

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

Sweep & Seek			Woe & Joy		
Coming Universal Judgment	The Day of the LORD	Seek the LORD	Woe #1 Nations	Woe #2 Judah	Salvation
1:1-6	1:7-18	2:1-4	2:5-15	3:1-8	3:9-20

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”**

Woe to Israel/Judah

Zephaniah 3:1-8

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