

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #31 – Zephaniah & Haggai

PRAYER: Lord, more and more I can see how Your loving hand was with Your people in the Old Testament. Judgement came in order that Your mercy would be recognized and accepted. Help me to see Your hand at work in my life also. Assure me of Your presence and promises found in Jesus Christ. Help me always to be ready for the Great Day of the Lord, when You will come in glory to restore me and all the faithful to the relationships which You desired from the beginning. I pray in the name of Him who lives and rules forever, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Notes on Zephaniah:

Zephaniah means “**Yahweh (The Lord) hides.**” In the last days of Judah, I am sure it seemed like the Lord was not there for the people. He was a prophet at the same time as Jeremiah. Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of King Josiah, the good king. (640-609) B.C.) Apparently, Zephaniah was related to the kings of Judah. (See 1:1)

The main theme of Zephaniah is the coming “Day of the Lord.” Similar thoughts are found in Isaiah 2:11, Joel 1:15 and Amos 5:18 and 8:9. The day speaks of judgment and then mercy.

Questions on Zephaniah:

1. In Chapters 1:4-9 – The worship of another god along with your own is called syncretism. Read about Molech in Lev. 18:21 and 20:1-5. What does Zephaniah say the Lord’s reaction will be?
2. Chapter 1:12 - What do you think was going on in the minds of the ones Zephaniah calls complacent? What was Zephaniah trying to do to them?
3. Chapter 1:14-18 – The great day of the Lord is more than just the end of Judah. How can you tell?
4. Chapter 3:20 – What are the similarities between this verse and I Thess. 4:13-18?

Your Questions on Zephaniah...

Notes on Haggai:

With Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi, the minor prophets move to the post-exilic time period. The time period of Haggai and Zechariah are the same. In fact, exact dates can be given for the messages given in Haggai. Those messages come in the Fall of 520 B.C. from August 29th through December 18th. Both Haggai and Zechariah are mentioned in Ezra 5:1-2 and 6:14. See Lesson #14 on Ezra to recall the circumstances Haggai spoke to. The main thing Haggai did was to get the Jewish people committed to rebuild the temple after putting it off for many years.

Questions on Haggai:

1. Chapters 1:2-3 – What is the point the Lord is making with His question in verse 3?
2. Chapter 1:5-22 & 2:14-19 – What has been the results of their selfish behavior?
3. Chapter 2:6-9 – What things said here would have you think of Jesus and His heavenly kingdom?
4. For your information – In 2:23, when Zerubbabel I called the signet ring, he is seen as the promise that God's prophecies will come true. The ultimate promise was about the Messiah and His kingdom.

Your questions on Haggai...

Read Zechariah and Malachi