

Zephaniah chapter 1

When God destroyed mankind in Noah's day He left behind the fish of the seas, and He promised never to destroy by flood again. In what ways are Zephaniah's account of the Day Of The Lord similar and/or different? [2-3] Considering the totality of the destruction described in verses 2-3, why do we need verses 4-13?

Why doesn't Zephaniah end at verse 3? or at verse 13? or at verse 18? If all life is to be destroyed soon, unconditionally, with absolute certainty then why not stop here? what else do we need to know?

Zephaniah chapter 2

In light of the impending doom of chapter Zephaniah urges his readers to do something in 2:1-3; what does he tell us to do, and why?

Does verse 9 suggest that God **isn't** going to destroy all life as promised in chapter 1?

Zechariah has already told us that they will all be destroyed, so why do we need the catalog of Israel's enemies in verses 4-15?

Zephaniah chapter 3

Which city is spoken of in the first five verses? What was God hoping to accomplish with all of the destruction? [6-7]

What instruction is given in verse 8? Who is eligible for the blessings described at the end of the chapter? [9-20]

God is destroying all life, but He is preserving a remnant? How does that work? Is Zephaniah's language to be interpreted as literal, or as hyperbolic or figurative? Is there a single catastrophic event known as The Day Of The Lord, or is it a symbolic reference to a (potentially prolonged) process that happens in multiple stages and provides opportunity for the actions of the faithful to influence its timing, intensity, or scope?

Commands: Be silent before the Lord [1:7], Gather together [2:1], Seek the Lord, seek righteousness, seek humility [2:3], Wait for the Lord [3:8].

Next week: Haggai chapters 1 and 2.