

# UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

... the just shall live by his faith Habakkuk 2:4



## ZEPHANIAH

*Faith In His Promise*

**Promise of Judgement**

Zephaniah 1:1-18

Lesson 1

### Background Information

Decades before the fall of Jerusalem, the prophet Zephaniah came on the scene. His ministry played a significant role in preparing Judah for the revivals that took place during the reign of the nation's last righteous king, Josiah. He became king of Judah at the age of eight, and by the age of sixteen his heart had already begun to turn toward God. He attempted to tear down all of the altars of Baal and turn the hearts of the people back to God. Though Josiah initiated outward reform, it never got to the heart of the people. It was only a surface change, and the people went along with it because the king promoted it and the people went along with whatever was popular. As soon as Josiah was gone, the people reverted to their idolatry and evil ways.

The main message speaks of "the day of the Lord". Though it applies historically to the invasion of Babylon in 606 B.C., prophetically, it speaks of a future day of wrath at the end of the age. Zephaniah saw both the wrath and the mercy of God. He announced that judgment would come to Judah, Jerusalem and the gentile nations, but mercy was promised to those who would repent and turn back to God. The one ray of hope that the prophet offered, was that those who would listen, would heed and obey the warning.

Zephaniah means "hidden in the Lord", a name that relates to the principal message the prophet presented. Zephaniah traces his lineage back four generations to Hezekiah. This is most likely King Hezekiah, the King of Judah. If this is the case; he is the great-great-grandson of the godly King Hezekiah, and the only prophet to have royal descent.

The message to us is especially timely today, as we see the end of the age nearing. We can almost hear the prophets voice resounding around us, "Seek the Lord while there is still time!"

*Treasures of the Heart*

**The great day of the Lord is near; It is near and hastens quickly.  
Zephaniah 1:13**



### Zephaniah 1:4-13

4 "I will stretch out My hand against Judah, And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place, The names of the idolatrous priests with the [pagan] priests-- 5 Those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops; Those who worship and swear [oaths] by the LORD, but who [also] swear by Milcom; 6 Those who have turned back from [following] the LORD, and have not sought the LORD, nor inquired of Him."

7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD; For the day of the LORD [is] at hand, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests. 8 "And it shall be, In the day of the LORD's sacrifice, That I will punish the princes and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with foreign apparel. 9 In the same day I will punish All those who leap over the threshold, who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit. 10 "And there shall be on that day," says the LORD, "The sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate, A wailing from the Second Quarter, And a loud crashing from the hills. 11 Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh! For all the merchant people are cut down; All those who handle money are cut off. 12 "And it shall come to pass at that time [That] I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men Who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will He do evil.' 13 Therefore their goods shall become booty, and their houses a desolation; They shall build houses, but not inhabit [them]; They shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine."



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## **W**hat does it mean?



What lesson can I draw from my observations? Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?” Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

Zephaniah 1:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Zephaniah 1:4-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Zephaniah 1:14-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **H**ow can I apply it?



Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?” How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 *words* or less)

Zephaniah 1:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Zephaniah 1:4-13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Zephaniah 1:14-18 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Challenge:** Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

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**W**hat **D**id **G**od **S**ay?

See if you can discover what God wants us to understand about His ways? Which of His attributes is He displaying? When we are questioning the circumstances that surround us, understanding Who God is helps us trust Him when we don't see Him working. **Simply state what God is trying to communicate about Himself and how it affects your thinking.**

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**W**hat words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

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**D**efine three words: does it supply any added meaning to the text?

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## **Getting The Point**

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Zephaniah 1:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

Zephaniah 1:4-13 \_\_\_\_\_

Zephaniah 1:14-18 \_\_\_\_\_

**Title** State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

**Flex Your Muscles** Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

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### **Radiating His Truth...**

**True revival penetrates to the heart, not just surface change.**

Unknown

