

# **Insights From Zephaniah**

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# Insights From Zephaniah

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# Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper  
4/29/2024

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# Zephaniah

- This prophecy was given to Zephaniah during the reign of Josiah, king of Judah (Zephaniah 1:1). Josiah was a righteous king who turned to the Lord with all his heart and implemented many reforms. He was the king who destroyed the golden calves of Jeroboam (2 Kings 23:15).
- Even though Josiah was a righteous king who served the Lord with all his heart, God sent him a prophecy of total national destruction (Zephaniah 1:2). Josiah's reforms couldn't save his nation from total destruction. God's wrath was still going to come against Judah anyway (2 Kings 22:13, 16-17). This is because the nation had shed much innocent blood during the reign of Manasseh, and that national sin couldn't be forgiven (2 Kings 24:4). However, because Josiah repented, God postponed the destruction until after he died (2 Kings 22:20).
- One of the judgments God sends upon nations is the destruction and removal of their citizens (Zephaniah 1:3).
- One of the judgments God sends upon nations is the destruction and removal of their wildlife (Zephaniah 1:3).
- When God listed things He was going to remove, He didn't mention removing any of the righteous or pouring out His judgment upon His saints. It seems that His wrath was only going to fall on idolaters and pagans (Zephaniah 1:6).
- This prophecy concerns the Day of the Lord, which is how the Old Testament referred to the tribulation period (Zechariah 1:7). This means the prophecy is about the end times, not Nebuchadnezzar's destruction of Jerusalem.

- One of the judgments God sends upon nations is the death of their merchants (Zephaniah 1:11).
- In the coming judgment God will punish all those who claim that He won't intervene in history to do either good or evil (Zephaniah 1:12).
- One of the judgments God sends upon people is taking away the things they've built before they had a chance to enjoy them (Zephaniah 1:13).
- God considers it a curse to take a newly planted vineyard away from someone before he can enjoy its wine. This means wine is a blessing and taking it away is a curse (Zephaniah 1:13).
- The tribulation era will be a time of terrible pain and anguish. Even the mighty won't be able to endure it (Zephaniah 1:14).
- God has reserved the tribulation period as a time of His wrath, when He will punish the people and nations of this world for their sin and idolatry (Zephaniah 1:17-18).
- In the tribulation period the Lord will slaughter the wicked and pour out their blood upon the ground in large quantities. The ground will be covered with unburied dead bodies (Zephaniah 1:17).
- In the tribulation period a person's wealth won't be able to save him (Zephaniah 1:18).
- The tribulation period will bring distress upon Gentile nations as well. It will impact nations beyond Judah (Zephaniah 2:1-15).
- God said that the Gentiles who seek Him before the tribulation will be hidden so that they won't have to

endure that terrible time (Zephaniah 1:2-3). This may be a reference to the rapture of the church.

- God is against those who take away territory from the Jews, and will punish them for doing that (Zephaniah 2:8-9). This is true even when God is punishing the Jews for their sins.
- God said that because Moab oppressed Israel, Moab would be as utterly destroyed as Sodom (Zephaniah 2:9). There are serious national consequences for oppressing the Jews.
- In the future God will destroy the idols of the world. The day is coming when everyone will worship the Lord, including people on remote islands (Zephaniah 2:11). This is a reference to the millennium.
- One of the judgments God sends upon cities and nations is drought (Zephaniah 2:13).
- God is against cities that are morally filthy and polluted (Zephaniah 3:1).
- Throughout the Bible God compares people to animals of various types (Zephaniah 3:3).
- God holds princes and judges accountable for their actions. They aren't allowed to do as they please (Zephaniah 3:3).
- The Lord will not do iniquity (Zephaniah 3:5).
- God never fails (Zephaniah 3:5).
- God commands the righteous to wait upon Him, because the day is coming when He will gather the nations and destroy them for their wickedness (Zephaniah 3:8).

- One day all the nations of the world will speak the same language. God calls this language a “pure language” (Zephaniah 3:9). This is a reversal of the curse that God placed upon mankind at tower of Babel, which was built in rebellion against Him (Genesis 11:6-9).
- In the coming era, even people in remote places will fear the Lord and travel great distances to bring Him offerings (Zephaniah 3:10). This is a reference to the millennium.
- The joy that the Jews will experience in the coming era of peace and righteousness (the millennium) won't be overshadowed by shame over their past actions (Zephaniah 3:11).
- In the millennium God is going to leave a group of afflicted and poor people in the midst of the Jews. This group of people will trust in the name of the Lord (Zephaniah 3:12).
- In the millennium the Jews will no longer commit iniquity or tell lies (Zephaniah 3:13).
- In the millennium the Lord will be in the midst of the Jews and reign over them as king (Zephaniah 3:15).
- In the millennium God is going to undo everything that afflicts the Jews (Zephaniah 3:19).
- In the past the Jews were hated by the nations. In the millennium God will give the Jews praise and fame in all of those same places (Zephaniah 3:19).
- The ultimate destiny of the Jews is to be blessed, not cursed; to be at peace, not afflicted; and to be loved by all nations, not hated by the nations (Zephaniah 3:19-20).