

A Visitor's Guide to the Old Testament

A Quick Discussion Guide on the Book of Zephaniah

1. In 1:12, Zephaniah accuses the people of Jerusalem of being complacent, of thinking that the Lord isn't actively at work in salvation or judgment. What does complacency look like...

... in the church?

... in the "spiritual" lives of those who call themselves Christians?

... among people in general, as it concerns their eternity?

What 2021 factors lull Christians into complacency?

What false assumptions about God lead people to conclude that God is unavailable, uninvolved, and/or uninterested ("The LORD will do nothing...")?

2. The prophet makes his way around the compass with accusations against those who opposed the LORD and the LORD's people (Philistia – West, Moab and Ammon – East, Cush – South, and Assyria – North). The prophecies against "Moab and Ammon" and "Assyria" contain specific accusations. What are they?

One might say that Assyria boasted of a certain exceptionalism... does that sound familiar?

If Zephaniah were prophesying today, who are those against whom God's accusations would be pronounced and what would the accusations be?

How can we, as individuals, be spared God's scathing accusations?

3. Fire figures prominently in Zephaniah's vision of the future in chapter 3:8,9. What double use of fire does Zephaniah employ in these verses?

How can you tell the difference when God employs "fire" in your life?

4. What distinguishes Zephaniah from the other "Minor Prophets"?

Can you do the same for the other "Minor Prophets" we have studied so far?

5. Write your memory passage below: