

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