

# The Floral Heights Informer

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## **Zephaniah**

*“Woe to her that is rebellious and polluted!”*

**Zephaniah 3:1**

### **Prophet and Date of Writing**

Zephaniah was of a kingly bloodline. He begins his prophecy by tracing his heritage back to Hezekiah king of Judah. The date of Zephaniah’s prophecy is given as *“in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah”* (Zeph. 1:1). Josiah reigned from 639 to 608 BC. Josiah came to power in Judah at the age of 8 and at the age of 16 he began to seek after Jehovah (II Chron. 34:1-3). During Josiah’s day Jeremiah, Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah prophesied against Judah. Josiah saw to it that many religious reforms took place; however, nothing could detour God’s purpose of punishing His wicked people for their sins (cf. II Kings 21:10-15).

### **Theme of Zephaniah**

Zephaniah’s primary objective is to awaken Judah out of spiritual slumber. Judah was guilty of sin and thereby due God’s condemning judgment of fierce anger and wrath (Zeph. 1:17). Zephaniah refers to this time as the *“Great Day of Judgment”* (Zeph. 1:14-16; 2:2; 3:8).

### **Judah’s Sin**

To look upon Judah was to look upon the world of heathens. Judah was clothed with *“foreign apparel”* and thereby the Lord could not distinguish them from other sinful peoples (Zeph. 1:8). Judah practiced idolatry (Zeph. 1:4), was rebellious, polluted, disobedient, and would not receive correction (Zeph. 3:1). Judah had no shame in committing sin (Zeph. 2:1). Every aspect of

## Local News:

**Welcome to all our visitors.** We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

**Pam Husak** continues the slow process of healing from her recent surgery. Pam also said that Walter's mother who lives in Pittsburg has had additional heart troubles and is currently in the hospital. **Walter** is in Pittsburg taking care of her.

**Nina Grey** is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery May 29<sup>th</sup>. Continue to pray for her as well.

**The Last Sunday of the Month Singing is this Evening!**

If you have a favorite song that you would like one of the men to sing this evening be sure and put your request in now!

**Continue to pray for our shut-ins:**

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home).

**Bessie Murphy**  
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

society was perverted. The **general populace** had a divided allegiance between their king, wealth, and God (Zeph. 1:5, 13). The people were ignorantly content in their ungodliness all the while thinking that God would not do them harm or good (Zeph. 1:12). **Servants** displayed disrespect toward their masters (Zeph. 1:9). Judah's **princes, judges, prophets, and priests** were perverted as well (Zeph. 3:3-4).

### **The Remedy for Judah and the ungodly of all Times**

God's desired character in His people is spiritual meekness (cf. Zeph. 2:3). Said people will fear God and receive the correction He administers (Zeph. 3:7). Those who wait (trust) in Jehovah will not be disappointed (Zeph. 3:8). The Lord requires nothing less today. God desires His disciples to be meek (Matt. 5:5), God fearing (I Pet. 2:17), and willing to receive the Lord's correction through His word (Heb. 12:9). So many today, like those of Judah, are corrected by God's word yet in a spirit of rebellion reject all help.

### **What is at Stake?**

There is much at stake when contemplating rebellion or acting with a spirit of humility and meekness when sin occurs. Zephaniah reveals forgiveness of sins as the first thing at stake (cf. Zeph. 3:11). To live with the guilt of sin is more that the human soul can bear. When we sin against Jehovah God it generally bothers us a great deal. Our hands may hang low in a disheartened state (cf. Zeph. 3:16-18). The second thing that Zephaniah reveals to be at stake is one's level of happiness and contentment. Real happiness and rejoicing ought to come from the concept of being forgiven of our sins (Zeph. 3:14). The rebellious can fabricate happiness, through ignorance of sin and its consequences, yet true happiness is found in the Lord (cf. Zeph. 1:12).

The Christian today has the word of God that exposes sin (Rom. 3:20; 7:7). The expected outcome of sin in the Christian's life is great sorrow of heart (II Cor. 7:10). The remedy for the Christian's sin and guilt is humble repentance (Acts 17:30) and prayer (Acts 8:22; I Jn. 1:9). God continues to supply our every spiritual need!

John C. Robertson