

Zephaniah

THE PROPHECY

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ZEPHANIAH - The PROPHECY

Chapter One

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Zephaniah 1** and mark every reference to the Lord speaking i.e. the mouth of the Lord, instruction of our God, vision of God, declares, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Zephaniah 1** and mark every reference to Israel with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Zephaniah 1** and mark every reference to other nations, cities, or peoples with a purple flag.

Read through **Zephaniah 1** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or that day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Zephaniah 1** and mark every reference to the arrogant or proud with a brown underline; also highlight the word in brown.

Read through **Zephaniah 1** and mark every reference to the humble or humility with a brown underline; also highlight the word in yellow.

Read through **Zephaniah 1** and mark every reference to woe by circling it in orange and putting a diagonal slash through it (like a “do not” symbol).

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. God will remove all things from the face of the earth
2. Be silent before the LORD God
3. Near is the great Day of the LORD

READ AND ANSWER

Zephaniah 1:1-6

Who was Zephaniah?

What came to Zephaniah?

When did the Word of the LORD come to Zephaniah?

What does the LORD declare He will do?

List the things on the face of the earth that God will remove.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

God declares twice that He will cut off man from the face of the earth. List the “men” against whom God will stretch out His hand.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

What do these peoples have in common?

Where are these people living?

Of what nation are all these people?

Jehovah is the God of the Hebrew nation, the Israelites. Baal was a so-called god of the Canaanites. Ammon worshiped a false god called Milcom. Mesopotamia worshiped the host of heavens. And yet, where was this idolatrous worship taking place?

Whose priests were bowing down to these “nothing-gods”?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Jehovah was El Shaddai, the all-sufficient God.
He was everything and anything the Jews would or could ever need.
Yet they did not seek El Shaddai or inquire of Him.
Instead they went to worthless, empty, deaf, dumb and mute nothing-gods!**

No wonder God was angry with the people who were His!

Zephaniah 1:7-13

What command is given in **verse 7**?

Why are the people to be silent before the LORD?

What is near?

What has the LORD prepared for His Day?

What is His sacrifice?

What has the LORD chosen for His Day?

Who are His guests?

With what is the Day of the LORD's sacrifice synonymous?

Who will God punish on the Day of the LORD's sacrifice?

1.

2.

3.

4.

What was wrong concerning clothing themselves with foreign garments? To what is Zephaniah referring?

What was their purpose to leap on the temple threshold?

How were they filling the house of the Lord with violence and deceit?

What would be heard on that Day?

1.

2.

3.

If you can find one, look at a map of Jerusalem and determine where the Fish Gate, the Second Quarter, and the Mortar were. Also locate the hills around Jerusalem.

Why would there be a cry from the Fish Gate?

Why would there be a wail from the Second Quarter?

Why would the inhabitants of the Mortar wail?

What would be the loud crash from the hills?

Why would all the people of Canaan be silenced?

What will come about at that time?

What will God look for as He searches Jerusalem with lamps?

1.

2.

3.

What will God do to the men who are stagnant in spirit and who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good or evil!"

What will happen to their wealth?

What will happen to their houses?

What will not happen even though they build houses to live in?

What will not happen even though they plant vineyards to produce wine?

Why will their houses be desolate? Where will they be?

Zephaniah 1:14-18

What is near?

What is the Day of the LORD called?

How near is the great Day of the LORD?

The call goes out to, "Listen!" What is there to hear?

Who will cry out bitterly during the Day of the LORD?

How is the Day of the LORD described?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

Against whom is the battle?

1.

2.

What will God bring on men?

What does it mean that they will be so distressed that they will walk like blind men?
Describe their walk.

Why will God bring this terrible distress on them?

What will happen to their blood?

What will happen to their flesh?

Will there be any salvation for them from the wrath of the LORD?

What terms are synonymous with the Day of the LORD? (You saw one earlier in this chapter.)

1.

2.

What will happen to the earth on the Day of the LORD's wrath?

What is God jealous over?

How is His jealousy described?

In His jealousy, what will He do to the inhabitants of the earth?

What kind of an end will they experience?

1.

2.

READ AND REASON

I cannot read this chapter without exclaiming, “Wow! God really means what He says!” I don’t think He could say it any clearer than He has in Zephaniah 1.

I am so thankful that I am hidden in Christ Jesus away from the wrath of God! He does not destine His chosen saints to wrath and destruction. I Thessalonians 5:1-11

As for God’s wrath, it will come! It will come soon! It will come quickly! It will come completely! He will not miss a single soul! All will be paid the wages of their sin. (Except those who are hidden in Christ Jesus.)

Did you, when you read Zephaniah 1, think that it had been fulfilled? It has not! This destruction is yet to come. There is time, although it may not be long, to call on the Name of Jesus Christ for deliverance from the wrath to come!

The Day of the Lord is a period of time that will certainly happen. It is as sure as the lips on your face. Have those lips called on the Name of the Lord? If not, why not? You cannot deliver yourself. There is salvation in no other name than Jesus! If you have, then do those lips offer a sacrifice of praise to God, and a warning to others that the Day of the Lord is coming quickly?

ZEPHANIAH - The PROPHECY

Chapter Two

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Zephaniah 2** and mark every reference to the Lord speaking i.e. the mouth of the Lord, instruction of our God, vision of God, declares, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Zephaniah 2** and mark every reference to Israel with a blue Star of David.

Read through **Zephaniah 2** and mark every reference to other nations, cities, or peoples with a purple flag.

Read through **Zephaniah 2** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or that day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Zephaniah 2** and mark every reference to the arrogant or proud with a brown underline; also highlight the word in brown.

Read through **Zephaniah 2** and mark every reference to the humble or humility with a brown underline; also highlight the word in yellow.

Read through **Zephaniah 2** and mark every reference to woe by circling it in orange and putting a diagonal slash through it (like a “do not” symbol).

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Israel is to gather and seek the LORD
2. Seacoast, land of the Philistines, will be for the remnant of the house of Judah
3. Moab and Ammon will be inherited by God's nation
4. Ethiopians slain and Assyria destroyed

READ AND ANSWER

Zephaniah 2:1-3

What is the nation of Israel to do?

What does God call them?

Why should they have shame?

Why don't they have shame?

When are they to gather?

1.

2.

3.

What passes like chaff? Is this referring to the Day of the LORD or the days until it comes?

When the decree takes effect, what will come upon them?

What is synonymous with the burning anger of the LORD?

Upon whom will the burning anger of the LORD come?

Why are they to gather?

Who is to seek the LORD?

What have the humble of the earth done?

What are the humble of the earth to seek?

1.

2.

What blessing will perhaps fall on those who have carried out God ordinances; those who seek righteousness and humility?

Why would they need to be hidden? Hidden from what?

From the book of Zephaniah so far, what phrases are synonymous with the Day of the LORD'S anger?

Zephaniah 2:4-7

What will happen to Gaza?

What will happen to Ashkelon?

What will happen to Ashdod?

What will happen to Ekron?

What do these four nations have in common? (Look them up on a Bible map.)

To whom is woe proclaimed?

Who are the inhabitants of the seacoast?

Against whom is the Word of the LORD?

Where do the Cherethites dwell?

Who lives in the land of the Philistines?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

By what other name is the land of the Philistines called?

What is God's Word against the land of the Philistines?

How completely will God destroy Canaan, the land of the Philistines?

What will be on the seacoast rather than people?

What will the pastures be used for?

What will be provided for the shepherds?

What will be provided for the flocks?

Who will the coast be for, rather than the Philistines?

What is the remnant of the house of Judah?

Look up the word remnant in a dictionary and write it out.

Now take the meaning and insert it into **verse 7** instead of the word remnant.

What does this mean is going to happen to the house of Judah?

What will the remnant of the house of Judah do with the coast?

Where will they lie down at evening?

Why will God take what seemed to belong to the Philistines and give it to the house of Judah?

Who does the LORD care for?

What is the LORD going to do for the remnant of Judah?

Zephaniah 2:8-11

What has God heard?

1.

2.

Look up the words taunt and revile. What do they mean?

1. taunt –

2. revile –

What have Moab and Ammon done?

Who have they taunted and reviled?

To Whom does Judah belong?

What did Moab and Ammon do in regards to Judah's territory?

Who will become like Sodom?

Who will become like Gomorrah?

Why?

Who will do this to them? (Note what God calls Himself.)

How certain is this to happen?

How do you know that it is certain?

How long will God exist?

What will possess Moab and Ammon?

1.

2.

How long will Moab and Ammon be a desolation?

Moab and Ammon will be plundered. What does that mean? (Look up the word in a dictionary if you need to.)

Who will plunder Moab and Ammon?

Who will inherit Moab and Ammon?

POINT OF DEPTH

**Inherit.
God's nation will inherit Moab and Ammon.**

**From whom?
Who will Judah inherit Moab and Ammon from?**

**From Moab and Ammon?
No! From God, Himself!**

**All the earth is His.
He owns it all and He gives it to whomever He pleases.
It pleased God to let Moab and Ammon inhabit a portion of His earth for awhile,
but not forever.
He will give this portion of land to Judah during the Day of the LORD.
Oh, how drastically things will change and be set right in the Day of the LORD!**

What did Moab and Ammon do in their pride?

1.

2.

Whom did they taunt?

To Whom did this people belong?

POINT OF DEPTH

**LORD of hosts!
Jehovah is the God of Israel!
Jehovah does not just control Israel; Jehovah controls all!
He is the commander-in-chief of all the armies in the universe!**

**Moab and Ammon did not remember Who they were really taunting.
To taunt God's people is to taunt God, Himself.
You do not criticize and sneer at God and get away with it!
He is the Lord of hosts and will command His armies to do His good pleasure;
as in returning the reproach Moab and Ammon have leveled against His people
upon their own heads!**

How will the LORD of hosts seem to Moab and Ammon in the Day of the LORD?

Why? What will God do?

Who will be terrified?

In their terror, what will they do?

From where will they bow down to God?

Zephaniah 2:12-15

Who will be slain by the sword of the LORD?

When will the Ethiopians be slain by the sword of the LORD?

Against whom will God stretch out His hand?

Where is Assyria?

What will God's hand do to Assyria?

What will Nineveh be like? (Look up the word parched and insert its meaning into the verse.)

What will dwell in Nineveh?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Where will the pelican and hedgehog lodge?

Where will the birds sit and sing?

What will be the statement of every threshold?

Why? What has God done to the cedar work of Nineveh's buildings?

What does God call this city?

What is her attitude?

Does she worry about her existence?

What does she say to herself?

What does the exultant city become?

Who will dwell securely in Nineveh?

What will happen when people pass by Nineveh?

1.

2.

READ AND REASON

Nineveh was the capital of Assyria. God destroyed it in about 612 BC. He prophesied its destruction through the prophet Nahum many years before. God so completely obliterated it that the city lay forgotten and missing until this last century—over two thousand years!

Here, in Zephaniah, it is prophesied that God will stretch out His hand against the north, Assyria and will make Nineveh a desolation. This will happen, according to Zephaniah, during the Day of the Lord.

The Day of the Lord is yet future. So it would seem that Assyrians final destruction and Nineveh's final desolation are also yet future.

Could that mean that Assyria will rise once again, along with her capital city, Nineveh, which at this moment still lies buried under massive debris?

Look on a Bible map to see where the ancient city of Nineveh would be today. Also look at the territory of the Assyrians to see which nations it encompasses today.

Watch for the Word of the LORD to be fulfilled!

ZEPHANIAH - The PROPHECY

Chapter Three

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Zephaniah 3** and mark every reference to the Lord speaking i.e. the mouth of the Lord, instruction of our God, vision of God, declares, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Zephaniah 3** and mark every reference to Israel with a blue Star of David.

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Read through **Zephaniah 3** and mark every reference to the arrogant or proud with a brown underline; also highlight the word in brown.

Read through **Zephaniah 3** and mark every reference to the humble or humility with a brown underline; also highlight the word in yellow.

Read through **Zephaniah 3** and mark every reference to woe by circling it in orange and putting a diagonal slash through it (like a “do not” symbol).

Read through **Zephaniah 3** and mark every reference to shame with a green circle.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Woe to the tyrannical city (Jerusalem)
2. Wait for the Lord, wait for the Day
3. Shout for joy, O Zion!

READ AND ANSWER

Zephaniah 3:1-7

Who is woe proclaimed against?

What is the tyrannical city like?

What did the tyrannical city not do?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What are her princes called?

What are her judges called?

Why?

What type of men are her prophets?

1.

2.

What have her priests done?

1.

2.

Who is within her?

If the LORD is within her, who must she be?

Contrary to the leaders of Jerusalem, what will God not do?

What does God do every morning for her?

Is there ever a morning when He does not bring His justice to light? (Praise the LORD!)

The Lord is righteous within Jerusalem. He will do no injustice. He never fails to bring His justice to light each and every morning. And yet, what type of person resides in Jerusalem?

Do the unjust princes, judges, prophets and priests feel ashamed of their sin?

If they do not feel their shame and guilt, what will they keep on doing?

POINT OF DEPTH

This verse reminds me of a passage in Jeremiah. Jeremiah was a prophet who would start his ministry around the time that Zephaniah would finish his. They both prophesied to the same wicked people; people who were not even ashamed of the evil they had done.

Jeremiah 6:12b-15

“For I will stretch out My hand against the inhabitants of the land,” declares the LORD.

“For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for gain, and from the prophet even to the priest everyone deals falsely. They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, saying, “Peace, peace.” But there is no peace.

Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; they did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be cast down,” says the Lord.

**Are you ashamed of your sin?
If you are not ashamed, what will you continue to do?
If you are not ashamed, what will the Lord do?**

What has God done to the nations?

What happened to the corner towers? (Corner towers were for their protection. You cannot protect yourself from God.)

What had God done to their streets?

What had God done to the cities?

Verse 2 tells us that the tyrannical city of Jerusalem accepted no instruction. What does God tell Jerusalem in **verse 7**?

What does it mean to revere God?

What instruction did God give to His people?

POINT OF DEPTH

God said virtually the same thing to His people through Jeremiah.

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, “Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place.”

Jeremiah 7:3

Both prophets spoke the Word of the LORD, but it was not news to the people.

God had spoken to them time and time again through the years.

If they obeyed Him, they could stay in the land;

if they disobeyed, He would take them out.

***“Also I have sent to you all My servants the prophets,
sending them again and again, saying:***

***‘Turn now every man from his evil way and amend your deeds,
and do not go after other gods to worship them.***

Then you will dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your forefathers;

but you have not inclined your ear or listened to Me.

Jeremiah 35:15

"So watch yourselves, that you do not forget the covenant of the LORD your God which He made with you, and make for yourselves a graven image in the form of anything against which the LORD your God has commanded you.

For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

When you become the father of children and children's children and have remained long in the land, and act corruptly, and make an idol in the form of anything, and do that which is evil in the sight of the LORD your God so as to provoke Him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that you will surely perish quickly from the land where you are going over the Jordan to possess it. You shall not live long on it, but will be utterly destroyed.

The LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD drives you.

"There you will serve gods, the work of man's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell."

Deuteronomy 4:23-28

What would God do if Jerusalem did not accept instruction?

What would God not do if Jerusalem did accept instruction?

What was Jerusalem's decision?

Zephaniah 3:8-13

Why does **verse 8 start out with "therefore"?**

POINT OF DEPTH

Because the people were eager to corrupt all their deeds and would not accept instruction, the only possible answer was to wait for the LORD to move.

The LORD would have a Day in which He would judge and punish all evil.

In that Day He would also give His people purified lips, causing them to call on His Name, and thereby He would save them.

**This would be true for both parties—the proud, unjust people (Zephaniah 3:1-7),
and His humble and lowly people (Zephaniah 2:1-3).**

**Those who would make it through the tribulation of the beginning of the Day of
the Lord would be those whom God had chosen.
If they were proud and haughty, they would be humbled.
If they were already humble, they would persevere.
Then, in one day, all of Israel would be saved.**

***...and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written,
“The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.”
“This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”
Romans 11:26-27***

How long were the people to wait for the LORD?

What day would come?

Who will God be a witness against?

As Judge, what will be His decision?

Who will He gather?

1.

2.

Why will He assemble the kingdoms and the nations? What will be poured out on them?

1.

2.

What will happen to the earth?

What will devour the earth?

What will the LORD do then?

When is “then”?

Why will the LORD give the peoples purified lips?

Who are the peoples?

Why will the LORD give the peoples purified lips?

1.

2.

From where will peoples come?

Why will peoples come? (Remember **verse 8.**)

What will the peoples do?

What does God call the peoples?

1.

2.

What will the peoples bring?

What will be true of Israel in that Day?

What did Israel have in her past which was worthy of shame? What had her deeds been?

Why won't Israel feel shame in that Day?

What will God do?

Where will Israel dwell?

Will Israel ever be proud, exulting and haughty on God's holy mountain again?

Who will God remove?

Who will God leave among Israel?

What will the humble and lowly people whom God leaves in the midst of Israel do?

What will be true of Israel at the time?

1.

2.

3.

How much of Israel will do no wrong, etc.?

Does this compare at all with **Chapter 2, verse 7**?

How?

What will they be able to do because there will be no one to make them tremble?

Zephaniah 3:14-20

What is the daughter of Zion commanded to do?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Who is the daughter of Zion?

Who is Israel?

Is Israel synonymous with the daughter of Zion?

Is the daughter of Zion synonymous with the daughter of Jerusalem?

Why can she rejoice and exult with all her heart?

1.

2.

3.

4.

What are the judgments (from the text of Zephaniah) against Israel?

Who are Israel's enemies (from the text of Zephaniah)?

Who is the King of Israel?

Where is He?

Why won't Israel need to fear disaster any longer?

Who did disaster come from?

Why had the LORD sent disaster upon them?

Who had He sent it through?

What will be said to Jerusalem in that Day?

Why should Israel not be afraid, nor let her hands fall limp?

Who is in her midst?

How is the LORD their God described?

What do others tell Israel the LORD their God, a victorious warrior, will do?

1.

2.

3.

How glorious! How splendid! How beautiful! How delightful! How lovely!

Now God, Himself talks. What does He say He will do?

Where will those be who grieve when God gathers them?

What will they be grieving about?

Where were they from?

What has the reproach of exile done to them?

What else does God say He will deal with at that time?

Who are the oppressors?

Who will God save?

Who will God gather?

What will God do with the shame of the lame and the outcast?

What will God do at that time?

What two things does God do at the same time?

What will He give to His people then?

Who will praise the people of God?

When will all the peoples of the earth view Israel with renown and praise?

Why will God restore the fortunes of His people before their eyes?

READ AND REASON

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion!

Shout in triumph, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away His judgments against you,

He has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst!

You will fear disaster no more.

In that Day it will be said to Jerusalem,

“Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp.

The LORD your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior!

He will exult over you with joy.

He will be quiet in His love.

He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.”

“I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts—

They came from you, O Zion—

The reproach of exile is a burden on them

Behold, I am going to deal at that time with all your oppressors.

I will save the lame and gather the outcast

And I will turn their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you in,

Even at the time when I gather you together;

Indeed, I will give you renown and praise among all the peoples of the earth,

When I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

**If you are His, sing the above words out loud to the Lord!
Shout for joy over what the Lord has done!
Shout for joy over what the Lord will do!
He triumphs—so rejoice and exult with all your heart!**

**He has taken away His judgments against you!
He will take away your enemies!**

**The King of Israel! The Lord! He is with you!
You need not fear! Do not be afraid!
The Lord is your God! He is with you!
The Lord is victorious!**

**He exults over you with joy.
He is quiet in His love.
He rejoices over you with shouts of joy!**