



Hope in God's presence · Zephaniah

God Speaks judgment for sin in Jerusalem and the nation Zephaniah 1:1-3:7

- The first three verses of this book open with God threatening the reversal of creation for the sins of Judah (Chapter 1) and the nations (Chapter 2).
- Why is God speaking judgment?
 - Worshiping false gods and idolatry (1:4b)
 - Mixing with other religions (1:5b)
 - Turning away from God and not listening to Him (1:6; 3:2)
 - Violence and deceit (1:9)
 - Stagnant hearts (1:12)
 - Unjust leaders and false prophets (3:3-4)
- God considers Jerusalem to be the same as the pagan nations (3:1-8)
- Zephaniah 2:3 - *"Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth who have carried out His ordinances; seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger."*
 - Zephaniah's name means "the Lord hides" and has a two-fold meaning here. God's face is hidden from the wicked but God also will hide the faithful from His anger.

God Speaks judgment to purify and refine, not just to punish Zephaniah 3:8-10

- Zephaniah 3:9 - *"For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder."*
- Jesus loves us enough to not allow us to stay in our sin. *"Go and sin no more."*

God Speaks hope in His presence with His people whom He loves Zephaniah 3:11-20

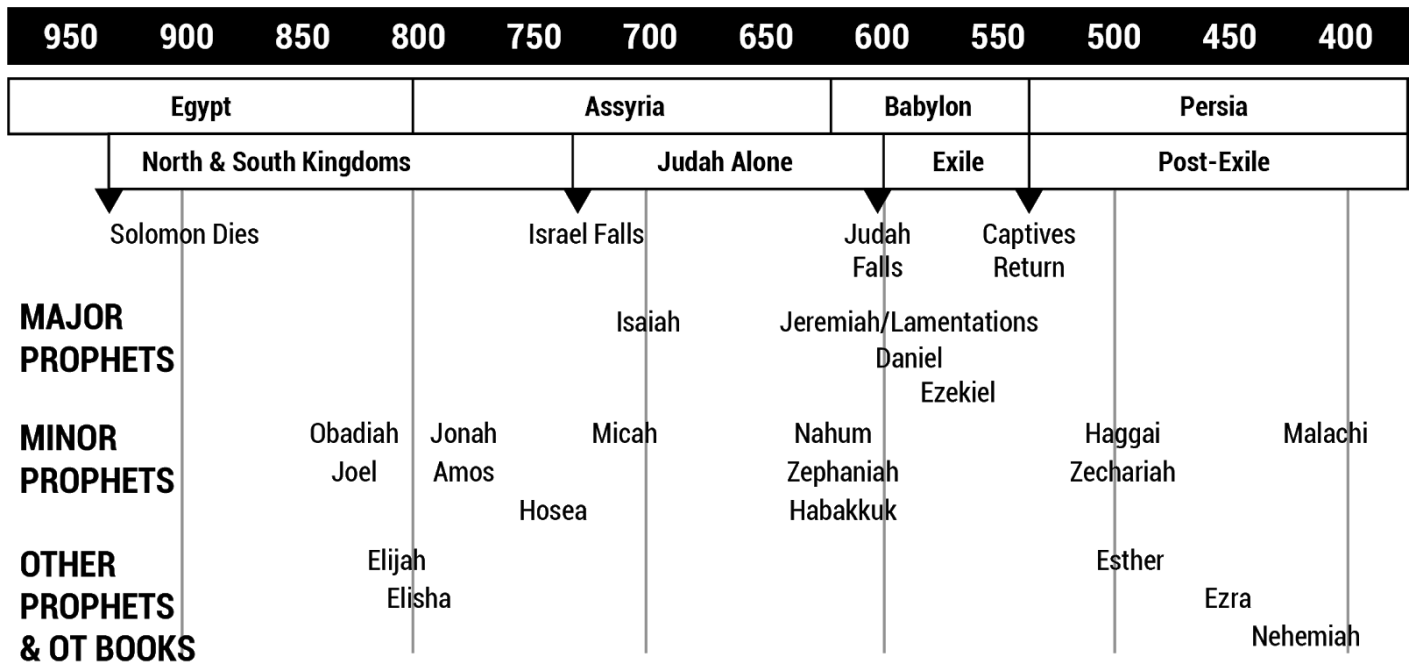
- Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV) - *"The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing."*
- God takes sin seriously and it deserves judgment, but He offers a way to purify us through "a mighty one who will save."
- We shout and sing because of God's presence with us - Zephaniah 3:14-15
- God rejoices and sings loudly over us as He delivers us from exile and condemnation (3:17)

God Speaks the gospel of Jesus through His justice and love together

- Because of His great love, Jesus takes the justice of God upon Himself on the cross
- John 3:16 - *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."*
- Romans 5:9 - *"Having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him."*

Response: God offers you the gift of salvation today. We invite you to respond to that by coming up to the Prayer Points after the sermon to receive His loving gift to make you right with God in perfect justice.

Romans 10:9-10 - *"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."*



Next Steps:

JOIN A LIFEGROUP: LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. To get involved or for more information, contact Connections + LifeGroups Pastor, Robert Carter, at rcarter@calvarylife.org, or indicate "LifeGroups" on The Card (located in the chair rack in the seat in front of you). calvarylife.org/lifegroups

In Response:

COMMUNION: Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

GIVING: The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

PRAYER ROOM: The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.