

Together on the Journey

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Zephaniah Seek Zephaniah 1:10-18 February 21, 2021

Zephaniah 1:10-13

¹⁰"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills. ¹¹Wail, you who live in the market district; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be destroyed. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.' ¹³Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine."

How long has it been since you felt God nudging you?

Zephaniah 1:14-17

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath—a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness—¹⁶a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers. ¹⁷"I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung.

Zephaniah 1:18

¹⁸"Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath." In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.

How Can we escape?

Zephaniah 2:3

1. Zephaniah hasn't said exactly when the day of the Lord is, other than it is near. In verse 10 he tells that on that day the people in the Fish Gate and the New Quarter will cry out. The Fish Gate was on the north of the city. The New Quarter was a newer part of the city, but also lying north of the temple. What great calamity would probably come out of the north?

2. The entry of the invading force continues on into the city. We don't know exactly where the section of the city called the Mortar was but many feel it was south of the Fish gate and the New Quarter. We do know that that area was commercial and full of traders. The traders will be wiped out. What reason would God have to punish traders (Amos 8:5-6; Micah 6:10-11)?

3. God will search Jerusalem with lamps to find sinful men who will be punished at the coming of the Day of the Lord. The people God is looking for are the complacent ones. Some call his today "practical atheism." Read Exodus 3:6; 20:1-2.

4. "Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink of the wine". Compare to the words of Amos in Amos 1:13. How can God make this statement in light of the seventh commandment?

5. In verses 15-16, Zephaniah describe the Day of the Lord. How many times does the phrase "a day" appear in these verses? Of what does that remind you? How is the comparison appropriate?

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**Digging
Deeper**