

Zephaniah – 25 June 2026

“Wrath, Repentance & Restoration”

Introduction – Read Vs 1

*There's no reason for 4 generations of his lineage to be given unless the last name Hezekiah is meaningful

*Seems likely that this is King Hezekiah

*Likely Zephaniah was of royal descent

*The timing of these generations lines up for him for be prophesying in the days of King Josiah

*Zephaniah will prophesy judgment on Judah & on all global sinners, yet speaking of restoration for the repentant remnant

*Josiah was a beautiful prototype of this

*Though Israel was wicked, God showed soft-hearted Josiah individual escape (Read II Kings 22:19-20)

Today, we see 3 things we can be assured will happen in the Day of the Lord

#1 – Wrath: The End of All Evil Is Coming (Chap 1)

Read 1:2-3

1. Zephaniah jumps right in with both feet & right to the point – the end of all things is coming
2. Bookended by ‘cutting off man’ b/c everything else is here to support man
 - a. We’re to have dominion over all things

Read 1:4-6

1. Notice that judgement is targeted – it’s designed to remove the evil from the whole land
2. Not just that the priests of Baal will be cut off but their fame and good reputation will be cut off
3. Who else is cut off & not part of the remnant?
 - a. Those who worship Baal (vs 5)
 - b. Polytheistic worshippers (vs 5)
 - c. Yahweh worshippers that quit (vs 6)
 - d. The indifferent (vs 6)

Read 1:7-9

1. Here the Lord tells the prideful leaders of Judah to shut up – stop boasting

2. It's too late – those that are called to death are already chosen
3. The leaders are accountable – many dressed like the world b/c they acted like the world
4. Vs 9 seems to indicate those that brought Baal worship into the temple
 - a. Political *and* religious leaders are held to a high standard for their influence on others

Read 1:10-11

1. These are Judaic places of merchants
 - a. Except Mortar – *a deep hollow*
2. Economy is shut down, affecting everyone

Read 1:12-13

1. Just as vs 6, we have mention of those that knew to do good and didn't
 - a. The stagnant, the indifferent, they spent their money on self instead of on God's work
 - b. Read Luk 12:47
2. None will be overlooked – you can't hope to ignore the Lord's coming and His judgement of us

Read 1:14-16

1. The day of Yahweh isn't a set day
 - a. Now is man's day; then is the Lord's day
 - b. Now man is active, then God will be the One taking control
2. The day of Yahweh is a time of great trouble to all those that think they're mighty on earth

Read 1:17-18

1. If we live like we can see (independent from God), then we will eventually walk like the blind
 - a. But if we humble ourselves & walk like the blind (asking for God's guidance), then we'll eventually see
2. This is done *in the fire of His jealousy* b/c He deserves the attention of us all
 - a. Let us live in light of what God wants of us

#2 – Repentance: The Urgency To Seek God’s Will (Chap 2)

Read 2:1-2

1. Now there’s a call to action *before* the day of the Lord comes upon them
2. The *first* call to action is a call to *gather*
 - a. We must talk to each other to offer this gathering to other
 - b. We must get w/ others to prepare for more

Read 2:3

1. The *second* call to action is to *seek the Lord*
2. As we seek & find His will, we’ll do His will
 - a. To do His will is a work of inner character
 - b. To do the work of God is to believe Him & change on the inside
 - c. This echoes (Read) Mic 6:8

Read 2:4-7

1. In this call for repentance, God speaks of restoring the remnant of Israel to the seacoast

- a. For this to be true, the Philistines would need removed
2. Philistines are prophesied about in Isa 14, Jer 47, Amo 1, Zep 2 & Zec 9
 - a. They hated Israel & acted in vengeance repeatedly
3. Only 4 of the 5 Philistines cities are listed
 - a. Gath already fell to Israel by this time

Read 2:8-11

1. Moab & Ammon make up all Lot's children
2. As Philistia was to the west, Lot is to the east
3. Notice again Israel's remnant that is repentant & regathered will possess their land as well
4. So chapter 2 isn't directly about the evils of these nations, but that the believing remnant of Israel will gain their territory

Read 2:12

1. Now God looks & judges Cush, south of Israel

Read 2:13-15

1. Now he speaks of the fall of Assyria that will happen in 612 BC
 - a. Dealt with this in the Book of Nahum
2. Assyria being to the north of Israel, this completes a full circle around Israel
3. Post-script – So chapter 2 is God's mercy toward Israel telling them to gather & seek God before destruction come to *everyone*
4. There's even the blessing here for all those that turn & believe that they'll inherit these lands

#3 – Restoration: The Repentant Remnant can Rest & Rejoice (Chap 3)

Read 3:1-4

1. It always amazes me when people say that don't know for sure what God's will is for them
 - a. It's to listen w/ an ear to hear and a heart to trust and a spirit that draws near to God

- b. To stay close to God in order to follow Him
– *that* is His will
- 2. Judah was so corrupt that *all* their leaders were
doing *their own* will and not seeking God's will

Read 2:5-7

- 1. The Lord will do justice & wants us to also
- 2. Now here's the key in verse 7
 - a. Fear God: If so, we'll do justly fearing the
consequence
 - b. Receive instruction & discipline: If so,
we'll change to do justice better and better

Read 3:8-9

- 1. Now it's very clear this restored remnant of
Israel is yet future b/c they're not serving God yet

Read 3:10-13

- 1. Israel will be humbled and purified to return as
worshippers to the land of Israel – yet future
- 2. Israel will be so humbled by their great evil &
God's great goodness that they'll be lowly & poor

Read 3:14-15

1. Now we enter this glorious description of the Millennial Kingdom – for Israel
2. Notice, it is God that has done the work of taking away sin and enemies

Read 3:16-20

1. A humbled people can rest & rejoice in God
2. This remnant of Israel will be at peace
 - a. They'll enjoy the land and the feasts that God appointed

Conclusion

Let it be no surprise that the Lord is coming to take back ownership of the universe

1. **Wrath is coming on all injustice & disobedience**
2. **Repentance is necessary while there's time**
3. **Restoration, rest and rejoicing is offered to the repentant ones that come to Christ Jesus**