

## ZEPHANIAH

Another short 3-chapter book

You would think that as we move through these books, we would be getting steadily closer to the birth of Christ

- Zephaniah wrote this during Josiah's reign around 640 B.C.
- many of these prophets lived and prophesied around the same time period (Jeremiah, Habakkuk)

He starts by giving his genealogy:

**Zep 1:1** The word of the LORD which came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah:

-it's not certain, but very possible that the "Hezekiah" mentioned, is the same one from 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings

- would make him the great, great grandson of king Hezekiah
- only prophet of royal decent
- the one who was going to die but God added 15 years to his life
- the same guy who showed the Babylonians all the treasures of his kingdom

The people of Judah have drifted away from God....again

-and through Zephaniah, God tells them:

**Zep 1:2** "I will completely remove all *things* From the face of the earth," declares the LORD.

**Zep 1:3** "I will remove man and beast; I will remove the birds of the sky And the fish of the sea, And the ruins along with the wicked; And I will cut off man from the face of the earth," declares the LORD

**Zep 1:15** A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

The book continues with the message of judgment until ch. 3:8

-The book closes with a message of hope and restoration

Look at verse 9

**Zep 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.

- this has been my heart's desire for years
- that all believers will serve God shoulder to shoulder

-when we first ordered the lighted sign in the church parking lot, the first message I put on there was "God made one church, man made many"

-I do see the place for different denominations but I think we have gone past that

-why is it so hard for people from different bible believing churches to get along and realize we are all on the same team?

-instead, we tend to treat each other like opponents or competition

-all of us know people who used to go to church with us

-how much time do we spend with them now?

-I tried to call a guy a while back and his attitude made it very clear he had nothing to say to me anymore

-But when we were visiting his church only months earlier, we were important to him

-we are not enemies, we are allies

-if you want to go to a different church because you prefer their style, that's great

-but don't go because you think they are better than anyone else

Jesus said:

**Joh 13:35** "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

**Jesus types:**

A little different type

-In this short book, the Day of the Lord is mentioned 6 times

The day of the Lord, as we know, refers to the future and final judgment of the wicked when Jesus comes to rule and reign