

# ZEPHANIAH

## Background Information

### The Man

His name means “Jehovah hides”

Hezekiah the king was his great, great grandfather

He probably lived in Jerusalem

He is the only prophet of royal descent and high social standing.

He was a contemporary of Jeremiah

He prophesied during Josiah’s reign.

### The Message

Key Phrase: “The Day of the LORD”

1. The key to understanding this phrase is found in the book
2. This phrase is used more in this book than any other Old Testament Book.
3. There are two parts to “the day of the Lord.”
  - Judgment
  - Restoration
4. Definition: A divine interruption of or intrusion into human affairs for the purpose of bringing about purification and maintaining a realization of God’s sovereignty.

Date: Between 622 – 612 BC

(Sometime during Josiah’s [640-609 BC] reign but it seems his revival has/is taking place.

Revival when discovering the scroll was 622 BC) For the condition of Judah read II Kings 23:5-25

Tribulation, Armageddon, and millennial kingdom are all mentioned.

The destruction of Nineveh is predicted in 2:13.

Theme verse could be 1:7a

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# ZEPHANIAH 1:1-2:7

Zephaniah 1:18a  
Neither their silver nor their gold  
shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; ...

THE THINGS I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WEEK!!!  
I COR. 10:31

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 1:18a

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah 1:1-4

Examine –

1. Who wrote this book?
2. When was this book written?
3. Over whom does he reign?
4. What comes to the writer of this book?
5. What will God do?
6. What will He consume? (4 things)
  
7. What will He consume with the wicked?
8. What will He do with man?
9. Against whom will He stretch out His hand? (2 specific places)
10. What will He cut off?
11. Whose name will He cut off?
12. With whom will they be cut off?
13. Who are the Chemarims?

Apply-

When God judges men, sometimes those who did no wrong are affected (Animals, fish, etc).

When do innocent people or things suffer for your wrong?

Do you believe and live in the light of coming judgment?

When do you think about it?

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Praise: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 1:18a

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah 1:5-8

Examine –

1. Go back and read verse 4 to get the context!
2. Who else will He cut off?
3. What two things did they swear by?
4. Fact: The word Malcham could also be said Moloch.
5. On whom have they turned their backs?
6. What have they also not done in relation to the LORD?
7. What should we do at His presence?
8. What is at hand?
9. What has God prepared?
10. Who has He invited?
11. In the day of the LORD, whom will He judge? (2 groups)
12. How were the king's children dressed?  
THINK ABOUT IT: This phrase means to actively put on clothing that is not normal or the clothing of a harlot. We would say clothing not fitting a king's child.

Apply-

You are the child of The King! Are you dressing appropriately as a king's child?

How do you look or act like the world in your dress?

This was one of the things in which God was going to judge Israel.

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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 1:18a

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah 1:9-12

Examine –

1. He would also punish those who do what to the thresholds?
2. Note: This probably refers to those who would steal from others!
3. With what do they fill their masters' houses?
4. What will come from the fish gate?
5. What will come from the second?
6. What will come from the hills?
7. Who is to howl?
8. Fact: Maktesh was a hollow or valley evidently in the greater Jerusalem area!
9. Who is cut down?
10. Who is cut off?
11. How will God search Jerusalem?
12. What is the description of the men that God would punish?
13. Define Lees –
14. What two things will God not do according to these men?

NOTE: This is the false idea that God has no interest in man. He is a bystander that will never interfere.

Apply-

How do you act as if God will never have anything to do with your everyday life?

Some people think that God is someone at church but the rest of the time He has nothing to do with us. This is not true! Look up some verses that would prove this wrong and write the references below.

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Praise: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 1:18a

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah 1:13-16

Examine –

1. What will happen to the people's goods?
2. What will happen to their houses?
3. What they build?
4. What will they plant?
5. Will they get to enjoy any of these things?
6. What is near?
7. How does the author show its closeness?
8. The day of the LORD has a \_\_\_\_\_!
9. What will the mighty men do when it comes?
10. List the eleven descriptions of this day in verses 15-16.

11. What will it be against?

Apply-

Does it appear to you that anything or anyone will escape this day?

I'm thankful I will not be here! Do you know of anyone who will be, that you have not told?

Purpose to tell them today!

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Praise: \_\_\_\_\_

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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 1:18a

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah 1: 17-2:3

Examine –

1. What will He bring upon men?
2. How will they walk?
3. Why is he doing this?
4. What will God pour out as dust?
5. What will He pour out as dung?
6. What will not be able to deliver them?
7. What will devour the land?
8. What kind of fire is it?
9. How fast will He do this?
10. Who is He calling together?
11. How does the author describe God's anger?
12. What should the meek of the earth do?
13. What two other things should they seek?
  
14. Why should they do this?

Apply-

God wants to send mercy upon people, but they must seek Him.

How are you daily seeking God?

Are you ready to meet him?

If you're seeking power or riches or popularity, none of those things will matter or satisfy!

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Praise: \_\_\_\_\_

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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 1:18a

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah 2:4-7

Examine –

1. What will be forsaken?
2. What will be a desolation?
3. What will be driven out?
4. What will be rooted up?
5. Who does He pronounce a woe against?
6. What land does He destroy?
7. Will there be any people that are left?
8. What will God do to the seacoast?
9. For whom will the coast be reserved?
10. Where will they lie down?
11. Why will all this happen?
12. What will God turn away from them?

FACT: This area described here is most likely the Gaza strip today!

Apply-

Anyone who stands against Israel will ultimately be removed. God will one day turn His reproach away from His people. What reproach does God have on your life now?

God could turn your reproach now if you turn to Him. Will you today?

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 1:18a

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah - Review

Examine –

1. Who wrote the book?
2. What distinction does this prophet have that no other prophet has?
3. How many times in this week's readings is *the day of the LORD* mentioned?
4. What should you hold at God's presence?
5. Who is Malcham?
6. What clothing are the king's children wearing?
7. What gates are mentioned in chapter one?
8. What philosophy does the men in verse 12 hold?
9. What will the people not get to enjoy?
10. Give five of the descriptions of the day of the LORD.
11. What will not deliver them?
12. What should people who want to be hid in the day of the LORD do?
13. What area will God destroy and give to Judah as a refuge?

Apply-

How does the day of the LORD cause you to respond?

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Praise: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_  
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# ZEPHANIAH 2:8-3:20

Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty;  
he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy;  
he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

THE THINGS I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WEEK!!!  
I COR. 10:31

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 3:17

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah 2:8-11

Examine –

1. What two nations does God deal with next?
2. What two things has He heard of them? (both start with an “R”)
3. What two things did they do to His people?

4. What does God call himself?
5. Who will Moab be like?
6. Who will Ammon be like?
7. What will they breed?  
NOTE: This is a type of weed!
8. What kind of pits will they have?
9. Who will spoil and possess them?
10. What were these nations pride?
11. How will God be to them?
12. What will He do to all gods?
13. Who will men worship?
14. What heathen places will worship Him?

Apply-

Do you really worship Him?

How do you do it daily?

What needs to change about your worship?

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Praise: \_\_\_\_\_

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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_

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Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 3:17

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah 2:12-15

Examine –

1. Who does God turn to next?
2. What will happen to them?
3. What nation is in the north?
4. What does God do to them?
5. What city does God mention from this nation?
6. What will He make her?
7. What will dwell in this city?
8. Define Cormorant and Bittern.
  
9. What will sing in the windows?
10. What is in the thresholds?
11. What will God uncover?
12. This city used to do what?
13. How did this city dwell?
14. What was their heart attitude?
15. When people shall pass by the city what do they do?

Apply-

This city was confident in her ability and needed no one else. Is this your attitude?

Do you act this way even if you would not say so?

How are some ways we could act this way?

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Praise: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 3:17

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah 3:1-5

Examine –

1. God pronounces a woe on what two groups of people?
2. What kind of city is this?
3. Of what four things in relation to God is she guilty?

4. Write a description beside each of the following people:

- Princes –
- Judges –
- Prophets –
- Priests –

5. What description of the LORD does he give?

6. Where is He?

7. What will God not do?

8. What does He do every morning?

9. What will He never do?

10. What do the unjust not know?

Apply-

Evaluate yourself against the list in question 3. What areas do you need to make improvement?

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 3:17

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah 3:6-10

Examine –

1. What has God cut off?
2. What is desolate?
3. Bonus: What is significant about this? (Only the right answer will count)
4. What is waste?
5. In what condition are their cities?
6. What can not dwell in the cities?
7. For what two things was God “hoping”
8. What would they have avoided by doing this?
9. Did it work?
10. What did they do from early in the mornings?
11. What is God determined to do?
12. Why is He doing this?
13. With what will the earth be devoured?
14. When all this happens what will happen to all the language differences?
15. Why does God give them a pure language?
16. How will they serve Him?
17. Who is the daughter of the dispersed?
18. What will she bring?

Apply-

Does it appear to you that God wants to judge people?

Are you forcing Him to judge you?

What god do you worship first thing in the morning?

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 3:17

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah 3:11-15

Examine –

1. Will they be ashamed?
2. To whom is God referring?
3. What have they done to Him?
4. Who will He remove from among them?
5. What will they no longer be?
6. Whose mountain is it?
7. What will God leave in their midst?
8. In what will they trust?
9. What group of people does He talk about next?
10. What three things will they not do?
  
11. What will they do?
12. What three references to God's people does the author use in verse 14?
  
13. What should their attitude be?
14. Why should they be this way?
15. Who is their king?
16. What will they not see any more?

Apply-

One day the whole world will rejoice because He is King. Is He your King?

List some ways people could tell He was King in your life!

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Praise: \_\_\_\_\_

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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 3:17

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah 3:16-20

Examine –

1. What are two names mentioned for God's city here?
2. What two things will be said to them?
3. Where is God?
4. What is He?
5. What will He do?
6. How will He do this?
7. Who will He gather?
8. Who will He undo?
9. Who will He save?
10. Who will he gather?
11. What will God give to them?
12. What did they have before?
13. What will God make of them among all nations?
14. What will he do before their eyes?

Apply-

God does not just care about the right and whole but the sick and outcast.

How do you feel about these people?

If God loves them and will bring them into His kingdom, we should care about them too!

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Praise: \_\_\_\_\_

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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekly memory verse – Zephaniah 3:17

Time spent in prayer \_\_\_\_\_

Read – Zephaniah - Review

Examine –

1. With what two nations does God deal?
2. Why is He dealing with them?
3. With what nation does He now deal?
4. What happens to them?
5. What nation and city does he deal with now?
6. What is this city going to be used for in the future?
7. What four people does God give a description of in the first part of chapter 3?
  
8. What two character qualities did we learn about God in verse 5?
9. Why will God gather all the nations?
10. What will He give them and why?
11. What will the children of Israel eventually get to do?
12. Who will be their King?
13. What will they not see?
14. Who will God bring together at the end?
15. What will He make other nations do for them?

Apply-

Are you ready for the Day of the LORD?

If you're saved you are, but if not, you may have to go through it!

What truth did God show you this week that you never knew before that will change your life?

Prayer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Main thought to meditate on today: \_\_\_\_\_

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