



The book of Zephaniah is one of the most wonderful books that make us understand the Lord as a just judge who hates sin and does not tolerate it... And at the same time, he is a loving father... Therefore, he rules justly to purify the earth from corruption and sin. And at that time the earth will be filled with Peace and Praise and make the rest of those who remain believers in him happy.

**The meaning of the name:** God covers, And he was a descendant of Hezekiah the King.

**The Period of Prophecy:** The last period before the captivity of the kingdom of Jude, Days of King Josiah (from 640 BC to 625 BC) before the fall of Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, and about 50 years before Nahum the prophet.

**His most important achievements:** he wrote one of the most important books that inspired us about the nature of our Lord as a just judge and loving father, And he faced the presidents and the leaders of Jude with their corruption.

### Writing Conditions:

- + Josiah the King tried to make a spiritual renaissance after a very long period of corruption and bad kings such as Manasseh and Amon (after Hezekiah the King who was good)
- + And indeed, he said to the people to remove the strange gods and return to worship the Lord and serve in the temple again, and he restored the temple again.
- + But unfortunately, the people were drowning in sin, they did not continue in true repentance, But the people were happy with the outside view for a short time and came back to evil, except for a few who preferred to complete the path of the Lord.
- + And Josiah himself died in a war with Babylon.
- + Zephaniah lived all this and predicted it years before it happened.

**Who is being addressed by the book of Zephaniah?** Kingdom of Jude.

### Objective of the book:

- + It explains to us that our Lord is a just judge, who does not allow sin.
- + If the human refuses the warning, a strong discipline will come, Repentance is a must.
- + Discipline is not aimed for perdition but for purification.



### The key to understand the book:

- + The kingdom of Jude was in a very bad phase of sin and corruption (except for a few who preferred to complete the path of the Lord). The people around them were at a worse stage.
- + New Jerusalem (after returning from captivity) = New Testament Church.

### Brief of the book:

- + God is a just judge, who will judge sinners from his people and the rest of the people, so that he may purify the earth... So, the rest who believe in him return to praise and Joy, as he dwells in their midst (the New Testament church).
- + Judgment on Jerusalem.
- + Contrary to what we see in Genesis 1, how God has converted the earth from being (ruined and empty) to a wonderful place for living and has arranged everything for his children, We see in this chapter that because of evil, the situation will turn upside down and the earth will be exposed to chaos (verse 2 &3).
- + The pagan temples in which they worshipped the strange gods will collapse (verse 4 -5)
- + All the theft and corruption that used to happen will end (verse 9 - 11).
- + The view of the armies of Babylon as they come to attack the kingdom of Judah is very similar to that of the Day of Judgment (verse 15).
- + The prophet Zephaniah did not mention that Babylon was the one who will attack Judah (as Habakkuk mentioned for example), because all his focus was that this was severe discipline from God.
- + And this is what made him in the second chapter begins with hope; not that all Judah will be saved, but that (the rest) that still have faith in our Lord, if they repent, they will be saved in the day of distress. This, of course, as our Lord is full of mercy and justice.

### What do we learn?

- + God will not allow the continuation of sin and corruption that he hates so much, He will send several warnings but if the human does not respond, there will be discipline so that the human gets over and comes back but even if discipline comes, God will save his children who count on him.
- + Lord, give me an ear that listens to your voice, Give me to hold myself accountable and repent to avoid the need of hard discipline.



### What do we learn?

- + In the second chapter, our Lord speaks of the judgment of the peoples surrounding the Kingdom of Judah (the Palestinians, the Moabites, the Ammonites, and the Assyrians). These peoples were full of sins and were one of the reasons for the fall of God's people and reaching that status.
- + Zephaniah predicts that they, too, will be attacked by the Babylonians and destroyed by them. Because they will gloat over the people of our Lord.
- + At the beginning of the third chapter, Zephaniah returns to predict against Jerusalem, especially the leaders (presidents, prophets, and priests) who have reached the worst stages of corruption and sin.
- + And this part ends with a decision from our Lord, that he will punish all the arrogant people that refuse to repent with an eating fire, this fire is not for destruction & decimation, but for purification, as we understand in the next part.

### What do we learn?

- + God's objective of discipline is not destruction but purification, God wants all people to repent, but there are people who choose darkness and insist on their choices despite the warnings and disciplines.
- + Oh lord give me repentance... Even if I went far away from you, let me come back and throw myself on your chest... let me get disciplined and don't deliver me to death.
- + Our Lord wants to transform all these peoples to one big church that praise him.
- + And this is the fulfillment of the promise of the lord to our father Abraham (that Abraham will be the father of an audience of people who are like a family, one great people that praise God)
- + And Zephaniah concludes his word about the return of Jerusalem as the center of the family (the Church of the New Testament) ... and God dwells in it... And the rest who still have faith in our Lord (in whom there was hope in their salvation at the end of the first part), come back with cheers and praise and joy.
- + Consequently, the book, which began with difficult prophecies and frightening news, ends with joy, hymns, and prophecies about the New Testament church that is full of praise, and God dwells in it forever ... and this shows us that god is.
- + A Just Judge: He wants to save the earth from the evil in it... God does not tolerate sin.
- + Loving father: Our Lord rules for justice not to destroy and perish, but to restore the world and transform it to a world full of praise and peace.



### What do we learn?

- + God is never defeated ... His will always prevail... And always after the hard time and discipline come joy and glory for those attached to God.
- + O Lord, give me this hope ... And confidence that even if there is distress in my life, at the right time you will transform it to joy and praise always.

### Verses that brief the book:

"I will utterly consume everything from the face of the land," says the Lord. "I will consume man and beast; I will consume the birds of the heavens, The fish of the sea, And the stumbling blocks along with the wicked. I will cut off man from the face of the land," says the Lord. "I will stretch out My hand against Judah, And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place, The names of the idolatrous priests with the pagan priests— *Zephaniah 1:2-4*

- God is angry and there is judgment.
- Even inside Jerusalem, there was idolatry.

Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger. *Zephaniah 1:2-4*

- Those who followed God's path are the ones who have hope.
- The Path is: Righteousness and Humility.
- As our Lord Jesus said, but seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.
- To be covered: from the name of the Zephaniah... God will cover his children in the day of hardship.

"This they shall have for their pride, because they have reproached and made arrogant threats Against the people of the Lord of hosts." *Zephaniah 2:10*

- This is a judgment for the evil peoples who were gloating in the discipline God's people.

"Therefore, wait for Me," says the Lord, "Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations To My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation, all my fierce anger; All the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy." *Zephaniah 3:8*

- Our Lord is compassionate, long spirited, and slow in anger, but if the human being goes too far and insists on not repenting despite the warnings and disciplines, God will rule justly... with a fire that purifies the earth from corruption and evil.



"For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one accord. *Zephaniah 3:9*

- Along after God's judgment, joy and praise come, The Church of the New Testament, in which all peoples are united in Christ, praising God with pure, unadulterated lips.

Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; You shall see disaster no more.

*Zephaniah 3:14-15*

- As usual, concluding with the good news of the New Testament.
- Daughter of Zion = New Testament Church.
- Case = Judgments; God took away from us the difficult judgments.

Be silent in the presence of the Lord God; For the day of the Lord is at hand, For the Lord has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests. And it shall be, In the day of the Lord's sacrifice, That I will punish the princes and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with foreign apparel. *Zephaniah 1:7-8*

- Amid the difficult news in the first chapter, there is joyful news: Our Lord is coming, Zephaniah is silent and observant.
- The Lord has prepared a sacrifice. Sanctified those who are called by him: The New Testament, In the past, the sinful human being or the priest was the one who would prepare the sacrifice.
- But here is the first mention of our Lord himself who prepares the sacrifice (the sacrifice of Himself; Cross)
- But the people, of course, were unholy, how worthy are they for such sacrifice?
- The Answer: Our Lord is the one who sanctifies; As we say in Mass: the sanctities are for the saints (who have been prepared by faith and repentance).
- Like also the parable of the wedding invitees, In the end the owner of the wedding brought people from the streets and invited them and gave them the wedding garment (Baptism).
- But the one who doesn't have the wedding garment (a baptism that continues by repentance), has no place.

I said, 'Surely you will fear Me, you will receive instruction'-- So that her dwelling would not be cut off, despite everything for which I punished her. But they rose early and corrupted all their deeds. *Zephaniah 3:7*

- Our Lord gave his people many warnings by many prophets that they might repent and wake up.
- And he also gave them warnings by the people around them who started to fall because of sin.
- Our Lord, from his mercy and love for his people, wished that they would return to avoid getting punished.
- But unfortunately, the people did not understand, but they continued in their evil.

The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.

*Zephaniah 3:17*

- God is happy dwelling within his church.
- Silenced in His Love: A Clear Signal of the Cross; The pinnacle of love in silence.
- He rejoices in you with a hymn: Praise of the New Testament.



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