

Monday Night Discipleship: Week 32

Overview:

1. Biblical Interpretation: What is the overarching message of the whole Bible? (Part 1)
2. Longman Chapter 33 discussion:
 - a. Content: What Is Zephaniah About?
 - b. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Zephaniah and When?
 - c. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Zephaniah?
 - d. Connections: How Does Zephaniah Connect to the Gospel?

Biblical Interpretation: What is the overarching message of the whole Bible? (Part 1)

1. The Overarching Message: Jesus-
 - a. No matter what passage of the Bible we read from, we must remember that “the _____ and saving _____ of Jesus Christ is the ultimate focus of God’s revelation.”¹
 - b. 5-fold Gospel: What is it?

2. Six Organizational Categories:
 - a. Promise - Fulfillment
 - i. Matthew 5:17 - “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”²
 - ii. Matthew 11:12-13 - “¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John.”³
 - iii. 1 Peter 1:9-12 - “you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. ¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who

¹ Robert Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 151.

² The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Matthew 5:17. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.

³ Matthew 11:12-13 NIV.

spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care,¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.”⁴

b. Kingdom Anticipated - Kingdom Inaugurated - Kingdom Consummated

- i. Mark 1:14-15 - Jesus announced that the Kingdom of God has arrived. “Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”⁵
- ii. Old Testament references: King over all creation- (1 Chronicles 29:11; Daniel 4:32; Obadiah 21; Psalm 22:27-28, 103:19, 145:11-13).
- iii. 1 Samuel 8:4-9; Psalm 2:6-7, 67 - God’s rule as King was mediated to His people, through His prophets, His judges, and His earthly kings. But there will also be a future day when God’s Kingship will be acknowledged by all.
- iv. Matthew 8:1-12 - “¹¹ I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,¹² while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
- v. As George Ladd and Rob Plummer both explain, “The kingdom already has arrived in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, but the kingdom is not yet fully _____.”⁶

⁴ 1 Peter 1:9-12 NIV.

⁵ Mark 1:14-15.

⁶ Robert Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 153. Referencing George E. Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament*, ed. Donald A. Hagner, rev. Ed. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 1974), 61-67; and idem, *Jesus and the Kingdom: The Eschatology of Biblical Realism* (New York: Harper & Row, 1964).

- vi. Three Warnings of the Kingdom Structure:
 1. Christ-centered nature of Scripture can become lost
 2. Kingdom language can become forced into passages where it wasn't intended
 3. The text can become oversimplified possibly leaving out important details

- c. Old Covenant - New Covenant
 - i. Definition of covenant- "A covenant establishes the basis of relationship and the expectation of the parties involved, as well as consequences for not meeting those expectations."⁷
 - ii. Jeremiah 31:31-34 - "³¹Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."
 - iii. Plummer explains that, "One should not understand the old covenant stipulations as intending to save or transform [...] but primarily as intending to prophesy and prepare for the necessity of the new covenant instituted by Messiah Jesus."⁸

⁷ Robert Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 154.

⁸ Robert Plummer, Benjamin L. Merkle, *40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2010), 155.

Longman Chapter 33 discussion:

1. Content: What Is Zephaniah About?

a. Introduction:

- i. Zephaniah's lineage-

- ii. Contemporary with Habakkuk and Jeremiah-

- iii. Born in oppression, Served in a time of reformation-

b. Outline:

- i. Prophecy Against Judah (Zephaniah 1:1-2:3) -

- ii. Prophecy Against All the Nations (Zephaniah 2:4-3:8) -

- iii. Prophecy of Future Salvation (Zephaniah 3:9-20) -

2. Authorship and Date: Who Wrote Zephaniah and When?

- a. Author: _____ possibly the grandson of King Hezekiah

- b. Date: Zephaniah was written sometime before Josiah's reform, possibly between _____ and _____ BC

3. Genre: What Style of Literature Is Zephaniah?

Minor Prophets-

4. Connections: How Does Zephaniah Connect to the Gospel?

a. The Day of the Lord-

b. The New Israel-

R.E.A.P.

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.^[a]

¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you in,

at the time when I gather you together;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," says the LORD."⁹

1. **Read** aloud together

2. **Explain** by answering the three questions: What does this passage teach us about ____?
 - a. God:

 - b. Man:

 - c. Christ:

3. **Ask**- What question/s would help you understand the text more fully?

4. **Pray**- Using some of your observations and questions, write out a prayer to God.

⁹ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Zephaniah 3:14-20. All passages of Scripture will come from this translation unless otherwise referenced.