

Clean Sweep From Top to Bottom

Chapter 11

Audio Lesson: Old Testament number 84



Objective: To understand the warnings for Judah and us in the message of the prophet Zephaniah.



Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

—Zephaniah 2:3

The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. .. The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.”

—Zephaniah 3:15-17

Zephaniah prophesied about the Day of the Lord. Though the prophet Joel prophesied about the Day of the Lord in the past, present, and future, Zephaniah focused entirely on the final day when Jesus returns and God judges the earth. He described an event that would affect every man and beast in the world. Because this event would come about as a result of the sin of the nations, Zephaniah urged repentance and faithfulness. No ungodly nations will survive this day, but God will always preserve and care for those who are faithful to Him. In the end, every person on earth will acknowledge the Lord as God.



1. True or false? No one knows exactly when Zephaniah lived.
2. True or false? About the time of Zephaniah there was a revival of interest in the Hebrew scripture.
3. True or false? Zephaniah used the phrase “Day of the Lord” more than any other prophet.
4. True or false? Unlike many other prophets, Zephaniah never prophesied to the spiritual and political leaders of God’s people.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Which “Day of the Lord” does Zephaniah speak of most often?
 - a. The Babylonian captivity
 - b. A plague of locusts
 - c. The final return of the Lord
 - d. The release of the captives in Babylon
6. What is the primary message of Zephaniah?
 - a. The Day of the Lord will be final and cataclysmic.
 - b. Only Jerusalem will be affected by the Day of the Lord.
 - c. Every day is the Day of the Lord.
 - d. The Day of the Lord will come about 7 years from now.
7. What does Zephaniah prophecy about those who worship false idols?
 - a. God will honor their religious faithfulness.
 - b. God will punish them and destroy their idolatry.
 - c. God will treat them in the same way He treats those who worship Him alone.
 - d. God will give them many, many years to realize their error.
8. What does Zephaniah urge the people of God to do?
 - a. Repent while there is time.
 - b. Attack the Babylonians before they have a chance to invade.
 - c. Bring all of their idols to the temple to celebrate religious diversity.
 - d. Pray for God to expand their territory.
9. What does Zephaniah prophecy about the nations surrounding Jerusalem?
 - a. They will be blessed while Judah is cursed.
 - b. They will be cursed while Judah is blessed.
 - c. They will be taken captive by Judah.
 - d. They will be judged and made desolate.

10. According to Zephaniah, which of the following are catalysts for the Day of the Lord?
(choose all that apply)

- a. Material prosperity
- b. Zeal
- c. Indifference
- d. Rebellion
- e. Nuclear war
- f. Unbelief
- g. Monetary crisis
- h. Disobedience

11. According to Zephaniah, what is God's final solution for government?

- a. Democracy
- b. Zealous nationalism
- c. A new set of rulers to replace the old ones
- d. The rule and reign of the Messiah

12. What will result from the Day of the Lord?

- a. Global famine
- b. A new heaven and new earth
- c. An improved society
- d. Total annihilation



Are there any areas of your heart that you have not completely given over to God yet? What are they? What would God have you do in response? What are you seeking after?



Thank God that He will create a new heaven and a new earth filled with righteousness. Ask Him to establish His kingdom within you so that when Jesus returns, you will not be shaken but be part of His everlasting kingdom.

“So do not worry, saying ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your Heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be give to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

—Matthew 6:31-34



Going Deeper

1. Since the Second Coming of Jesus Christ involves a series of events, how does the Day of the Lord relate to those other events? _____

2. Relate the book of Zephaniah to the third chapter of Second Peter. How do these two descriptions of the Day of the Lord agree regarding this event? _____

3. When Zephaniah writes that no man or beast will survive, how does that compare to the Mount Olivet Discourse of Jesus when He speaks of the great tribulation, which no flesh would survive without divine intervention (Matthew 24)? _____

4. Since Zephaniah and Joel both speak of the Day of the Lord, compare and contrast their presentations of this awesome event. _____

5. Every time the Scriptures teach us about this Second Coming and the end of the world, they always have devotional and practical applications as their reason for telling us about these things. What were the devotional and practical applications of Zephaniah for his preaching about the Day of the Lord? _____

6. According to Zephaniah, what is the extent of the devastation this event will cause on the earth? _____

7. What obstacle that is blocking the work of God is addressed by the prophet Zephaniah? _____
