

2/15/26 “Reasons for Hope,” Zephaniah 3, MEV

INTRODUCTION Do we love people who hurt us? Does God?

Zephaniah warns of the day of the Lord (discipline for Judah & day of judgment for all). He portrays it as a day of wrath. Why would God tell all people of His coming wrath?

MAIN IDEA: Because of His great love, God warns of His coming wrath. Why? So that all people may repent.

I. First, God warns the remnant (1-7)

Remnant: those remaining after judgment, AND those who remain faithful to God—Jew & Gentile believers (*Hayford, SFLB*)

Romans 9:6, NLT: not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God’s people!

Romans 10:12, NLT: Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him.

A. now: before the day of His wrath

B. to be sure to be in Christ (3)

1. the humble are to seek Him

Seek: to search out, especially in worship & prayer (*Strong’s*)

2. they are to seek His righteousness

Righteousness: act according to His standards (*Kohlenberger-Mounce*)

3. they are to seek humility...*shown in attitude, by behavior*

Humility: patience, tenderness (*Word Study Dictionary OT*)

C. that they may be safe on that “day” (3)

Day: 1 day or an indefinite period of time (*K-M*)

1. God does not intend His church to suffer His wrath

1Thessalonians 5:9, MEV: For God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ [**read 1-9**]

2. He will give the faithful refuge (hidden, **Zeph 2:3**)

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, God warns those who persecute His people (8-10)

A. who attack them with words (8)

1. through taunts: insults, contempt (*Strong’s*)

2. through revilings

Revilings: trying to harm a person’s reputation or incite hatred against (*from Exp. Strong’s*)

3. through threats (“boasts against their property”)

NOTE: God issued a warning on behalf of Abraham & his descendants... Genesis 12:3, MEV: I will bless them who bless you and curse him who curses you,

B. taking an oath that He *will* respond (9)

C. that He will deal with nations completely (9)

D. that His remnant (True Israel) will possess their land, too

1. fulfillment during Millennial Reign of Christ
(1Thess. 4:14-17, Rev. 20:4-6)

2. eventually in New Heavens & New Earth (Rev. 21)

ILLUSTRATION: from Guzik*

III. Finally, God warns all idolaters (11-15)

A. who worship idols...*other gods (11), themselves (15)*

B. false gods will be revealed as weak (11)

C. idolaters will be desolated

D. that all may worship God (11)

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: Am I seeking God, honoring His standards, humble? Do I wrestle with prejudice against the Jews or other Christians? Do I have an idol in my life?

***from Guzik...**

i. “When the Greeks overran Palestine and desecrated the altar in the Jewish temple, they were soon conquered by Rome. When Rome killed Paul and many others, and destroyed Jerusalem under Titus, Rome soon fell. Spain was reduced to a fifth-rate nation after the Inquisition against the Jews; Poland fell after the pogroms; Hitler’s Germany went down after its orgies of anti-Semitism; Britain lost her empire when she broke her faith with Israel.” (Barnhouse)

iii. This promise has also affected the church. The times when the church took upon itself the persecution of the Jewish people were dark times not only for the Jews but also for the church.