

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*

- Prophets were the _____ of Yahweh [God]
- Prophets had _____ over the human king

**The prophets called the people of God
to take seriously the word of God!**

God’s Word was expressed through _____

- The covenant established Yahweh as **SUZERAIN** = sovereign Lord
- The covenant established the people as Yahweh’s **VASSALS** = subject nation

The problem for the people of God...

“They had managed to redefine and rationalize the Ten Commandments and their own behavior so it no longer seemed to them they were disobeying anything. Any similarities between Israel and us?” Sandra Richter, *Isaiah*

“**IF** you accept this covenant and remember to obey, [**THEN**] you will keep the land and all the good blessings that come with it, but **IF** you violate this covenant and disobey, [**THEN**] you will lose the land and all its good blessings.” Summary of Deuteronomy 28:58-68

Zephaniah promised that the Lord would bring _____
to all the nations

God’s justice is an _____ for the world to
know that He is the Sovereign Lord

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

The Day of the Lord = The Day of God’s Judgment

1. A time of _____ and _____

Note the TRANSITION – a CHANGE from Zephaniah 1:1-3:8

“**Then** I will purify the speech of all people, so that everyone can worship the Lord together.” Zephaniah 3:9

“On **that day** you will no longer need to be ashamed for you will no longer be rebels against me...” Zephaniah 3:11

2. For the _____ and the _____

“Those who are left will be the lowly and humble, for it is they who trust in the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel will do no wrong; they will never tell lies or deceive one another. They will eat and sleep in safety, and no one will make them afraid.” Zephaniah 3:12-13

3. Where the _____ of God would once again live in
the _____ of God dwelling in the _____
of God experiencing the _____ of God

“And the Lord himself, the King of Israel, will live among you! At last all your troubles will be over, and you will never again fear disaster... He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in your gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.” Zephaniah 3:15-17

“I will bring together those who were chased away. I will give glory and fame to my former exiles, wherever they have been mocked or shamed. On that day I will gather you together and bring you home again. I will give you a good name, a name of distinction, among all the nations of the earth, and I will restore your fortunes before their very eyes. I, the Lord, have spoken!” Zephaniah 3:19-20