

New Sermon series starting 12 November

ZEPHANIAH

a minor prophet _____

For Gaza shall be deserted, and Ashkelon shall become a desolation; Ashdod's people shall be driven out at noon, and Ekron shall be uprooted. 5 Woe to you inhabitants of the seacoast, you nation of the Cherethites! The word of the Lord is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines; and I will destroy you until no inhabitant is left. 6 And you, O seacoast, shall be pastures, with meadows for shepherds and folds for flocks. 7 The seacoast shall become the possession of the remnant of the house of Judah, on which they shall graze, and in the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening. For the Lord their God will be mindful of them and restore their fortunes. 8 "I have heard the taunts of Moab and the revilings of the Ammonites, how they have taunted my people and made boasts against their territory.

9 Therefore, as I live,” declares the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, “Moab shall become like Sodom, and the Ammonites like Gomorrah, a land possessed by nettles and salt pits, and a waste forever. The remnant of my people shall plunder them, and the survivors of my nation shall possess them.” 10 This shall be their lot in return for their pride, because they taunted and boasted against the people of the Lord of hosts. 11 The Lord will be awesome against them; for he will famish all the gods of the earth, and to him shall bow down, each in its place, all the lands of the nations.

— Zephaniah 2:4-11

Therefore wait for me,” declares the Lord, “for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed. 9 “For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord. 10 From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering.

11 “On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain.
12 But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord,
13 those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.”

- Zephaniah 3:8-13

Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.

- Proverbs 18:12



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Main Idea:

Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.-

Proverbs 18:12

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” -1 Peter 5:5

Zephaniah 2:4-3:13

- 2:4-3:7- Pride as the root sin
- 3:8-13- Humility as the root virtue

8 “I have heard the taunts of Moab and the revilings of the Ammonites,
how they have taunted my people and made boasts against their territory.
—Zephaniah 2:8

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and boasted against the people of the Lord of hosts. 11 The Lord will be
awesome against them; for he will famish all the gods of the earth, and to
him shall bow down, each in its place, all the lands of the nations.
-Zephaniah 2:10-11

“Pride is the beginning of sin. And what is pride but the craving for undue exaltation? And this is undue exaltation - when the soul abandons Him to whom it ought to cleave as its end, and becomes a kind of end to itself.”

— Augustine of Hippo, *City of God*

I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

- Isaiah 14:14

17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.

—Ezekiel 28:17 6

“A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion”

- Proverbs 18:2

According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride. Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that, are mere flea bites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind..... it is Pride which has been the chief cause of misery in every nation and every family since the world began.

- C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, the oppressing city! 2 She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the Lord; she does not draw near to her God.

- Zephaniah 3:1-2

I said, 'Surely you will fear me; you will accept correction. Then your dwelling would not be cut off according to all that I have appointed against you.' But all the more they were eager to make all their deeds corrupt.

- Zephaniah 3:7

Main Idea:

Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.-

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“For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord... 11 “On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. 12 But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord.

- Zephaniah 3:9, 11-12

But it does cost something to be a real Christian, according to the standard of the Bible. There are enemies to be overcome, battles to be fought, sacrifices to be made, an Egypt to be forsaken, a wilderness to be passed through, a cross to be carried, a race to be run. Conversion is not putting a man in an armchair and taking him easily to heaven. It is the beginning of a mighty conflict, in which it costs much to win the victory. Hence arises the unspeakable importance of “counting the cost.”

—JC Ryle- Treatise on Humility

It will cost him his self-righteousness. By the grace of God, he must cast away all pride and high thoughts, and conceit of his own goodness. He must be content to go to heaven as a poor sinner, saved only by free grace, and owing all to the merit and righteousness of another.

—JC Ryle- Treatise on Humility

12 But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord.

- Zephaniah 3:12

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

- Luke 18:14

“And now his surest salvation, the healing of his wound, his way of return to his beginning, is to be humble; not to think that he can ever of himself put on the cloak of glory, but that he must seek it from God.”

- Basil of Ceassarea, Homily on Humility