



Faith Memorial

Baptist Church

Faith Memorial Baptist Church

7450 Martinsville Hwy • Danville, VA 24541

Phone: 434-685-3622 • Email: office@fmbc.us

Pastor Daniel Lackey

June 24, 2026

THE SOVEREIGN GOD WHO CONDEMNS AND REDEEMS

A Study of Zephaniah

I. When a Nation Forgets That God is Watching – Zephaniah 1:2-6

The people had adopted practical atheism. They weren't denying God's existence; they were denying His involvement.

A. The Meaning of the "Clean Sweep" – vv. 2-3

Just as God once swept the earth clean by sending the flood, because of man's wickedness, He now warns Judah that a lesser but devastating judgment is coming upon the nation.

B. The Main Problem in the Nation Is a Divided Heart – vv. 4-6

1. Open Idolatry – Although Josiah was attempting reforms, many hearts remained devoted to false gods.
2. A Divided Allegiance – They were trying to serve two masters. They wanted to worship God on their terms. Verse 5 describes people who worshiped the Lord and swore by Malcom (Molech). They wanted both God and the world.
3. Spiritual Apathy – "Those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired of him." Judah's problem was not that she lacked religion. She lacked wholehearted devotion to God. Her temples were busy, but her heart was cold. Her ceremonies continued, but her commitment had faded.

II. The Day of the Lord Is Coming – Zephaniah 1:14-18

God was sending warning after warning through His prophets. The Day of the Lord was approaching, but the people continued living as though judgment would never come.

III. Zephaniah Calls the People to Seek the Lord Before It Is Too Late – Zephaniah 2:1-3

Before judgment falls, God extends an invitation. Notice the repeated command: "Seek ye the LORD." Seek humility, seek righteousness. God always warns before He judges.

IV. God Judges All the Proud Nations – Zephaniah 2:8-15

God has buried every empire that imagined itself indispensable: Egypt, Babylon, Greece, Rome, etc. America is not exempt from God's moral government.

V. One of the Greatest Sins Is Complacency – Zephaniah 3:1-7

Jerusalem's greatest problem was not merely outward wickedness. It was spiritual complacency. The people had become comfortable in their sin.

A sleeping watchman is a danger to everyone under his care. Likewise, a sleeping church is vulnerable to spiritual disaster.

VI. God Always Preserves a Faithful Remnant – Zephaniah 3:9-13

Even in times of judgment, God preserves a faithful remnant.

VII. God Rejoices Over His Redeemed People – Zephaniah 3:14-17

The book ends dramatically differently than it begins. Judgment gives way to restoration. Wrath gives way to rejoicing.

*“He will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with loud singing.”
(Zephaniah 3:17)*

The God who judges sin is also the God who delights in saving sinners.

