

# Zephaniah

**Lord of Hope Ministries Int'l.**

Sr. Pastor Roscoe DeChalus

October 12, 2007

**Prelude:**

**Welcome:**

**Worship:**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Announcement and Offering:**

**Message:**



Zephaniah – The name means “God has concealed”, or “God of darkness”.

The most well-know person with the name Zephaniah is the son of Cushi, and great-grandson of Hezekiah. He prophesied in the days of Josiah, king of Judah.

Zephaniah came from a royal lineage.

The time frame is 641-610 B.C.

Zephaniah was a contemporary with Jeremiah with whom he had much in common.

Under the two proceeding kings, Amon and Manasseh, idolatry had been introduced in the most shameful forms like the cult of Baal and Astarte into the Holy city and with foreign cult came a foreign culture and a great corruption of morals. Josiah, a dedicated reformer wished to put an end to the horrible devastation in the Holy places.

Zephaniah was a zealous champion and adviser of this reform. His writings remain one of the most important documents for the understanding of the era of Josiah.

The Prophet Zephaniah spoke boldly against religious and moral corruptions such as idolatry which had penetrated even into the sanctuary. He threatened to destroy out of this place the remnant of Baal, and the names of the... priest” (Zeph 1:4) and pleaded for a return to the simplicity of their fathers instead of the luxurious foreign clothing which was worn especially in aristocratic circles (1:8).

Jerusalem was only a few decades before its downfall in 586

In light of this, a message of impending judgment was the primary burden of Zephaniah’s preaching.

The book of Zephaniah:

The purpose of his prophesies were to announce God’s coming judgment against Judah.

He also writes about God saving a remnant of people who love and honor God with their lives – thus preserving and carrying on the covenant promise to Abraham.

Warnings about the “day of the Lord”

The judgment of the Lord will decent on Judah and Jerusalem as a punishment for the awful degeneracy in religious life.

It will extend to all classes of people

All the horrors of a frightful catastrophe  
Do penance and seek the Lord.  
Not only Jerusalem, but the entire world is subject to judgment.  
The severest reckoning will be required of the leading classes of the evil  
community, and of the Prophets and priest as the directors of public worship.

**Bible Reading:** Listen to the audio version of Zephaniah

Let's take a look at Zephaniah chapter 3 and 4.

"But the Lord is still there in the city, and He does no wrong. Day by Day His justice is more evident, but no one takes notice – the wicked know no shame.

God is calling the people and the leaders of Jerusalem to the carpet for their sinful ways.

And in the midst of this, comes the beautiful verse 5.

**5**The just LORD is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

In the midst of all the chaos and shame and even through all of this, God justice actually become more and more evident.

We indeed live in a fallen world. There is evil in our world that invades the hearts of men and women. And yet, even in the midst of all of this chaos and shame in our world today, *"The LORD is still there in the city, and he does no wrong. Day by day his justice is more evident, but no one takes notice--the wicked know no shame."* Do you take notice of God in our world today?

Will you take notice?

Let's read Chapter 3 verses 11 & 12 *"I will remove all the proud and arrogant people from among you. There will be no pride on my holy mountain. Those who are left will be the lowly and the humble, for it is they who trust in the name of the LORD."*

It is indeed the lowly and the humble that better reflect the attributes of those who love and trust God. Is pride something that you struggle with?

Pride can be a hindrance to a fully loving and obedient relationship with God?

Lay down your pride and seek humility?

Seek to place your trust in God rather than your own abilities?

**Video's:** Zephaniah 317.mpeg and Restored Fortune.mpeg

**Pastoral Comments:**

**Conclusion:**

I want everyone who trusts God as the Lord of their life to bow low before Him.

Let us do this act of humbling ourselves for He is worthy.

Try to do this more then you have in the past. Repent of your sins...

Take notice that God is still in your city.

Give God the honor, Glory and the praise everyday.

The day of the Lord will come as foretold in scripture.

Let's stand for closing prayer.

**Postlude:**