



A Scenic Overlook

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2009 • 6:20 p.m.

David H. McKinley

Zephaniah | Ultimate Issues

Overview

The great focal point of Hebrew prophecy is the coming "day of the Lord." Mentioned by many of the prophets studied thus far, Zephaniah speaks of this great event some 20 times in the scope of his brief prophecy. Zephaniah seeks genuine revival of the people of God that will go beyond the outward increase of religious fervor to the inward reality of God's righteousness.

Zephaniah appears to be a descendant of Hezekiah, King of Judah. Under Hezekiah, Judah experienced God's blessing because of his godly leadership. Zephaniah ministers during the reign of Josiah and seeks to provide warning of the coming invasion of Judah by Babylon.

Zephaniah is a prophet with a stern warning of judgment and destruction. God chose this prophet to speak His truth and to uproot evil. This prophecy is timely and intense.

Outline

The structure of Zephaniah's prophecy can be viewed in the following manner (J. Phillips):

- I. The Determination of the Lord, 1:1-6
 - A. Judge Fully, 1:2-4
 - B. Judge Fairly, 1:5-6
- II. The Day of the Lord, 1:7-3:8
 - A. The People Mentioned, 1:7-13
 - B. The Period Mentioned, 1:14-18
 - C. The Places Mentioned, 2:1-3:8
- III. The Deliverance of the Lord, 3:9-20
 - A. Israel's Regathering, 3:9-10
 - B. Israel's Repentance, 3:11-13
 - C. Israel's Rejoicing, 3:14-15
 - D. Israel's Redeemer, 3:16-20

Observations

1. The "Day of the Lord" is not limited to Zephaniah.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:2
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:2
 - 2 Peter 3:10
2. We learn much about God's character.
 - God is active, not distant or silent.
Zephaniah 1:14-15
 - God is just.
2 Thessalonians 1:5-7
 - God is absolute in authority.
Zephaniah 2:11
Philippians 2:9-11
 - God is merciful.
Zephaniah 2:7; 3:9, 15, 17
Luke 15:10
Ephesians 1:7-12
 - God is loving.
John 3:16
Zephaniah 3:17
3. Worship is not limited to a place.
Zephaniah 3:17
John 4