

Zephaniah – The Day of the Lord

Lesson Three

[3:1-8].....Jerusalem's Future Part 1

- Vs.1 Zephaniah continues by sharing that Jerusalem (Judah) will not fair any better than countries and cities from the last lesson.
As in the first two lessons, God is angry about Judah's idolatry, syncretism, and indifference to God and will experience God's judgement as the other nations listed will on the Day of the Lord.
- Vss.1-8 There are four witnesses of Judah's evil God uses to show their disobedience and rejection of God:
1. God has sent prophets like Zephaniah
2. God's covenantal law
3. God's unfailing "round the clock" care for Judah
4. God has destroyed nations around them with military battles
Judah rejects each of God's four witnesses. A major reason why was Judah's leadership. There are four indictments to the four classes of leadership:
1. Judah's princes
2. Judah's judges
3. Judah's prophets
4. Judah's priests
- Vs. 8 For this reason God's statement of "waiting" isn't for a blessing, but for judgment: "The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger."

[3:9-13].....Jerusalem's Future Part 2

- Vss.9-11 There's redemption and restoration for the remnant.
They will worship and praise the Lord with the power of their untainted lips and a strong service (work ethic) "shoulder to shoulder."
They will inherit foreign lands, even those beyond Cush. This refers to uncharted lands.

NOTE: The true nature and character of God is not to destroy but to build, not to do away with life but to give life.

- Vss.12-13 We move from God as "Divine Warrior" to "Giver of Life" with Jerusalem being the center of God's work.
The remnant will not just be close to God but will also carry the character of God

[3:14-20].....Jerusalem's Future Part 3

- Vss.14-17 God returns to being a Divine Warrior, but a victorious one.
Since God is victorious, so are God's people. But who are they now?
Could these verses be intended for the remnant? But could they also be meant for later generations – including us?
- vss.14-15 Description of a major party in the presence of God, that's just getting started.

- vss.16-17 “On that day...” Has the Great Day of the Lord changed?
 “...God is mighty to save” is the reality of their world. God has saved them from all enemies.
- Vs.18 It reads oddly. It’s better understood this way: The people who had been scattered in judgment were in sorrow as they longed for the old religious gatherings at the feast times, but now they’ll be able to approach and worship God who has removed their sorrows from them.
- Vss.19-20 Although these promises are intended for the remnant, why do so many churches use this passage (Zephaniah 13-20) during Advent?
 But the fulfillment can be seen in us as well. We must remain faithful in the midst of those who cling to hopelessness and being faithless. We must never lose sight of God’s joy for those who trust and believe in God.