

Greater Week 7 Study Questions

Read Zephaniah 1

The story of the Bible can be summed up into five parts: Creation, Fall, Hope, Rescue, and Restoration. What portion of the story does Zephaniah 1 depict most?

Zephaniah points out five reasons for the judgement of mankind.

1. Religious Pluralism (v. 5) - Living and worshipping God and something/someone else. What verses in Scripture denounce religious pluralism? While not actively bowing down to other ideals, how do Christians today slip into religious pluralism?
2. Giving Lip Service to God (v. 6-7) - Read Isaiah 29:13. Do you ever find yourself running through the motions? When you find your life not matching up with your worship, what's the remedy?
3. Assimilating into Life without God (v. 8) - Instead of being an influence on the nations, the nations were influencing the kingdom of Judah. What area of your life is more influenced by the surrounding culture than by God? What Scriptures make it clear that our lives should match our confessions?
4. Injustice (v. 9-11) - The people's broken vertical relationship with God was now impacting their horizontal relationship with other people. When have you noticed this to be true in your life? How does Ephesians 5:1-2 call us to live instead?
5. Apathy (v. 12) - God was no longer a practical reality in people's lives. They stopped pretending to worship and neglected him altogether. When God seems silent or we're in a dry spiritual season, what can we do to remember the faithfulness and goodness of God?

What do verses 2-4 and 14-17 reveal as the punishment for these sins?

Memorize Romans 3:23-24 which says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Why is it so important to understand the bad news before we can truly understand the good news of the redemption we have in Christ?