



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

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Saturday, 6/11/22

Scripture: Zephaniah

TITLE: Zephaniah - Getting the Big Picture

I remember once being at an art museum in Kansas City. I was up close to this wall looking at all these amazing small pictures. Now it took me a minute, but eventually, I started to back up and realized that each of these small pictures were part of a much bigger work of art. I remember just kind of standing there being in awe of how beautiful it was, and how each small part was essential to the big picture. I couldn't believe I had seen it earlier.

A lot of times I feel like this is how I operate in the world. I am so focused on the here and now of what's happening specifically to me that I forget about the big picture. As we look to the Bible and specifically books like Zephaniah, we are reminded that we are all part of a much bigger picture of what God is doing throughout time and space.

A key theme of the book of Zephaniah is the day of the Lord, Zephaniah talks about a day when God's judgment and justice will cover the land like a consuming fire.

That's scary stuff to read about but there's a purpose to it. We can learn a lot from this short prophetic book. We are reminded that God is a God of justice. We are reminded that the outcome of everything that has happened throughout history is all pointing toward a beautiful ending for those who trust in the Lord.

This book was written in the southern kingdom of Judah by the prophet Zephaniah himself. He's writing to the nation of Judah and all other nations. This is taking place during the reign of King Josiah, around 622 to 612 B.C. And we know that even though Josiah tried to bring the nation back to God they were filled with too much sin and corruption.

A key verse in this book is found in Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV), we read: [“The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”](#)

How amazing! Even in a book all about God's judgment and justice that's coming on the world we are given this beautiful prophecy that reminds us that God is with His people. We are

reminded that God is a mighty one who will save. This passage is pointing toward our future hope through Jesus Christ, that one day we will be with our God, and He will rejoice over us with gladness and we will experience His love forever. This is why God brings His justice, to purify us from our unrighteousness so that we can be with Him.

So the key takeaways that I hope we find in the book of Zephaniah are these: God's justice will not allow the evil in the world to persist forever. There is punishment for wrongdoing. But we also must remember that as God's justice sweeps over the world like a consuming fire it serves a purpose, to those who will seek God: It transforms and takes away our sins through Jesus.

Lastly, we are reminded that in all of human history the good and the bad is being used by God to bring about a much bigger picture. The bigger picture is His eternal Kingdom where He will bring those who trust in Jesus, and we will enjoy His presence forever! Keep in mind this "bigger picture" and it will help you win the day!