

“VOICES – THE MINOR PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT”
ZEPHANIAH: DON’T LIVE THIS WAY – PART I **02.03.19**

Zephaniah’s Ministry 9th Minor Prophet, 640-609 BC

Zephaniah’s Message

“The Old Testament prophets spoke to the nation [people of God], and most expressly to the king. Their job was to confront the people of Israel when they were failing to keep their covenant with God. When Israel broke that covenant, the leaders of the nation were supposed to lead them back. When the leaders didn’t, the prophets launched. And boy, did they launch.”
Dr. Sandra Richter
“Isaiah: The Story of Israel’s Prophet”

1. JUDGMENT and HOPE

- 1:1-2:3 Judgment against Judah
- 2:4-3:8 Judgment against the Nations
- 3:9-3:20 Hope for God’s Healing & Restoration

- Zephaniah uses _____ to reflect the **INTENSITY** and the **IMMENSITY** of God’s anger at Judah’s choices

“I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” says the Lord...When I destroy all mankind on the face of the earth...In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed...” Zephaniah 1 (selected)

- There is **JUDGMENT** (Zephaniah 1 & 2) for those who will not follow what God wants them to do and **RESTORATION** (Zephaniah 3) for those who do

2. Zephaniah is giving mid-term grades and everybody is _____

3. God doesn’t grade on a _____

- a. **PASS** or **FAIL**
- b. No **PARTIAL** Credit

[All Scripture references from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted]

- c. It’s **FOOLISH** to think God won’t act
- d. Zephaniah **PROMISES** that the Lord would bring real justice to all the nations

Zephaniah’s INDICTMENT Against the People of God [Judah]

- Idolatry (1:4)
- Corrupt leadership (1:4)
- Nature worship (1:5)
- Syncretism (1:4)
- Turning away (1:6)
- Complacency and indifference (1:12)

The prophets called the _____ of God
to take _____
the _____ of God!

Zephaniah’s INSTRUCTIONS for the People of God [Judah]

1. _____ **up**

“Stand in silence in the presence of the Sovereign Lord, for the awesome day of the Lord’s judgment is near.” Zephaniah 1:7

2. _____ **up**

“Gather together—yes, gather together, you shameless nation. Gather before judgment begins, before your time to repent is blown away like chaff. Act now, before the fierce fury of the Lord falls and the terrible day of the Lord’s anger begins.” Zephaniah 2:1-2

3. _____ **up**

“Seek the Lord, all who are humble, and follow his commands. Seek to do what is right and to live humbly.” Zephaniah 2:3