

A ROAD TRIP ACROSS THE BIBLE



Zephaniah | May 17, 2015

Zephaniah, like many of the prophets and the Old Testament as a whole, is "pregnant" with the Gospel. Here's what it tells us . . .

1. **We must be saved** _____ _____ . . . _____! (Ch. 1)
 God's _____ is coming . . . to the _____ _____ (1:2) . . .
 because _____ _____ have sinned against the Lord. (2:17)

2. **We can be saved** _____ _____ . . . _____! (Ch. 2)
 - There is _____ _____ and _____ else to turn. (2:1-2, 3-15)
 - The One from whom we must be saved is the _____ one who can save us.
 - We must humbly _____ the Lord. (2:3)

3. **We are saved** _____ _____ . . . _____! (Ch. 3)
 - The Lord will take away the _____ against us. (3:15)
 - The Lord will be in your _____. (3:15-16)
 - The Lord will rejoice over you with _____ of _____. (3:17)

How can this be?

How does God move from wrath toward us to rejoicing over us?

Zephaniah, a prophet from the kingly line of Judah, likely wrote his prophecy near the beginning of King Josiah's reign around 640 B.C., before the fall of Assyrian Empire and the rise of the Babylonian Empire.			
The Certainty, Universality & Reasons for the Lord's Coming Judgment	Humbly Seek the Lord	God's Judgment of the Nations	God's Rejoicing Over His People
1:1-18	2:1-3	2:4 - 3:8	3:9 -18

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Questions for Growth Groups



CONNECTING with one another

In this 6th week of Spring Growth Groups, take time to connect and share life together. To get the conversation going you might ask this question . . .

If you could spend 15 minutes with any Bible character besides Jesus, who would you choose? Why?

GRAPPLING with God's Word

1. How did you “come under” God's Word in the text and message this week? Did anything jump out at you or stick with you from the message?
2. Read Zephaniah 1:1-7. Zephaniah, like many of the prophets, brings the coming judgment of God into sharp and bold focus. What are some of the reasons this reality is far from our daily lives? In other words, why don't we think of God's judgment?
3. Read Zephaniah 2:1-3 and share how it proves this statement: “We must be saved FROM God BY God.” Have you ever thought of your salvation in those terms before? Does that make sense to you?

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4. Read Zephaniah 3:9-20. Who does God's salvation include in verses 9-20? What are some of the blessings of God's salvation that are described?
5. In Zephaniah, the contrast between God's wrath and God's rejoicing could not be greater. What's the missing puzzle piece of Zephaniah? In other words, HOW does God move from wrath toward us to rejoicing over us? Read Romans 3:21-26.

PRAYING together

Seek the Lord together as you marinate in the Gospel and give thanks for the blessings of the Gospel and the joy that's coming. Pray that these realities might be more real to your heart.

This Week's Household/Family Worship Challenge

Beyond your Growth Group this week, grab one opportunity as a household/family (roommates, spouses, kids, grandkids) to discuss how the “bad news” of God's judgment is a critical component of the “good news” of God's grace and what happens to the Gospel if we neglect or lose the bad news.