

# JOY & JUSTICE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK  
OF ZEPHANIAH



A

CHURCH

THAT

PRAYS

- Pray silently for the prayer request printed in your bulletin.
- Our Second Grade and also our small group led by Don Coontz
- The Great Southwest Prayer Center
- Sister church, Go Church and Pastor Lee Brockinton
- The Bug\*is of Indonesia

**We ask all this for the glory of Your name.**

*“For My House Shall Be Called A House Of Prayer For All Nations.” Isaiah 56:7*

Please pray for this request shared during last week’s worship service.

**Pray for  
others**

# Joy and Justice

“A Story of Joy and Justice” – Zephaniah 1:1  
February 5, 2023

## February Sermon Series

<b>JOY AND JUSTICE</b> <i>A Study of the Book of Zephaniah</i>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Message Title</b>	<b>Bible Text</b>
Feb 5	A Story of Joy and Justice	Zephaniah 1:1
Feb 12	Justice: The Day of the Lord is Coming	Zephaniah 1:2-2:3
Feb 19	Justice: Why the Day of the Lord is Coming	Zephaniah 2:1-3:8
Feb 26	God's Joy and Your Joy	Zephaniah 3:9-20
<b>Night of Worship on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22) at 7pm</b>		

## Zephaniah in Two Sentences

The prophecy of Zephaniah is a call for God's people to gather in order to repent and seek the Lord because the Day of the Lord (justice) is near and hastening. For those who do so, there will be the joy of salvation from a God who deeply loves you and even sings over you.

**Zephaniah in Two Words:** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

## The Day of the Lord

- The Day of the Lord refers to both...
  1. An imminent punishment of Judah and Jerusalem (1:4-13; 2:1-3; 3:1-5); and
  2. A future but hastening judgment of the whole world climaxing in Armageddon (1:2-3, 14-18; 2:4-15; 3:6-8)
- The reasons for this judgment on Judah, Jerusalem, and the whole world include...

Idolatry (1:5a)	Syncretism (1:5b)	Backsliding (1:6)
Apostasy (1:8)	Stealing (1:9)	Violence (1:9)
Fraud (1:9)	Complacency (1:12)	Unbelief (1:12)
Pride (1:16; 2:10, 15)	Sin (1:17)	Mistreatment of God's chosen people (2:8-10)
Not listening (3:2)	Not accepting correction (3:2)	Not trusting God (3:2)
Not drawing near to God (3:2)	Rebellion against the Lord (3:1)	Defilement (3:1)
Ungodly leadership (3:3-4)	Injustice (3:5)	

- In order to avert this judgment, God’s people are called to gather (Zephaniah 2:1-3) and...
  1. Be silent before the Lord (1:7)
  2. Seek the Lord (2:3)
  3. Seek righteousness and humility (2:3)
- If God’s people will gather to repent and seek the Lord, then they will be saved from this judgment and will rejoice. God declares a Day in the future when many peoples of the nations (3:9-10) and the remnant of Israel (3:11-20) will be saved from judgment. God calls His people to sing and rejoice by faith because of God’s great salvation and love (3:14-20).
- Most famous verse in this book = Zephaniah 3:17
- Zephaniah’s name means “Jehovah hides” (as in the Lord hiding you from harm and judgment; the Lord protects)
- Zephaniah is the great, great grandson of good King Hezekiah (1:1)

**A Story of Joy and a Story of Justice** (Zephaniah 1:1)

**1. A story of \_\_\_\_\_ – Josiah**

- The times before Josiah: 2 Kings 21:1-7,10-16,19-22

<i><b>Under Manasseh and Amon</b></i>	<i><b>Today in America</b></i>
Did evil in the sight of the Lord	Do evil in the sight of the Lord
Made altars for false idols	Worship the Oscar statue
Burned his sons as false worship	930,000 babies aborted last year
Fortune-telling, omens, mediums	37 TV shows promoting sorcery
Set up idols in God’s house	Praying to dead saint statues
Ignored and killed the prophets	Ignore God’s Word

- History tells us that King Manasseh had the prophet Isaiah sawed in two (Hebrews 11:37).
- Zephaniah and others preach against these behaviors and of a coming judgment (Day of the Lord), and Josiah leads Judah to repent and change their ways, and the Lord does not send judgment in Josiah’s lifetime (2 Kings 22:1-2,11-13,19-20; 23:1-3).
- Josiah experiences the joy of Zephaniah 3:17
- Do you want joy? Then follow Josiah’s example!

**2. A story of \_\_\_\_\_ – Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah**

- A tale of four kings: 2 Kings 23:31-24:4; 24:8-14; 25:7-12
- These are all of the things that Zephaniah and other prophets prophesied (2 Kings 24:2-3).
- This is the Lord’s justice. This is the Day of the Lord against Judah and Jerusalem (Zephaniah 1:4-8)
- Do you want judgment (justice)? Then follow Jehoahaz’s example!

## **My Applications Today**

### **1. In what ways have I been engaging in the judgment-worthy sins of Manasseh and Amon? Of what do I need to repent?**

- Lord, I repent of doing evil in Your sight.
- Lord, I repent of placing more value on Hollywood's entertainment (Oscar statue) with my time and affection and money and enthusiasm that I do on You.
- Lord, I repent of my complicity in the murder of 930,000 babies last year thru direct involvement or thru passively standing by.
- Lord, I repent of my involvement in magic, sorcery, witchcraft, fortune-telling, and other occultic activities.
- Lord, I repent of looking to things or people besides You as my ultimate help.
- Lord, I repent of ignoring Your Word.

### **2. With God's help and power, I choose to respond to Zephaniah like Josiah rather than like Jehoaahaz.**

- I choose to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord (2 Kings 22:2)
- I choose to act with humble repentance any time I become aware of my violating God's standards (2 Kings 22:11)
- I choose to inquire of the Lord (2 Kings 22:13)
- I choose to regularly go to the house of the Lord (2 Kings 23:2)
- I choose to read God's Word with intent to obey (2 Kings 23:2-3)
- I choose to cleanse my life of idols and immorality (2 Kings 23:4-14)
- I choose to give the first portion of my income back to the Lord through His church (2 Kings 22:3-7)

### **3. I choose to regularly spend some moments in \_\_\_\_\_ before the Lord (Zephaniah 1:7)**

- Richard Foster: "One reason we can hardly bear to remain silent is that it makes us feel so helpless. We are so accustomed to relying upon words to manage and control others. If we are silent who will take control? God will take control; but we will never let Him take control until we trust Him. Silence is intimately related to trust."
- Dallas Willard: "Total silence is rare, and what we today call 'quiet' usually only amounts to a little less noise. Many people have never experienced silence and do not even know that they do not know what it is. Silence (can be) frightening because it strips us as nothing else does, throwing us upon the stark realities of our life. In that quiet, what if there turns out to be very little to 'just us and God'? Think what it says about the inward emptiness of our lives if we must always turn on the radio to make sure something is happening around us. Silence is a powerful and essential discipline. Only silence will allow us life-transforming concentration upon God."

- Resource: “Emotionally Healthy Spirituality Day by Day: A 40-Day Journey with the Daily Office” by Peter Scazzero
- Resource: “One Minute Pause” App

#### 4. I deserve justice, and I choose joy in the Lord

*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. ~ Zephaniah 3:17*

Jesus, I deserve Your just judgment. I have sinned, and I am sorry! I repent! Jesus, You are the Mighty One who has chosen to save me through Your death on the cross and Your resurrection from the dead. I receive this salvation, and I rejoice. Thank You!!

**Our Application as a Church** – Together, let’s heed God’s voice through Zephaniah by...

- **GATHERING TO REPENT AND SEEK THE LORD** (Zephaniah 2:1-3)
  - A Night of Worship on Ash Wednesday (Feb 22) at 7pm (no children’s ministry)
  - We will seek to do exactly what Zephaniah says including silence, repentance, seeking the Lord, and much worship and rejoicing.
- **FORTY DAYS OF PRAYER**
  - Humbly seek the Lord daily from Feb 22 (Ash Weds) through April 9 (Easter)
  - Opt-in to get a daily prayer text during these 40 days. Look for the text opt-in next Sunday.
  - A weekly Audience of One worship and prayer time in the prayer center (first floor of Ministry Center) every Thursday from 11am to 1pm.
  - A phone prayer blitz on Thursday, April 6, where we will call every household in the church to pray with them on the phone (or by text). We need 150 volunteers who are willing to call (or text) 20 people each. Look for link to volunteer next Sunday.



**Over 180 High School students and adult leaders** are heading to Camp Tejas for the RE:vive retreat February 10-12th.

The theme for RE:vive this year is **METAMORPHOSIS**.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17*



**Scan the QR Code to text in and receive daily prayer prompts as God prepares the way to TRANSFORM lives at RE:vive!**



**FOLLOW JESUS HERE,  
THERE, AND EVERYWHERE**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**VBS:** June 12—15 for kids currently in Kindergarten—4th grade

**VBX:** July 17—19 for kids currently in 5th grade.

**Registration opens Sunday, March 12th**



# Adult Ministries

## Care

**GriefShare**—Missing a loved one who has passed? Email [LRodriguez@WhatsGrace.org](mailto:LRodriguez@WhatsGrace.org).

**Marriage Matters**—Desire a better marriage? Email [MReekwald@WhatsGrace.org](mailto:MReekwald@WhatsGrace.org).

**Parenting with Grace**—Want to raise a healthy family? Email [HMcCutcheon@WhatsGrace.org](mailto:HMcCutcheon@WhatsGrace.org).

**DivorceCare**—Dealing with divorce? Email [CPaholek@WhatsGrace.org](mailto:CPaholek@WhatsGrace.org).

**Financial Peace University**—Seeking financial freedom? Email [HMcCutcheon@WhatsGrace.org](mailto:HMcCutcheon@WhatsGrace.org).

For more information and registration, please visit [WhatsGrace.org/Care](http://WhatsGrace.org/Care) or call 281.646.1903.

**Need confidential care? Contact Care Pastor Cindi Lomax at [CLomax@WhatsGrace.org](mailto:CLomax@WhatsGrace.org).**

## Missions

**Pathways:** Wednesdays from 6:30—8:30PM starting Feb 8. Childcare and light dinner available. Questions? Email [MBargraser@WhatsGrace.org](mailto:MBargraser@WhatsGrace.org)



### **Serving our Community's Special**

**Needs Families:** Feb 25 from 8AM—3PM Come and go as your schedule permits. Questions? Email [ChurchInAction@WhatsGrace.org](mailto:ChurchInAction@WhatsGrace.org).

## Prayer

**Beholding God - 40 Days of Lenten Prayer:** Stay tuned next week for exciting info about our Beholding God—40 Days of Lenten Prayer campaign!

*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.* Zephaniah 3:17

**Ash Wednesday Service, Feb 22 at 7PM:** This year's Ash Wednesday service will be incorporated together with the Night of Worship.

**Prayer Line:** (281) 398-2GOD

**Online Prayer:** [WhatsGrace.org/Prayer-Wall](http://WhatsGrace.org/Prayer-Wall)

## Spiritual Formation

**Singles... See you at the Sunday Singles Community Group:** Sundays beginning Feb 12 from 9—10:15AM, Ministry Center, room M140.

Email [GraceGroups@WhatsGrace.org](mailto:GraceGroups@WhatsGrace.org) for more information.

# Kids Ministry

**Jersey Day on Feb 12, both services:** Kids and Volunteers should come prepared to have an extra fun day in Kids Ministry and wear your favorite team jersey! Invite your friends!

**Kids 101 Feb 26 from 12:30—3PM:** This class is recommended prior to your child's (grades K-5) baptism. Learn more and register your child at [WhatsGrace.org/Kids](http://WhatsGrace.org/Kids).

# Student Ministry

**Register for a Student Mission Trip!** Join us this summer as we serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in the San Antonio and Waco communities. Visit [WhatsGrace.org/studentevents](http://WhatsGrace.org/studentevents) for more information and to register.

**Junior High:** June 18—23, Blueprint Mission Trip in San Antonio, TX.

**High School:** June 18—22, Mission Waco in Waco, TX.

**High School:** July 9—13, Mission Waco in Waco, TX. \*July registration full\*

Email Jordan at [JHerrera@WhatsGrace.org](mailto:JHerrera@WhatsGrace.org) with questions.

# Get Connected

## **Kids Ministry Volunteer Opportunities:**

Help this generation take their next step into becoming disciples. New families are joining us and our attendance is increasing week over week. Please scan the QR Code to register to volunteer.



# Get Involved

**Help us build our Online Ministry!** Our Online community is growing and we're looking for more volunteers. If you are interested in serving with us, please email Ben Chai at [BChai@WhatsGrace.org](mailto:BChai@WhatsGrace.org) for more information.

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 Grace Fellowship Church

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