

“Zephaniah 3:1–2”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I decided to talk about two scriptures in a book found in the Old Testament. The title was “Zephaniah 3:1-2.”

It is common to recognize that many presenters would use the words in Zephaniah to give a prophecy presentation. But, then again, those who are accustomed to hearing a presentation from me are aware that I focus more on Christian living than prophecy.

When written?

- Zephaniah 1:1—The book talks about the days of King Josiah.
- Some sources say that King Josiah reigned from 640 B.C. to 609 B.C.
- Zephaniah 2:13—Indicates that the destruction of Nineveh (612 B.C.) was still in the future.
- Thus, the book of Zephaniah can be dated between 640 and 612 B.C.

Judgment in the Day of the Lord

Notice comments about judgment.

- Zephaniah 1:1-3—Judgment on the whole earth.
- Zephaniah 1:4—Judgment on the nation of Judah.
- Zephaniah 2:4-15—Judgment on the nations surrounding Judah.
- Zephaniah 3:1-7—Judgment on the city of Jerusalem.
- Zephaniah 3:8—Judgment on the whole earth.

Salvation in the Day of the Lord

- Zephaniah 3:9-13—The promise of conversion.
- Zephaniah 3:14-20—The promise of restoration.

Four reasons for woe

- Zephaniah 3:1—“Woe to her who is rebellious and polluted, to the oppressing city!”
- Zephaniah 3:2—“She has not obeyed His voice. She has not received correction. She has not trusted in the LORD. She has not drawn near to her God.”

Not obeyed His voice

- John 10:1—Thieves and robbers do not come through the door.
- John 10:2—The shepherd comes through the door.
- John 10:3—The sheep recognize the shepherd's voice.
- John 10:4—The sheep follow Him, because they know His voice.
- John 10:5—The sheep do not follow a stranger, because they do not know the voice of a stranger.
- John 10:11—The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.
- John 10:14—The good shepherd knows His sheep and they know Him.
- John 10:15—He laid down His life for the sheep.
- John 10:16—Sheep of various flocks know His voice.

Not received correction

- Matthew 19:16—"Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"
- Matthew 19:17—He replied: "If you want to enter into life, keep the Commandments."
- Matthew 19:18-19—When the man asked "Which ones?," Christ listed Commandments 5 through 9. (In Matthew 22:37-40, Christ mentioned His support for the first four Commandments and the last six Commandments.)
- Matthew 19:20—The young man voiced his support for the Ten Commandments and asked: "What do I still lack?"
- Matthew 19:21-22—The Son of God also gave a specific instruction to the young man.

Not trusted in the Lord

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4—God (called the "Father of mercies and God of all comfort") comforts us in all our tribulations that we may learn to comfort others who are having trouble.
- 2 Corinthians 1:8—Paul and his traveling party were burdened beyond measure, burdened above strength and despaired for their lives.
- 2 Corinthians 1:9-10—Paul and his traveling party trusted in God—who has delivered, who does deliver and who will deliver.

Not drawn near to God

- Matthew 7:21-23—Notice what Christ said about people who seemed religious in their talking about the Lord and in their positive deeds: "I never knew you."
- Matthew 25:1-13—In the parable about the 10 virgins waiting to meet the groom, notice what the Lord said to half of the people: "I do not know you."

Role of the Son

- John 5:19—The Son does what He sees the Father do.
- John 5:20—The Father loves the Son.
- John 5:21—The Son raises the dead and gives life.
- John 5:22—The Father has given judgment to the Son.
- John 5:23—We are to honor the Son as we honor the Father.
- John 5:24—We are to believe in the One who sent Christ.
- John 5:25—The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God.
- John 5:26—The Son has life in Himself.
- John 5:27—The Son executes judgment.
- John 5:28-29—All in their graves will hear His voice.