

Zephaniah 1
The Sin but not the Sinner
July 26, 2026
Hymn # 326 (B) "God's Final Call"

Thesis verse 1:7 - "Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD: For the day of the LORD is at hand. For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice: He has invited His guests."

Chapter Theme: Judgment on Judah, Jerusalem, and Israel.

Introduction: While sin is part of our human experience, it is not without cost and effect. As Christians the discipline we receive is the validation of our permanent place and our eternal position with the Lord (Hebrews 12:6-11). The discomfort we experience awakens us to the gift of His provision rather than the wrath of His judgment (1 Cor. 11:32). God's plan, while on Earth, always includes the opportunity for repentance leading to restoration (1 Timothy 2:4).

An analysis of the Judgment of God and evidence that its intended result is Restoration and not Removal.

1. The God of the Jot and Tittle - Matthew 5:17-18
 - a. God will not overlook any sin
 - b. God will not rationalize away sin
 - c. God will complete completely
2. Annihilation or Redemption?
 - a. A disciplined child clings to the one who disciplined him for comfort.
 - b. 1:7 but not without 2:3 - "may be hidden"
 - c. 10th plague and the Passover (prepared and spared)
 - i. Exodus 11:4-6 = Prepared
 - ii. Exodus 12:12-13 = Spared
 - d. 1 Peter 4:17-19 (context is believers, not Israel) and 1 Cor. 11:27-32 - God will bring harshness to His people seeking their Repentance for the purpose of Restoration!!
 - e. Amos 5:4-15 - Immutable Character
 - f. If that is not enough to prove God's plan is not removal but Repentance leading to Restoration: **The name Zephaniah means "Yahweh has hidden, protected"**

Application for RBC

1. All have Sinned and all Sin is against God
2. God will justify all sin (Romans 1:18)
3. God is just because of the Romans 1 principle {He has revealed enough}
4. It has never been about revenge. It has always been about Restoration through Repentance! (Repentance begins in the mind, accepting what is true. This leads to a change in action based on that belief)

Benediction: 1 Timothy 2:1-6

****Categories of People* under the judgment of God in Zephaniah 1**

A. Everything (2) see Genesis 1:1

1. Man AND beast (3)
 - a. Birds and fish
 - b. Stumbling blocks and wicked
 - c. Consequences of sin on others
 - d. Land (2) presence of, Land (3) dirt or surface. Not even a trace! (Rev. 21:1)
2. Judah (4)
3. All inhabitants of Jerusalem (4)
 - a. Jews
 - b. Non-Jews
4. Baal (4)
5. Priests (4)
 - a. Idolatrous ones
 - b. Pagan ones
6. Worshipers of the hosts of heaven (sun and stars). Romans 1:25 (5)
 - a. Milcom = ruling King. One who will equally worship both as gods
 - b. Romans 13:1-7 - Christian Nationalism, Santa or Easter bunny. Where is your true allegiance and where is your true citizenship?
7. Apostates (6)
8. Unbelievers (6)
 - a. Again both Jews and gentiles
9. Israel the Nation is the Sacrifice being prepared
 - a. *A sacrifice is the act of offering something valuable to God as an expression of worship, atonement, or thanksgiving.*
 - b. God chose Israel as His testimony to the world.
 - c. God chose Israel to uphold and carry out His law
 - d. God chose Israel to provide correct access to the Temple