

The theme of Zephaniah is the approaching “day of the Lord.” This “day” is one of judgment against those who sin against God, and one of blessing for those who follow him.

Despite having seen the destruction and exile of Israel (the northern kingdom), Judah (the southern kingdom) refuses to keep its covenant obligations to God. If Judah repents and abandons its evil ways, “perhaps” God will forgive. Regardless, God’s judgment will lead to renewal for Judah and other peoples.

The book declares judgment on many nations, all of which opposed God through opposition to his people. The last nation warned is Judah herself. God is displeased with those who claim to be his own people.

The deterrent to judgment:

2:1-3

a. A summons to the nation: Repent (2:1-2)

b. A summons to the humble: Seek God (2:3)

Judgment on the surrounding nations:

vv. 4-15

a. On Philistia (2:4-7)

b. On Moab and Ammon (2:8-11)

c. On Ethiopia (2:12)

d. On Assyria (2:13-15)

Small Group Discussion:

1. What good can come out of God's people gathering together in one accord?
2. In our present society, what types of things can endanger us of becoming a 'nation not desired'?
3. Does Zephaniah 2 provide any insight to how a nation can turn around?
4. Discuss why God's urgent messages are not always taken seriously?
-What are some impediments or stumbling blocks?
5. Why is the entire world (all people) responsible for acknowledging that God "is" and for obeying Him?

Next Week's Lesson:**Zephaniah 3**