

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(Zephaniah)

I. General Introduction to Zephaniah

- Title/Author/Date: named after Zephaniah, the great-great-grandson of Hezekiah; sometime between 635 and 625 BC (1:1)
- Purpose: warn of coming judgment; call to repentance; promise blessing and restoration (1:2, 3, 14, 15; 2:3; 3:14-20)
- Structure:
 - I. The Day of Retribution (1:1-3:8)
 - II. The Day of Restoration (3:9-20)

II. General Overview of Zephaniah

- Threats of Judgment on People and Nations (1:2-3:8): the Whole Earth (1:2, 3, 18b, 3:8); Judah (1:4-2:3); Nations (2:4-15): Philistia (2:4-7), Moab and Ammon (2:8-11), Ethiopia and Assyria (2:12-15); Jerusalem (3:1-7)
- Promises of Blessing and Restoration (3:9-20); Conversion (3:9-13); Restoration (3:14-20)

III. Prominent Themes in Zephaniah

- The Day of the Lord (1:7, 9, 10, 14-16, 18; 2:2, 3; 3:8, 11, 16)
- The Character of God: wrath (1:14, 18; 2:2, 3); justice / a righteous judge (1:2, 3; 3:5); jealous (1:18); grace, mercy, love, rejoicing, singing (3:17)
- The Righteous Remnant (2:7, 9; 3:8, 9, 13)
- The Call to Repentance (2:3; 1 Chron. 28:8; Is. 55:6, 7; Jer. 29:13)

IV. Christ in Zephaniah

- Christ fulfills the great promises of restoration in 3:9-20
- Several phrases remind us of the work of Christ: 3:15, 17 → Rom. 8:1, 31, 33, 34; Matt. 1:21, 23

V. Practical Lessons in Zephaniah

- 1) The day of judgment is coming (Ecc. 8:11; Zeph. 1:14; Matt. 24:36-39; 2 Pet. 3:3, 4; Rev. 6:15, 16).
- 2) Turn from your sins and seek the Lord (Prov. 28:13; Is. 55:6, 7).
- 3) Rejoice in God and His salvation (Zeph. 3:14, 17; Luke 15:1, 2, 7, 10, 32).