

Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on The Book of Zephaniah by David E. Pratte

**A workbook suitable for Bible classes, family studies, or
personal Bible study**



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Bible Study Questions on the Book of Zephaniah:
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“He who glories, let him glory in the Lord” – 1 Corinthians 1:31

Front Page Photo

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Bible Study Questions on the Book of Zephaniah

Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The class book is suitable for teens and up. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge students to study to understand Scripture.

Enough questions are included for teachers to assign as many questions as they want for each study session. Studies may proceed at whatever speed and depth will best accomplish the needs of the students.

Questions labeled "think" are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned. When questions refer to a map, students should consult maps in a Bible dictionary or similar reference work or in the back of their Bibles. (Note: My abbreviation "**b/c/v**" means "book, chapter, and verse.")

For class instruction, I urge teachers to assign the questions as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves. Let the teacher use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive discussion, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered "correctly." Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: "Joe, will you answer number 1?" "Sue, what about number 2?" Etc.

I also urge students to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over "What did the author mean by question #5?" My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on.

The questions are not intended just to help students understand the Scriptures. They are also designed to help students learn good principles of Bible study. Good Bible study requires defining the meaning of keywords, studying parallel passages, explaining the meaning of the text clearly, making applications, and defending the truth as well as exposing religious error. I have included questions to encourage students to practice all these study principles.

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

Bible study commentary and notes to accompany many of our workbooks are available at www.gospelway.com/sales

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Assignments on Zephaniah 1

Read Zephaniah 1, then answer the following questions.

1. Who was the inspired author of this book – 1:1? What is told about his background?

2. When did he prophesy?

<p>3. Special Assignment: What can you learn about the historical background of the nation at this time?</p>

4. What other prophet prophesied during Zephaniah's lifetime?

5. How did Zephaniah claim inspiration?"

6. Skim the book of Zephaniah and state its theme.

7. What did God predict that He would do – 1:2,3?

8. How thorough and complete would the destruction be?

9. Against what territory in particular would God bring destruction – 1:4?

10. From 1:4-6 list the various groups of sinners that God said he would cut off.

11. **Application:** What should we learn from this list about the kind of sins we also should avoid?

12. What would God do on the day of the Lord – 1:7? What is the significance of the expression “the day of the Lord” (see other similar passages)?

13. **Special Assignment:** Considering the context, what sacrifice would be offered, and who was being invited to partake of the sacrifice?

14. Who would be punished in the day of the Lord sacrifice – 1:8,9? (Think: What is the significance of wearing foreign garments?)

15. What evil is committed by those who step over the threshold? (Think: To whom might this apply?)

16. What sounds would be heard according to 1:10? From where would they come?

17. Who should mourn and why should they mourn according to 1:11? (Think: What is the significance of Maktesh or Mortar?)

18. **Special Assignment:** Try to determine the cause of the grief described in 1:10,11.

19. Whom would God punish according to 1:12? (Think: What is the significance of God searching the city with lamps?)

20. Explain in your own words the sin for which these people were guilty. (Think: Some translations refer to those who are settled on their lees. Check other translations and explain the meaning.)

21. **Application:** What lessons should we learn from the sins of these people?

22. What punishment would come on these people – 1:13?

23. What information is given about the day of the Lord in 1:14?

24. Make a list of the expressions used in 1:15,16 to describe the day of the Lord.

25. Explain the significance of these descriptions of the day of the Lord.

26. What would happen to men according to 1:17? Why?

27. What will happen to the land in the day of God's wrath according to 1:18?

28. What will not enable them to escape despite the seeming advantage?

29. **Application:** What lessons should people today learn from the fact these people would not escape punishment?

Assignments on Zephaniah 2

Read Zephaniah 2, then answer the following questions.

1. Before the day of the Lord's anger (chapter 1), what should the people do – 2:1,2?

2. What should they do according to 2:3? What purpose might this accomplish?

3. **Application:** Explain what God requires of them and what lessons we should learn.

4. Against what people does Zephaniah prophesy in 2:4-7?

5. What specific cities are named in 2:4 (see a **map**)? What would happen to them?

6. What does God say would happen to them according to 2:5? (Think: Where else in Scripture are the Philistines referred to as Cherethites?)

7. **Special Assignment:** Summarize some conflicts between the Philistines and Israel or Judah throughout their history.

8. What would happen to their territory according to 2:6,7?

9. **Special Assignment:** Explain how this contrasts the future of the Philistine nation to that of the people of Judah.

10. List other **passages** where other prophets prophesied against the Philistines. (Think: How many Philistines are known to exist on the earth today?)

11. Against what nations does Zephaniah prophesy in 2:8-11 (see a *map*)?

12. **Special Assignment:** How were these nations related to Israel? List some wrongs they had committed against Israel in the past.

13. What had they done that turned God against them – 2:8,10?

14. How is their future described in 2:9?

15. What would God do to the gods of these nations – 2:11? (Think: Where are these people today, and who worships their gods?)

16. Against whom did Zephaniah prophesy in 2:12, and what would happen to them (see a *map*)?

17. Against whom did Zephaniah prophesy in 2:13-15 (see a *map*)?

18. What consequence would God bring upon them – 2:13,14?

19. How does God describe the present attitude of these people in 2:15?

20. **Application:** Contrast the attitude of Assyria to her future destiny. What lessons should we learn about pride and self-reliance?

Assignments on Zephaniah 3

Read Zephaniah 3, then answer the following questions.

1. How does 3:1 describe the city that God addresses?
2. List the sins God for which accuses them in 3:2.
3. 3:3,4 lists four groups of leaders. List these and for each one describe God's accusations against them.
4. In contrast to these corrupt leaders, how is God described in 3:5?
5. What had God done according to 3:6? How did this demonstrate His justice?
6. What had God done for His people according to 3:7? What did He hope would be the response? What happened instead?
7. For what should God's people wait – 3:8? What would God then do?
8. What would God restore to the people – 3:9? What could they do as a result? (Think: Why would purified speech be important?)
9. From where would the people then come and for what purpose – 3:10? (Think: What is the symbolic significance of Ethiopia?)
10. **Special Assignment:** About whom is God speaking now in verses 9 and following? What has changed from the previous verses? (Note: Verse 13 may help.)

11. What would God remove from the people – 3:11?

12. What kind of people would be left – 3:12?

13. How would the people act according to 3:13? (Think: What term shows that Zephaniah is no longer speaking about the same people as in the first part of the chapter?)

14. How should the people react then according to 3:14?

15. What reasons give them cause for joy – 3:15?

16. How should the people then act according to 3:16? What is the significance of weak or slack hands?

17. What will God do for them according to 3:17?

18. What had caused them sorrow according to 3:18? (Think: What reason would there be for sorrowing in this?)

19. What promise did God make them in 3:19?

20. What concluding promise did God give and what would He give the people – 3:20?

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