



ZEPHANIAH

Study Guide by Pastor Keith Hamblen



2010

Calvary Bible Church
3180 West Elm Street
Lima, Ohio 45805

The day of the LORD is at hand (1:7)!
Zephaniah 1:1-2:8

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may [regard with pleasure] wondrous things out of thy law” (Ps. 119:18)!

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [*even*] as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Cor. 3:18).

Remember to pray for illumination (to be taught of God’s Spirit—Jn. 6:45)!

The message of Zephaniah is “trust in the LORD; do not iniquity, nor speak lies; let none make you afraid” (3:12-17).

“The name of ‘Zephaniah’ means ‘the Lord hides’ or ‘he whom the Lord hides.’ Nothing beyond 1:1 is definitely known of the prophet’s life. The genealogy in the superscription of the prophecy is given for four generations. No other prophet has his pedigree carried back so far. Our prophet ministered about a half-century after Nahum, in the reign of Josiah. Manasseh and Amon had been godless kings but Josiah was a God-fearing ruler (II Ki. 22-23). The reformation in Judah in 621 B.C. (the ten tribes were already in captivity for a century) touched only the small remnant; the mass in Israel were in the condition pictured here in chapter 1 and in Jeremiah’s prophecy. It is strange that Zephaniah does not mention Josiah’s reforms.”

“Our prophet has been considered one of the most difficult in the prophetic canon, but his message has a definite focal point, namely, the day of the Lord. He uses the expression more often than any other prophet in the OT. In the first chapter he announces his word of judgment, centering particularly upon Judah; in the second chapter he predicts judgment on several peoples after an exhortation to repentance; in the last chapter, after a short word concerning judgment on Jerusalem, he promises future glory for

Israel’s restored remnant in the latter days. A sixteenth-century writer indicated; ‘If any one wishes all the secret oracles of the prophets to be given in a brief compendium, let him read this brief Zephaniah.’” CLF

Monday—prayerfully read and ask for enlightenment in Zephaniah 1:1-2:8 (and other portions in your daily reading plan)!

1-4. Give a possible theme for this half of Zephaniah.

5. Is “the day of the LORD” mentioned in this section?

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (2:3 or a Proverb?), and take it with you for the day!

Tuesday—prayerfully read Zephaniah 1:1-6, and answer the following.

1. Through how many generations is Zephaniah’s ancestry traced (not counting his), and who was the king when he preached (1:1)? _____

2. For whom is Zephaniah speaking precisely, and what does He say He will consume from off the land (1:2)? _____

3. List the six things the LORD will consume from off the land (1:3). _____

4. What two idols are mentioned whose followers will be cut off (not counting the “Chemarims” which are idolatrous priests) (1:4-5)? _____

5. What “easily-applied-to-us” group will be cut off (1:6)?

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (1:3 or a Proverb?), and take it with you for the day!

Wednesday—prayerfully read Zeph. 1:7-11.

1. What did Zephaniah say was “at hand,” and what did he mean by “hold thy peace” (1:7)? _____

2. What two groups were singled out for punishment in 1:8 besides “all such as are clothed with strange apparel”?

3. What two things are servants (presumably) not to “fill their masters’ houses with” (1:9)? _____

4. What three noises will be heard “in that day” (1:10)? _____

5. What can you apply to yourself in this section? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (1:7 or a Proverb), and take it with you for the day!

Thursday—prayerfully read Zephaniah 1:12-18.

1. Put in your own words what the people probably meant when they said in their hearts (1:12), “The LORD will not do good, neither will He do evil.” (1:12). _____

2. Given that Zephaniah preached in the year (approximately) 630 B.C., why do you suppose the people would “build houses, but not inhabit them” (besides their being killed) (1:13)?

3. Who would cry bitterly at the day of the LORD (1:14)?

4. How many words are used to describe “that day” in 1:15, and give the one which most speaks to your heart? _____

5. What had these people done that was wrong, and what would not deliver them in that day (1:17-18)? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (1:17? or a Proverb), and take it with you for the day!

Friday—prayerfully read Zephaniah 2:1-3.

1. What do you suppose is meant by “gather yourselves together” in 2:1? _____

2. What does it seem the LORD is giving the people in 2:2? _____

3. What three things does Zephaniah tell the people to seek in 2:3? _____

4. From what do you suppose the people might be hid in the day of the LORD’s anger (2:3)? _____

5-6. Memorize and meditate on 2:3, and take “it” with you for the day!

Saturday—prayerfully read Zephaniah 2:4-8.

1. Name four cities of Philistia given in 2:4. _____

2. Give the four names identifying the Philistines given in 2:5.

3. What would the sea coast of Philistia become (2:6)?

4. Who would live in this area (after their captivity) (2:7)?

5. Against whom did the Moabites and the Ammonites sin (2:8)?

6. Memorize a portion of scripture that helps you admire Him (Ps. 27:14 or another verse), and take “it” with you for the day!

Sunday—prayerfully review Zephaniah 1:1-2:8.

Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take “it” with you for the day!

The day of the LORD is at hand (1:7)!
Zephaniah 2:9-3:20

The message of Zephaniah is “trust in the LORD; do not iniquity, nor speak lies; let none make you afraid” (3:12-17).

Monday—prayerfully read and ask for enlightenment in Zephaniah 2:9-3:20 (and other portions in your daily reading plan)!

1-4. Give some of the themes for this half of Zephaniah.

5. Is “the day of the LORD” referred to in this section; give at least two references to it. (It is not given that title in this section.) _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (2:3 or a Proverb?), and take it with you for the day!

Tuesday—prayerfully read Zephaniah 2:9-15, and answer the following.

1. Whom shall “the residue of My people spoil” and leave as Sodom and Gomorrah (2:9)? _____

2. What did the pride of Moab and Ammon lead them to (2:10)?

3. What will the LORD do to all the gods of the earth (2:11)?

4. What two other nations identified in this section also will be decimated (2:12-13)? _____

5. What does this section tell us about the LORD?

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (2:10 or a Proverb?), and take it with you for the day!

Wednesday—prayerfully read Zephaniah 3:1-5.

1. Give two indications the city referred to in 3:1 could be Jerusalem (3:2, 4). _____

2. Give three descriptive words of the city in 3:1 (Jerusalem).

3. What four other failures of this city are identified in 3:2?

4. What four groups of leaders are identified as failing in their assignments (3:3-4)? _____
5. What can you apply to yourself in this section? _____

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (3:5 or a Proverb), and take it with you for the day!

Thursday—prayerfully read Zephaniah 3:6-10.

1. Apparently what had God’s people been able to see that could have helped them if they would have reflected on it (3:6-7)?

2. Why do you suppose the LORD said, “Surely thou wilt fear Me” (to His children) (3:6-7)?

3. What tells us that getting up early doesn’t guarantee spiritual success (3:7)?

4. What three things are given for people to do regarding the LORD (3:8-9)?

5. Who “shall bring mine offering” (3:10)?

6. Memorize a portion of **scripture** (3:7? or a Proverb), and take it with you for the day!

Friday—prayerfully read Zephaniah 3:11-15.

1. Whom would the LORD take away out of their midst (3:11)?

2. Which people will be left in their midst who shall trust in the name of the LORD (3:12)?

3. What three blessings will the righteous remnant have (3:13)?

4. What four things does Zephaniah tell the “daughter of Zion (and Jerusalem)” to do (presumably in a future day although perhaps this is to be their state even in anticipation) (3:14)?

5-6. Memorize (at least a portion) and meditate on 3:15, and take “it” with you for the day!

Saturday—prayerfully read Zephaniah 3:16-20.

1. What do you think ““Let not thine hands be slack” means; and, what two “actions” are put together in 3:16? _____

2. What will the LORD rest in regarding His people, and with what will He joy over His children (3:17)? _____

3. At “that time,” what will the LORD do to all that are afflicting them, and to “her that halteth” (3:19)? _____

4. What will the LORD “turn back” before their eyes (3:20)?

5. Based on these verses (3:16-20), what most should guide our thinking? _____
6. Memorize a portion of scripture that helps you admire Him (Ps. 27:14 or another verse), and take “it” with you for the day!

Sunday—prayerfully review Zephaniah 2:9-3:20.

Memorize a portion of **scripture**, and take “it” with you for the day!