

“What Day are you Living for?”
Sermon Reflection Questions March 7, 2010
Zephaniah 1:14-18, Unlocking the Old Testament

When we think of the Old Testament we usually think about passages where we see the judgment of God. We have looked at those kinds of passages on occasion in our series, but I hope you have seen that the Old Testament is more than passages of judgment. The book of Zephaniah, however, is one of those books that have as one of its primary focuses, God’s judgment. The judgment comes because people were minimizing the judgment of God, they didn’t think that God was going to deal justly with His people. This message is going to focus on helping us live with the reality and understanding that God is going to bring about judgment in the future.

1. As a pastor I often don’t want to focus on the judgment of God; first of all it is not an enjoyable topic, but secondly, people often grew up with church being all about judgment. What can you remember as a kid when you heard about or thought about God’s judgment?

2. Zephaniah 1:6-13 lays out the reasons why God will deliver His judgment. These reasons were brought out in the message as well.

a. What are the reasons why God is going to deliver judgment (I count four)?

b. In what ways do we see similar actions, behaviors, and attitudes today, by those who claim to be Christians as well as those who do not?

3. What is the judgment of God going to be like? (See Zephaniah 1:14-18, Revelation 19:11-21, Matthew 7:21-23)

4. What does society at large think about the question of heaven and hell? Who gets in and who does not?

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5. While we certainly don't want to needlessly worry those who have no need to worry about judgment, we do want to warn those who need to be warned. What is the right balance that we should have between warning about judgment and being overly consumed by it?

6. Read the parable of the 10 virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. Since we don't know the day or hour that Christ will return, or that we will die, how should we live in each moment?

7. We tend to not want to share our faith with others because we may not know what to say or we don't want to offend them. But in light of God's judgment should we not pray for those who don't know the Lord and should we not share our faith with them? Who has God put on your heart to pray for and to look for opportunities to share the faith?