

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Zephaniah

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1:1-9

Background: Verse 4 mentions Baal. Baal was a false god.

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ According to a revelation to Zephaniah, Yahweh will destroy everything on the earth. [1:1-3]
- ☐ Yahweh will destroy all people who do not follow him. [1:4-6]
- ☐ Zephaniah prophesied that the day of Yahweh was near. [1:7]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who received this word from Yahweh? [1:1]
Zephaniah, son of Cushi received this word.
2. What did Yahweh say he would destroy? [1:2-3]
Yahweh said he would destroy everything off the surface of the earth: people, animals, birds, and fish.
3. In 1:4, what did Yahweh say he would cut off?
Yahweh said he would cut off every remnant of Baal worship and the names of the idolatrous people among the priests.
4. Why do you think Yahweh would cut off every remnant of Baal? [1:4]
He would do this so that people would stop worshipping Baal and never worship Baal again.
5. What did people go up onto their housetops to worship? [1:5]
They worshiped the heavenly bodies. This meant that they worshiped the things in the sky—the sun, moon, and stars.
6. What did Yahweh say would happen to people who turned away from him? [1:6]
Yahweh said he would cut them off.
7. What were the people to do in the presence of Yahweh? [1:7]
They were to be silent in his presence.
8. Why do you think the people should be silent before Yahweh? [1:7]
This would show that they feared him.
9. Who did Yahweh say he would punish on the day of sacrifice? [1:8-9]
Yahweh will punish the princes and the king's sons, everyone dressed in foreign clothes, those who leapt over the door sill, and those who filled their master's house with violence and deceit.

Zephaniah 1:1-9 continued

10. What do you think the people of Judah did when they heard these things? [1:8-9]

Perhaps some people believed what Zephaniah said and repented. Perhaps some refused to believe and continued in their sinful ways.

Comment Section:

2:1-3

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Zephaniah told the people that they needed to seek Yahweh before the day of judgment. [2:1-3]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Zephaniah tell the unashamed nation to do? [2:1]
He told them to gather together.
2. What did he warn them would happen? [2:2]
Yahweh's wrath would come upon them. This meant that Yahweh was angry with them and would punish them.
3. Who did he tell to seek Yahweh? [2:3]
He told the humble people who obeyed Yahweh's commands to seek him.
4. What do you think were Zephaniah's reasons for warning the people? [2:1-3]
Zephaniah wanted the people to seek righteousness and humility so that they would be protected from the wrath of Yahweh.

Comment Section:

3:6-8

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh said that he had destroyed nations and cities. [3:6]
- ☐ Yahweh had invited the people to accept correction and be spared from destruction. [3:7]
- ☐ Since the people did not repent and acted corruptly, Yahweh told them to wait for the coming judgment. [3:7-8]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Yahweh's destruction of the nations look like? [3:6]
The nations, their fortresses, their streets and their cities were destroyed, and there were no people there.
2. What had Yahweh hoped the people would do? [3:7]
Yahweh had hoped the people would fear him and accept correction.
3. How did the people live? [3:7]
They were corrupt. That meant that they did evil things.
4. What decision did Yahweh make about the nations? [3:8]
Yahweh decided to assemble the nations and pour out his anger and wrath on them.

Comment Section:

3:9-17

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Yahweh said that he would gather His people and remove those who were proud. [3:9-11]
- ☐ Yahweh said that he would let humble people remain in Israel and they would find refuge in him. [3:12-13]
- ☐ Yahweh's followers will rejoice that Yahweh had taken away their punishment. [3:14-17]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why would Yahweh purify the lips of the people? [3:9]
He would purify their lips so that they would call on his name and serve him.
2. What would the scattered people bring to Yahweh? [3:10]
They would bring Yahweh the offerings due to Him.
3. Why would the people not be put to shame? [3:11]
They would not be put to shame because Yahweh would remove those who boasted, and they would no longer act arrogantly on his holy mountain.
4. What type of people would Yahweh let stay in Israel? [3:12]
They would be lowly and poor, and they would take refuge in the name of Yahweh.
5. How would those who remained in Israel be changed? [3:13]
They would not commit injustice, speak lies, be deceitful, or be afraid.
6. Why do you think no one would make the people of Israel afraid? [3:13]
This probably because they would live righteously, so God would not send their enemies to attack them.
7. Why should Israel sing and cheer? [3:14-15]
Israel should sing and cheer because Yahweh had taken away their punishment and made their enemies go away.
8. Why will people say to the people of Jerusalem not to be afraid? [3:16-17]
They will say that because Yahweh would be with the people of Jerusalem, and he was powerful and could save them.
9. Do you think Yahweh gave hope to those who wanted to repent from sin? [3:14-17]
Yes. Yahweh said to rejoice because He had taken away the people's sins and said that they should not fear. Yahweh told them to celebrate because of His love.

Comment Section: