

God's Masterwork, Volume Four An Invitation to Return — A Survey of Hosea–Malachi

Zephaniah: Bright Light in a Dark Day

A SURVEY OF ZEPHANIAH



The Heart of the Matter

The men who spoke for God during the centuries before Christ were remarkable mixtures of severity and compassion. These prophets were among the most respected (and yet hated) people of their times. Such was Zephaniah, a prophet who was a descendant of the royal line of David and probably had greater influence on King Josiah than either Nahum or Jeremiah. It is impressive that Zephaniah did not compromise his convictions even though he had access to the king. In the first major section of Zephaniah's book, with a simple yet forceful style, he announced sure judgment; then, in the second section, he tenderly prophesied that God would send relief and His best blessings on His people. Through it all, Zephaniah emerged as a choice prophet in a long line of tough-and-tender men.



Discovering the Way

1. Zephaniah's Background and Times

Zephaniah was in the kingly line, prophesying during the reign of evil Amon and the reign of righteous Josiah.

2. Zephaniah's Style and Book

Zephaniah delivered his prophecy in a straightforward manner, without mincing words. His book divides into two parts: judgment and doom (1:1–3:8) and joy and deliverance (3:9–20).

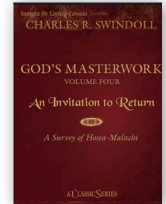


Starting Your Journey

Three applications come from the book of Zephaniah. First, God wants us to stay in touch. Second, God wants us to hold out hope. Third, God wants us to start today.



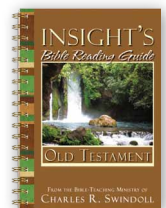
Tools for Digging Deeper



God's Masterwork, Volume Four: An Invitation to Return - A Survey of Hosea-Malachi CD series



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ZEPHANIAH

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|----------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| INTRODUCTION (1:1) | Judgment and Doom | | | | Joy and Deliverance |
| | “I will completely remove all things from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD. (1:2) | | | | |
| | DIVINE JUDGMENT ON JUDAH | INVITATION | SURE DOOM OF NATIONS | SURE DOOM OF JERUSALEM | KINGDOM PROMISES TO REMNANT |
| | CHAPTER 1:2–18 | CHAPTER 2:1–3 | CHAPTER 2:4–15 | CHAPTER 3:1–8 | CHAPTER 3:9–20 |
| Scope | Judah | | Nations | | Remnant |
| Subject | Sin | Hope | Desolation | | Restoration |
| Key Words | “The day of the LORD” | “Seek” | “Woe” | | The LORD is with you |
| Theme | Judgment and doom are certain unless there is repentance before God. Only then can there be hope and restoration. | | | | |
| Key Verses | 1:14; 2:3 | | | | |
| Christ in Zephaniah | Jesus Christ hides us from God’s wrath, and is the One who will someday rule the earth as King of Israel (Zephaniah 3:15–17; see Colossians 3:3–4). | | | | |

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