

## Message Meditation

March 1, 2015

Text: **Zephaniah**

### Message Meditation:

1. Zephaniah the prophet is also a prince – a descendant of the great King Hezekiah. Zephaniah's ministry was during the reign of King Josiah, who led the nation of Judah in a national revival. Zephaniah's message was that God was going to soon come and discipline the nation of Judah for their sin.
  - a. Zephaniah saw beyond the outward conformity to Josiah's revival.
  - b. Zephaniah saw beyond his day:
    - i. To the soon-coming discipline upon Judah.
    - ii. To the ultimate day of the Lord when the Lord would judge all wickedness and restore and dwell among His people.
2. We don't see well beyond our day – but we do know there is another day of the Lord coming. Jesus plainly communicated that He was coming again, a claim all the New Testament authors repeated.
  - a. The return of Jesus is an anticipated day of great glory, awe and wonder for those who believe Him.
  - b. The return of Jesus is a day of distress, anguish and devastation for those who have ignored Him and rejected His salvation.
3. *Are you prepared for Jesus' return? Are you preparing for Jesus' return?*  
Two points of examination from Zephaniah 1:
  - a. Zephaniah 1:4-8: Are you swearing by the Lord...and by something else?
    - i. Swearing by the Lord, and by something else, practically makes the Lord irrelevant. If something is added to the Lord then He is not sought after or pursued.
    - ii. If you know God, then you know He is not replaceable and His salvation is sufficient.
  - b. Zephaniah 1:12: Are you living like God is a do-nothing God?
    - i. Complacent living comes from the misguided belief that God is a do-nothing God.
    - ii. When God's grace and patience is interpreted as God's permissiveness, it results in complacent living.
    - iii. The cross tells us God is not a do-nothing God. God's past judgments and deliverances communicate that God is not a do-nothing God.
    - iv. When we live unaffected by God, we tell the world that God is unaffected.
4. Preparing for the coming day of the Lord involves repenting from (a) adding to Jesus, and (b) living as if God doesn't matter.

### Message Application:

1. Are you prepared for Jesus' return? Is your faith in Him alone for your salvation?
2. Are you preparing for Jesus' return? Are you living by faith in Him today?
3. Examining your life, would people assume that God is active or apathetic?