



Sermon Outline

Key Scripture

The Lord will be awesome to them when he destroys all the gods of the earth. Distant nations will bow down to him, all of them in their own lands.

Zephaniah 2:11

Main Points

1. Turn to the Lord

I have heard the insults of Moab and the taunts of the Ammonites, who insulted my people and made threats against their land.

Zephaniah 2:8

2. Prioritize The Lord

I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me.

Izaiah 45:5

3. Wait on the Lord

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.

Psalms 130:5

WHEN LIFE FALLS APART

Opening Thought

Things were falling apart for Judah. God's judgment was looming. They were a people steeped in idolatry and sin. Zephaniah's prophecy is not just about being conquered by the enemy. It is about the day of the Lord. When all people will be judged at the second coming of Jesus. It didn't matter that these Israelites were God's chosen people. If they did not humble themselves and seek the Lord wholeheartedly and take refuge in his forgiveness, they were going to suffer on the Day of the Lord. Despite the certainty of judgment, hope remains for those who turn to God in humility and faith.

For personal reflection or group discussion

Do you tend to heed or ignore warnings?

When you see a traffic sign that warns you to slow down to 25 miles per hour for a sharp turn, do you *actually* slow down that much? Or when you take a medication that warns you not to drive or operate machinery until you know how your body will react to it, do you stay home all day and avoid driving? (probably not).

Questions to go deeper in your faith.

The Lord issues judgement on nations to the West, East, South, & North of Judah. What does this reveal about the scope of God's judgment upon the nations?

Observe the verses of this section closely. How many times do you see the terms "pride," "mocking," "taunting," "arrogance," etc.? What is God's response to this pride? (See *Proverbs 3:34; 8:13*)

Read Zephaniah 2:13-15. God pronounced judgement on the city of Nineveh (the capital of Assyria) Why does Zephaniah mention all of the animals that will be present (flocks, beasts/creatures, desert owl)? What will happen to this great and powerful city? What does the desolation of Nineveh reveal about God's outlook towards worldly power?

Next Step

This is a message of dreadful judgment upon those who sin against God. We, like the ancient faithful remnant, live in a nation that has turned its back upon God and may be destined for His wrath and judgment.

Consider this week how you can embrace humility and be dependent upon God rather than be proud and self-sufficient. Who are the people in your life that you can ask to pray for you in this effort?