

Zephaniah
Chapter Three
October 22, 2025

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.

Judgment on Jerusalem:

3:1-7

- 1. The prophet’s indictment (3:1–5)**
- 2. The Lord’s judgment (3:6–7)**

Judgment on all the earth:

vv. 8

The restoration of the nations:

vv. 9-10

The restoration of Israel:**vv. 11-20**

- 1. The redemption of the nation (3:11–13)**
 - 2. The joy of the nation (3:14)**
 - 3. The Ruler of the nation (3:15–17)**
 - 4. The reward of the nation (3:18–20)**
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Small Group Discussion:

1. What does Jerusalem's corruption and refusal to accept correction teach us about the consequences of disobedience?
2. How does Zephaniah 3:5 reveal the character of God amid the disobedience of His people?
3. In what ways can the promise of restoration in Zephaniah 3 be applied to personal spiritual life?
4. How does Zephaniah 3:17 reveal the depth of God's love for His people?
5. How can you apply the promise of God gathering the sorrowful and making them a praise in your current life situation?
6. What does this chapter teach us about God's approach to justice and mercy?

Personal time of reflection questions:

1. How does the theme of divine restoration encourage you in times of personal failures and mistakes?
2. How can Zephaniah 3 provide hope and encouragement for those feeling spiritually oppressed or desolate?

Next Week's Lesson:**Joel 1**