

THE JOYFUL JUDGE

An Overview of the Book of Zephaniah

Sunday | March 18th, 2018 | Pastor Jason Ogden

Discussion Questions

1. Share with the group what impacted you the most in this sermon. How did the Holy Spirit convict you and comfort you from His inspired word?
2. Discuss as a group what Pastor Jason said was the backdrop for the book of Zephaniah. Why does it start out with such strong judgement language? Why is the context important to know when studying Zephaniah?
3. Judgement is a significant theme throughout the book of Zephaniah. How can we reconcile the God of the Old Testament who punishes his people and the surrounding nations with Jesus in the New Testament who offers mercy and love? Is God's character consistent between the testaments?
(Note: Remember that God's character is consistent between the testaments. Judgement will come for all sooner or later. The question is whether or not your judgement will fall on you or on the body of Jesus)
4. One major theme in regards to the backdrop/context in Zephaniah is that the word of the Lord had been lost and neglected for many years until the reign of Josiah. Look through the first chapter of Zephaniah and discuss as a group some of the outcomes of long-term neglect of God's word. How does this apply to us today?
5. John Piper says, "Satan works overtime to keep people from giving serious attention to the Word of God...Inattention is his game." What are some tactics that Satan uses to distract us from giving serious attention to God's word?
6. As a group read Zephaniah 3:14-17. Do any of you struggle with seeing God as someone who is so delighted in you that he actually rejoices over you with gladness and exults over you with loud singing? Why do we struggle at times believing that this is true?