

# Seven Bible Studies 2017

## Prophecy

### November 3: Zephaniah 1-3 (Wade Stanley)

Good morning, all!

Zephaniah ministered the word of the Lord in the latter days of the kingdom of Judah. This makes the prophet a contemporary of Jeremiah. The great reformer Josiah sat on David's throne and his repentance was rewarded with a delay of God's wrath. A future generation would suffer the consequences for centuries of inconsistency and periods of outright rebellion. Zephaniah reminds those living in the days of this reprieve that judgment approaches.

Here are a few highlights:

1:4-6: God's ultimate objective was to cure Judah of her infidelity. Traditionally, Baal was the chief god adopted by the unfaithful. Baal, though, was not alone. The worship of Milcom (known elsewhere as Molech), an Ammonite god, proliferated as well. You may recall that the worship of Milcom/Molech included the sacrifice of children, an abominable practice that Jeremiah was also called to condemn in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom.

Chapter 2 focuses on the traditional enemies of Judah: Philistia, Ammon, Moab, etc. Notice the references to "the remnant." In Zephaniah, the remnant typically refers to those Jews who survive the captivity in Babylon and return to the Homeland.

2:4-7: The great cities of the Philistines — Ashkelon and Gaza — would also face God's retributive judgment. In future days, Philistia would be wiped out and the remnant will occupy their territory.

2:15: Note what Nineveh says about herself and compare with Babylon (Isaiah 47:8), Tyre (Ezekiel 28:2), Egypt (Ezekiel 29:3) and spiritual Babylon (Revelation 18:7).

Chapter 3 begins by condemning Jerusalem in her current state. A forecast of the future follows. Judah will emerge from her captivity purified. Her people, scattered across the Middle East and Africa, will return to reconstitute the nation. The relationship between God and Judah will be restored.

May God be with you and keep you this day!

#### **Comment:**

Joyfully Nellie:

Good thoughts!

It is nice to remember that God relationship with us can always be restored too!

#### **Replies:**

Joanne Caffie:

Amen

**Comment:**

Steven Wright:

Thanks for the study brother! YaHoWaH make his face to shine up on you, and give you peace!

**Comment:**

Butch O'Neal:

Thank you, brother Wade!