Zephaniah 1:1-2:3
The Great Day of the Lord is Near

Today's Text - Zephaniah 1:1-2:3
- v-1:1-3 – The Word of the Lord
- v-1:4-13 – The Judgment of the Lord
- v-1:14-18 – The Day of the Lord
- v-2:1-3 – The Safety of the Lord

ZEPHANIAH: A Teaching Outline
I. The Judgment In the Day of the Lord 1:1—3:8
   A. The Judgment on the Whole Earth 1:1-3
   B. The Judgment on the Nation of Judah 1:4—2:3
      1. Causes of the Judgment 1:4-13
      2. Description of the Judgment 1:14-18
      3. Call to Repentance 2:1-3
   C. The Judgment on the Nations Surrounding Judah 2:4-15
      1. Judgment against Gaza (West) 2:4-7
      2. Judgment against Moab and Ammon (East) 2:8-11
      3. Judgment against Ethiopia (South) 2:12
      4. Judgment against Assyria (North) 2:13-15
   D. The Judgment on Jerusalem 3:1-7
      1. Jerusalem's Wickedness 3:1-4
      2. The Lord's Justice 3:5-7
   E. The Judgment on the Whole Earth 3:8
II. The Salvation in the Day of the Lord 3:9-20
   A. The Promise of Conversion 3:9-13
   B. The Promise of Restoration 3:14-20

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Theme and Purpose

The theme of Zephaniah more than any other prophet is the Day of the Lord. The prophecy is spoken not only to the nation of Judah and the city of Jerusalem, but its judgments foreshadow or prefigure the global judgment of God on the whole world at the end of this present world as we know it. This approaching Day has two outcomes; one of judgment and destruction for those who continue in their sin against God, and one of blessing and joy for those who look to Him for salvation from sin. God will be glorified in salvation and He will do it in a world of judgment. The great Day of the Lord is near and coming soon so humble yourself before the Lord’s mighty hand that you may be saved from the Day of His fierce wrath and judgment on a proud and sinful world of sinners and brought into His joyful presence forever.

In Zephaniah we hear a very urgent warning from God about His approaching judgment of not only Judah, but the whole world, including all mankind. Here the scope of God’s judgment is brought into clear focus by statements showing a global judgment upon the all humanity on the face of the whole earth (1:3, 1:18, 3:8). As always with the prophets, there is an offer of mercy to those who will humble themselves and seek the Lord (2:1-3), and there are some of the most vivid promises of the blessing of God’s presence in all of the Bible (3:9–20). Not only will He restore the fortunes of Israel and Judah, but a day is spoken of when God will save a remnant from all the nations whom He will give purified lips that all may call upon His name in a restored world of pure worship and joy. In it we see the majesty and fearful judgment of the great God of Heaven ridding His world of evil and restoring it to a place of peace and prosperity forever.

You see this is the great lesson we learn from the prophet Zephaniah. God is a God of Judgment as well as a God of Promise. On the great Day of the Lord, God is going to purge the faithless from all humanity and bring the faithful into their full inheritance.