

## The Book of Zephaniah

### I. BAD DAY--THE PROPHET PRONOUNCES JUDGMENT (ZEPHANIAH 1:1--3:8).

- A. Upon the land of God:
  - 1. The fact of this judgment: God would sweep away everything in the land and destroy it to the ground. This would include man, birds and even fish (1:2-4).
  - 2. The reason for this judgment: Judah had worshiped Baal (the great god of the Canaanite pantheon), and Milcom (chief Ammonite deity), thus ignoring the only true God (1:5, 6).
  - 3. The name of this judgment: the prophet calls it "the day of the Lord." This term is used no less than seven times. See 1:7, 8, 14, 18; 2:2, 3.
  - 4. The results of this judgment (1:14-18).
- B. Upon the enemies of God:
  - 1. The Philistine cities (2:4-6). Israel's western enemies.
  - 2. Moab and Ammon (2:8-11). Israel's eastern enemies.
  - 3. Ethiopia (2:12). Israel's southern enemy.
  - 4. Assyria and its capital Nineveh (2:13-15). Israel's northern enemy.
- C. Upon the city of God:
  - 1. A cry of alarm would begin at the fish gate in Jerusalem. It would be heard from gate to gate until it reached the highest part of the city (1:10).
  - 2. God planned to search with lanterns in Jerusalem's darkest corners to find and destroy all sinners (1:12, 13).

### II. A GLAD DAY--THE PROPHET ANNOUNCES JUSTICE (ZEPHANIAH 3:8-20).

- A. Upon the (once) enemies of God (3:9, 10):

"For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughters of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering."

- B. Upon the land of God (3:13):

"The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid."

- C. Upon the city of God (3:14-20):
  - 1. Jerusalem will once again be filled with singing, for the theme of their song, the King of Israel will be there (3:14, 15).
  - 2. God himself will lead this happy song (3:17).