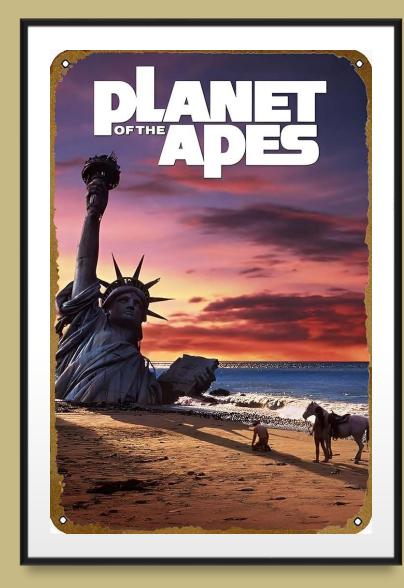
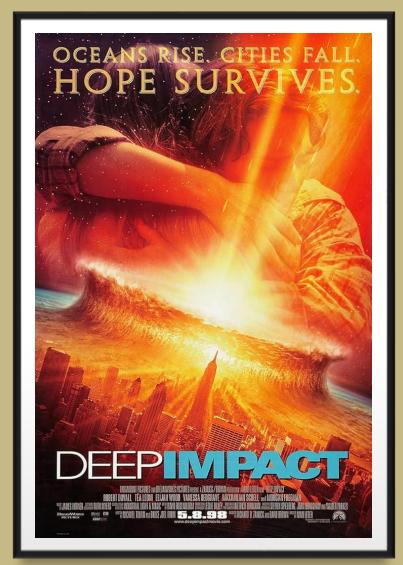
# JUDGMENT, SALVATION, AND HOPE

The Message of the Minor Prophets

Zephaniah: "The Day of the Lord is Near"







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The word of the Lord that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, during the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah...

## The Flow of Zephaniah

The End of the World: Is There Any Hope?

• Zeph. 1:2-2:3



Judgment and Hope: An Enigma

• Zeph. 2:4-3:8



The End of the World: Hope in All Its Glory

• Zeph. 3:9-20

### **Outline**

- 1. The Day of the Lord
- 2. The Call of the Lord
- 3. The Promise of the Lord

## 1. The Day of the Lord

Zephaniah 1:7-18

<sup>7</sup> Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for <u>the day of the Lord</u> is near. The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited.

<sup>8</sup> "On <u>the day of the Lord's sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all those clad in foreign clothes. <sup>9</sup> On <u>that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit.</u></u>

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. <sup>11</sup> Wail, you who live in the market district; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be destroyed. <sup>12</sup> At 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.'

<sup>13</sup> Their 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." <sup>14</sup> The 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.

15 That 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—

<sup>16</sup>a 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. 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.

## 1. The Day of the Lord

#### **Application**

- > God's wrath is proof of God's love
- God's judgment is essential to God's justice

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#### **Application**

- > God's wrath is proof of God's love
- God's judgment is essential to God's justice
- > Our response to God's wrath & judgment is a test of our honesty

## 2. The Call of the Lord

Zephaniah 2:1-3

## Zephaniah 2:1-3

Gather together, gather yourselves together, you shameful nation, <sup>2</sup> before the decree takes effect and that day passes like windblown chaff, before the Lord's fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the Lord's wrath comes upon you. <sup>3</sup> Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord's anger.

#### 2. The Call of the Lord

#### **Application**

- Seeking is more than giving mental assent
- Seeking implies intentionality, making God our priority
- > Seeking is not a casual attachment, but a devoted pursuit

## 3. The Promise of the Lord

Zephaniah 3:9-20

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## Zephaniah 3:9-11

<sup>9</sup> "Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the Lord and serve him shoulder to shoulder. <sup>10</sup> From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring me offerings. <sup>11</sup> On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill.

## Zephaniah 3:12-13

<sup>12</sup> But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the Lord. <sup>13</sup> They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid."

#### 3. The Promise of the Lord

#### What the Lord does:

- Babel reversed (vv. 9-10)
- Jerusalem renewed (v. 11-12)
- Eden restored (v. 13)

## Zephaniah 3:14-17

14 Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! 15 The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. 16 On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. <sup>17</sup> The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

#### 3. The Promise of the Lord

#### Who the Lord is:

- Indwelling King (vv. 14-16)
- Mighty Warrior (v. 17a)
- > Singing Lover (v. 17b)

## Zephaniah 3:18-20

18 "I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. 19 At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I your fortunes before your very eyes," says the Lord. restore JUDGMENT, SALVATION,

AND HOPE

## Summary

- 1. The Day of the Lord
- 2. The Call of the Lord
- 3. The Promise of the Lord

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