon
  • Taunts and reviling
  • Total destruction
  • The remnant will possess the land

Cushites – Ethiopia
  • Death by the sword

Assyria
  • Destruction and desolation
  • “I and there is no I besides”
Rebellious and defiled
- Listens to no voice
- Accepts no correction
- No trust in the LORD
- Does not draw near to the LORD

Corrupt leadership
- Officials – roaring lions
- Judges – evening wolves
- Prophets – fickle and treacherous
- Priests – profane the holy; violate the law

The LORD is righteous
- The standard for Israel

Despised the warning

Wait for wrath