

The 12 Minor Prophets

“How can you be thankful when it just flat out hurts?”

Zephaniah 1:1-3:8

Sunday, February 10, 2013

INTRODUCTION

Who was Zephaniah?

When did he Prophesy?

What is the main theme?

What is the aim?

What is the overarching question?

God is God in Judgment (1:1-3:8)

A. There is only one God (1:1-9)

1. He's coming against Judah
2. He rules
3. He is to be worshipped

B. God is on the Move (1:10-13)

1. He sees all that is
 - a) Remember Habakkuk?
 - b) Wail at this fact (**v.11**)
2. He will judge the fakers (**vv.12-13**)

C. God is Just (1:14-18)

1. The day of the Lord
 - a) A terrible sound
 - b) An awful fear
 - c) An appropriate judgment
2. His justice will be exercised on every single person

D. God is Merciful (2:1-3)

1. Though judging Judah, He extends mercy to the repentant in Judah
 - a) Seek the Lord while He may be found
 - b) He is patient, but will not tarry forever
2. He will deliver them from their enemies
 - a) For the humble, for the obedient, there is hope
 - b) Produces hope

E. God is Judge (2:4-3:8)

1. Of the surrounding nations (Gentiles)
 - a) Judgment & deliverance joined (**v.7**)
 - b) Assyria's future destruction (**v.13-15**)
2. Of Jerusalem (**3:1-8**)
 - a) For pride
 - b) For injustice
 - c) For false worship
 - d) God alone will be God in the eyes of His people and His enemies

Application

- A. We can be thankful because regardless of what the present circumstances are, God remains God**

- B. We can be thankful because regardless of what may appear, God is going to judge the unrighteous and will deliver His people**

- C. We can be thankful that while He waits to judge He issues warnings to those who may be self-deceived, believing they are His when in fact they are playing at religion and do not actually live by faith**
 - 1. WARNINGS are a kindness
 - 2. SEEK THE LORD (2:3)
 - a) **Matthew 6:33**
 - b) **Romans 3:21-26**

- D. We can be thankful He has placed all the judgment of sinful man on the head of His son for those who believe in Him to bear that judgment and to bring them, eventually, into His eternal kingdom**

- E. We can be thankful because knowing that God is God and will always fulfill His promises that even if it appears that man takes everything from us, even our lives, we know that essentially, because we are God's, man can take nothing from us for we find our everything in Him!**