## UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

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

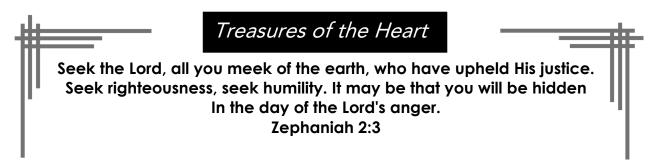


### **Background Information**

The sovereign God will judge not only His own but also the whole world – no one escapes from His authority and dominion. In His judgment, the nations around Judah would also feel the wrath of God. The prophets Amos, Isaiah and Jeremiah had warned them that judgment was coming, but the Gentiles did not repent. God would punish their mistreatment of God's people, along with their pride and their worship of false gods.

In His mercy God promised the "meek ones" who would turn to Him, that they would be hidden in Him, and cared for during the day of wrath. There would be a righteous remnant in Judah, there would also be people coming to God from the nations of the earth. His desire was to spare the people, but they ultimately rejected His call to repentance. Though He warned of coming judgment, God promised a future day of hope and joy. Wrath and mercy, severity and kindness, cannot be separated in the character of God.

The time is now to turn to God as we near the end of the age and the destruction of the whole earth! God's people must "redeem the time" that is left to reach out to a lost and dying world!





# What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. Carefully observe the text looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. Mark your text looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

### Zephaniah 2:1-3

1 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation, 2 Before the decree is issued, [Or] the day passes like chaff, Before the LORD's fierce anger comes upon you, Before the day of the LORD's anger comes upon you! 3 Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the LORD's anger.



### Digging Deeper

Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps and cross-references.

### Zephaniah 2:4-7

4 For Gaza shall be forsaken, And Ashkelon desolate; They shall drive out Ashdod at noonday, And Ekron shall be uprooted. 5 Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, The nation of the Cherethites! The word of the LORD [is] against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines: "I will destroy you; So there shall be no inhabitant." 6 The seacoast shall be pastures, With shelters for shepherds and folds for flocks. 7 The coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; They shall feed [their] flocks there; In the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening. For the LORD their God will intervene for them, And return their captives.

### Zephaniah 2:8-11

8 "I have heard the reproach of Moab, And the insults of the people of Ammon, With which they have reproached My people, And made arrogant threats against their borders. 9 Therefore, as I live," Says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Surely Moab shall be like Sodom, And the people of Ammon like Gomorrah--Overrun with weeds and saltpits, And a perpetual desolation. The residue of My people shall plunder them, And the remnant of My people shall possess them." 10 This they shall have for their pride, Because they have reproached and made arrogant threats Against the people of the LORD of hosts. 11 The LORD [will be] awesome to them, For He will reduce to nothing all the gods of the earth; [People] shall worship Him, Each one from his place, Indeed all the shores of the nations.

### **Zephaniah 2:12-15**

12 "You Ethiopians also, You shall be slain by My sword."

13 And He will stretch out His hand against the north, Destroy Assyria, And make Nineveh a desolation, As dry as the wilderness. 14 The herds shall lie down in her midst, Every beast of the nation. Both the pelican and the bittern Shall lodge on the capitals [of] her [pillars]; Their voice shall sing in the windows; Desolation [shall be] at the threshold; For He will lay bare the cedar work. 15 This is the rejoicing city That dwelt securely, That said in her heart, "I [am it], and [there is] none besides me." How has she become a desolation, A place for beasts to lie down! Everyone who passes by her Shall hiss and shake his fist.

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# What 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).

# 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 2:1-3		
Zephaniah 2:4-7		
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Zephaniah 2:8-11		
Zephaniah 2:12-15		

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of
the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.
What Did God Say?
See if you can discover what God wants us to understand. What does He want us to understand about this ways? Which of His attributes is He displaying? When we are questioning the circumstances the surround us, understanding Who God is helps us trust Him when we don't see Him working. Simply stawhat God is trying to communicate about Himself and how it affects your thinking.
What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.
Define three words: does it supply any added meaning to the text?



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 2:1-3
Zephaniah 2:4-7
Zephaniah 2:8-11
Zephaniah 2:12-15
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?

# Radiating His Truth...

"Hidden in the Lord." Even in the most calamitous of judgment scenes, the mercy and grace of the Lord is still available to a repentant people. Unknown

# Message Notes