



## Old Testament Outlines: Zephaniah by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

### Zephaniah = "Jehovah Hides" [God Is Precise] Blueprint for Redemption

#### I. "The Day of the LORD" **1:2-3:7**

##### A. God Is Over "Corrupted Land" **1:2-3**

1. "All" (beasts, birds, fish, idols) will pay with destruction **1:2-3**  
**Cf Joel 1:18; Hosea 4:3; Jeremiah 12:4**
2. "All" (man - people who have become "wicked") **1:2-3**

##### B. God Is Over "Corrupted People" **1:4-2:3**

1. Judah (land) and Jerusalem (individuals) for:
  - a. Baal and idolatrous priests **1:4; 2 Kings 23:5; Hosea 10:5**
  - b. Worshippers of "host of heaven" **1:5a; Deuteronomy 4:19**
  - c. Profaners of LORD's name **1:5b**
  - d. Rejecters of the LORD's way **1:6**
2. Too late for Judah's "plea bargaining" **1:7; Habakkuk 2:20**
  - a. The compromisers who have the:
    - (1 dress of foreigners **1:8**
    - (2 traditions of foreigners **1:9**
    - (3 business practices of foreigners **1:10-11**
  - b. The complacent **1:12-13; Jeremiah 48:11-12**
3. Too "near" for a lack of response **1:14-18**
  - a. "Hastens quickly" **1:14a Cf Matthew 3:1-2; Revelation 1:1-3**
  - b. Weakens the mighty **1:14b Cf Revelation 6:12-17**
  - c. "That day" of wrath has *an event* and *an effect*: **1:15-16**
    - (1 **trouble** ----- **distress**
    - (2 **devastation** ----- **desolation**
    - (3 **darkness** ----- **gloominess**
    - (4 **clouds** ----- **thick darkness**
    - (5 **trumpet** ----- **alarm**
  - d. Judah would be *aimless* and *worthless* **1:17**
  - e. Judah's wealth would be *useless* **1:18**
4. One last invitation to repent **2:1-3**

**C. God Is Over "Corrupted Neighbors" (No nation escaped) 2:4-15**

**1. Philistia to the west 2:4-7**

a. Its cities of: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron) **2:4**

**Cf Amos 1:6-8; Zechariah 9:5-7**

b. "Woe" to the seacost and "Cherethites" **2:5**

**Cf 2 Samuel 8:18; 20:23; 1 Chronicles 18:17; 30:14; Ezekiel 25:16**

c. Their land would be used for farming by Judah when it returned **2:6-7**

**2. Moab and Amon to the east 2:8-11**

a. Payback for always hating Israel **2:8, 10-11**

**Cf Numbers 22-24; Amos 1:13-15; 2:1-3**

b. God could swear by none Higher **2:9;**

**Hebrews 6:13-14**

c. Desolation would end when "the remnant" returned **2:9**

**3. Ethiopia to the south 2:12**

a. Jehovah's sword in Nebuchadnezzar's hand

**Cf Ezekiel 30:4-5,24-25; 29:17-20**

b. Just like governments function today

**Cf Romans 13:1-4**

**4. Assyria to the north 2:13-15**

a. Assyria was then prospering - become abandoned **2:13-14**

b. Arrogance did not "become" her! **2:15**

**II. The Day of Conversion 3:1-20**

**A. Judah's 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance 3:1-7**

1. Jerusalem, herself, has NOT: **3:1-2**

a. obeyed *His* voice

**Cf Hebrews 3:5-4:2**

b. received correction

**Cf Hebrews 12:5-11**

c. trusted in the LORD

**Cf Hebrews 10:26-39**

d. drawn near to her God

**Cf Hebrews 12:18-29**

2. Jerusalem's leaders were: **3:3-7**

a. changed for the worse **3:3-4**

(1 princes - changed laws of the land

(2 judges - changed legalities

(3 prophets - changed God's Word

(4 priests - changed worship

b. unchanged for their destruction **3:5-7**

**Cf Revelation 1-3**

(1 God is always right unchanged by human behavior **3:5**

(2 God's past is always against ungodly **3:6**

(3 God's pattern always trusts people to do right **3:7**

**B. God's 2<sup>nd</sup> Change 3:8-20**

1. Wait for God's "equality" of judgment **3:8**

**Cf Isaiah 40:31; 49:23; 64:4; Matthew 19:28; Acts 2:36-38**

2. Wait for God's purification of worship **3:9-10 Hebrews 13:9-16**

3. Wait for God's salvation from sins **3:11-12**      **Galatians 6:12-17**
4. Wait for God's reformation of lives **3:13**      **Colossians 3:1-17**
5. Wait for God's return to be among His Israel **3:14-17**  
    **Cf Matthew 1:19-23; John 1:1-14; Colossians 2:9**
6. Wait for God's restoration of Judah's glory **3:18-20**

## Zephaniah's "Zingers:"

- Prophesied after **Nahum** and during early years of **Jeremiah 1:1-3**), "in the days of Josiah, the son of Amon, king of Judah" (**Zephaniah 1:1; 2 Kings 2:1-23:24; 2 Chronicles 34:1-36:4**). This dates his writing between 639-608 B.C., and may well have been before by Hilkiah the high priest "found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD" (**2 Kings 22:8**).
- "The day of the LORD" (**1:7,8,10,14,15,16,18; 2:2,3; 3:8,11,16**) occupies a prominence in **Zephaniah** (in fact, he uses the expression more than any other prophet), but it is a shared term with other prophets, also: **Isaiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Micah, et.al.**
- The prophet is one of 3 Zephaniahs in Scripture: (1) the prophet; (2) a Kohathite, of Heman the singer (**1 Chronicles 6:36**); (3) a pro-Egyptian priest in **Jeremiah's** day (**2 Kings 25:18; Jeremiah 21:1-2; 29:25; 37:3; 52:24**).
- There doesn't appear to be any specific reference to the Messiah in his book, but there clearly is an optimistic view of the future "Messianic Age" involving "the remnant of Israel" (**Zephaniah 3:14-20**).
- **Zephaniah 3:8** is the only verse in the entire Hebrew Old Testament that contains every letter of the Hebrew alphabet!
- Hebrew "pun" in **Zephaniah 2:4** is poignant: *azza* (Gaza) *azubah* (forsaken) *eqron* (Ekron) *teaqer* (destroyed).
- "Deism" is the belief that God is too great, too busy, or too unconcerned to interfere in the affairs of the world. This was the belief of America's Thomas Paine, but has been falsely charged as the belief of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin. **Franklin** said: "If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can arise without his aid?" **Nebuchadnezzar** learned that "the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses" (**Daniel 4:25**). **David** asked the question but gave the answer in the very next verse (**Psalms 8:4-5**)! **Jesus' Sermon on the Mount** surely shows the detailed interaction His disciples should expect from God (**Matthew 5-7**). NOWHERE IN THE ENTIRE BIBLE DOES IT CLAIM GOD CEASES TO INTERACT WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THIS WORLD! He just does not reveal such work through inspired speakers or writers, but nonetheless, His work is manifest, as any observer of history can assess.
- When calamities occur today, many call for "US to come together" but it's usually to denounce government policy, burn candles, hold hands, or conduct "a benefit" for the victims. God called His people to "Gather yourselves together" to throw themselves on His mercy in repentance (**Zephaniah 2:1-3**). Big difference between man-made and God-called!