

Zephaniah 1



The Text

1. What images are used for judgement in this chapter? What is the emotional impact?
2. Why might Zephaniah talk of the judgement of the whole world and the judgement on Judah?
3. What is it about Judah that God wants to judge?
4. What does God's judgement reveal about his character and values?
5. Why might people believe in Zeph 1:12 that the Lord will do nothing?

The Text as a Portion of Scripture

6. What connections do you see between Josiah's reforms and Zephaniah's preaching? (See 2 Kings 22–23; 2 Chron 34–35.)
7. In what sense is the judgement of God finished for those in Christ? Consider Rom 8:1–4.
8. In what sense is the judgement of God an ongoing thing? Consider 1 Cor 3:10–15; 1 Cor 11:27–31; 1 Pet 4:17–18.
9. What images of the death of Jesus do you see in Zeph 1?

The Text and our Lives

10. Discuss the claim that God judges because he is petty, jealous, impulsive and violent.
11. When are you tempted to believe that God will do nothing?
12. Do you sense that God is purifying you at the moment? How? Why?