

The 12: Zephaniah Part I

Jonathan Cleveland

January 9th, 2022

Reflection & Discussion Questions

There is a tension in Scripture of a seemingly contradictory image of God

A God who says, 'No condemnation' and one who says, 'there's going to be condemnation.'

Read and discuss Zephaniah 1:12-17(NIV)

¹² *At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps
and punish those who are complacent,
who are like wine left on its dregs,
who think, 'The LORD will do nothing,
either good or bad.'*

¹³ *Their wealth will be plundered,
their houses demolished.
Though they build houses,
they will not live in them;
though they plant vineyards,
they will not drink the wine."*

¹⁴ *The great day of the LORD is near—
near and coming quickly.
The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter;*

the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.

¹⁵ *That day will be a day of wrath—
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of trouble and ruin,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and blackness—*

¹⁶ *a day of trumpet and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the corner towers.*

¹⁷ *"I will bring such distress on all people
that they will grope about like those who are blind,
because they have sinned against the LORD.
Their blood will be poured out like dust
and their entrails like dung.*

*What do these verses say about God? About people?

*Have you struggled with this in Scripture? What do you do when you come to seemingly harsh passages?

*What conclusions do we come to if we understand God's judgement to be mean or like a judgmental human?

God's love interprets His judgement

It is always connected to His desire for us to experience the glorious dream of His kingdom.

*Where in Scripture or in life have you seen God's judgement be different than our own?

*How does God's judgement reveal his deep desire for more than we humans settle for?

We can become complacent about God's dream

Complacency is brutally toxic to our soul.

*What does complacency look like in your life?

*Why do we choose convenience and self-protection over the dream of God?

Prophets help us fight complacency in our lives

Read 2 Kings 22 for an example of this type of help.

*How can Josiah inspire us to fight complacency? What does his posture show us?

*What prophets do you have in your life?

*What is God saying to you about the ways His judgement is for our good?

**Visual reflection (Visio Divina)
Song for reflection**

[Huldah](#) by Dina Cormick

[Wake Up](#) by All Sons & Daughters