

The Nations Rage

Zephaniah Series – Part 3

Scripture text – Zephaniah 2:4-15

Introduction

- Even in severe judgment, there are elements of God's _____:
 - 1) He gives Judah _____
 - 2) He promises not to destroy them _____
- Upon hearing Zephaniah's prophecy, Judah likely complained that God wasn't being _____ because the surrounding nations were even _____.
 - Hence, God provided _____ revelation.

The Surrounding Nations

1. Philistia (west)
 - The LORD was _____ them and vowed to _____ them.
 - Their land would be given to the _____ of Judah.
2. Moab & Ammon (east)
 - Both nations would become a _____; Zephaniah compares their destruction to that of _____.
 - What so stirred God's anger was their _____ of Judah.
3. Cush & Assyria (south & north)
 - Assyria was the _____ nation of that time period & uniquely wicked in the annals of human history.
 - Their downfall was on account of their _____.

Major Conclusions

1. The plan of God is the central, _____ factor in the course of history.
 - 20 times in 12 verses, the LORD describes what _____ happen.
 - We can't hear this often enough: God is in _____.
 - This is intended for our _____. This is because a central concern of God, as he determines the course of history, is the _____ of his people.

- God is a fierce _____ of his people.
2. The _____ of other nations from the land, so it can be possessed by the _____ of Judah, is a _____ of the conclusion to which God is moving history.
- Zephaniah's prophecy has a double fulfillment: one _____-time and the other _____-time.
 - The whole earth will be cleared of pagan influence and the remnant will _____ the land.

Application

- The people of God may be in for some _____ days. We mustn't scoff at this possibility (perhaps even likelihood).
- The OT book of _____ was written in the aftermath of the Babylonian destruction of Judah.
- So, while the people of God might suffer, we will _____, because our Deliverer is coming.