

Exhortation to Repent & Be Preserved
Zephaniah – Lesson 2
Zeph 2:1-3:8
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how repentance is the only hope for those who stand in opposition to God.

Introduction

I. A Call to repentance & to seek the Lord, that they may be hidden in the day of the Lord (2:1-3)

1. **(v.1)** - Chapter one was largely devoted to the judgment of God on the people for their sins, and the first three verses of this chapter pleads for repentance so this judgment might be averted.
 - a. The reason is that your status with God is a nation not desired. You are shameful, or as some express it, you are a nation without shame.
2. **(v.2)** - before the judgment of God comes upon you, or before God's appointed time arrives.
 - a. It is still not too late to change (but unfortunately we know they did not change).
3. **(v.3)** - It seems the LORD never ceases trying to get the people to seek the LORD.
 - a. Is there anyone that is meek (those who are humble), that have worked his judgment (have been obedient to the LORD'S will), that are meek (filled with humility)?
 - b. If this is the case, it might be that you could be hid (sheltered) from the LORD'S anger when he descends upon the people.

II. God will judge the nations near and far (2:4-15)

- A. Judgment upon the nations that are near (v.4-11)
 1. Upon Philistia (v.4-7)
 2. Upon Moab and Ammon (v.8-10)
 3. Upon all the gods of earth (v.11)
- B. Judgment upon powerful nations far (v.12-15)
 1. Upon Ethiopia (v.12)
 2. Upon Assyria and Nineveh (v.13-15)

III. If God punishes the heathen, He will not spare Judah (3:1-8)

- A. Woe to the polluted city-classes of sinners and sin (3:1-7)
 1. Woe to the polluted city-classes of sinners and sin (v.1-7)
 - a. Princes, judges, prophets, priests (v.1-4)
 - b. Jehovah's constant reminder of His sovereignty (v.5-7)
 2. God has called; they have refused (v.8)

IV. Lessons for us today.

A. God always grants time for repentance

1. We are to seek forgiveness (**2:3a**)
2. When we repent God will forgive (**1 John 1:9**), this was also the only hope of those in Zephaniah's time (**2:3b**)

B. Judgment awaits those who will not change.

1. When mankind refuses to turn to God, only judgment from God awaits them, not hope (**2:8-9**)
3. Those who fail to repent often believe God will do nothing, this is not true and is a sure way to see the wrath of God (**Ps 94:1-15**).

Application & Conclusion:

1. Man has had the same struggles since the beginning of time – sin.
2. The solution has not changed either – repentance and obedience.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9