

## THE DAY OF THE LORD

JIM NICODEM | JUNE 10 & 11, 2023

ZEPHANIAH

### Introduction

1. Two \_\_\_\_\_

- Those who genuinely \_\_\_\_\_

- Those who \_\_\_\_\_

2. Two \_\_\_\_\_

- J \_\_\_\_\_

- R \_\_\_\_\_

3. Two \_\_\_\_\_

- I \_\_\_\_\_

- D \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & GROUPS

- Ice-breaker: Would you be interested in watching Netflix's riveting docudrama about Israeli spy, Eli Cohen, knowing that he gets hanged in the end? Why or why not?
- Watch the Bible Project video about Zephaniah or read the intro to the book in an NIV Study Bible. Make a list of five things you learn.
- What was the popular view of the Day of the LORD in ancient Israel? Read Zephaniah 1:2-7; 2:1; and 3:1. What shocked the ancient Israelites about this description of God's judgment? Why might contemporary people--like the ancient Israelites--assume that God's judgment won't be for them?
- Bible scholar Eugene Peterson writes that Josiah's reforms were more like a wedding than a marriage. What did he mean by that? How would you know if your relationship with Jesus is more like a wedding or a marriage? In what ways could you communicate to others (non-verbally) that Jesus is your top priority?
- What are the three main headings in Zephaniah? What two possible outcomes do they describe for the Day of the LORD? Why must God judge sin--why can't he just forgive it?
- Read Zephaniah 1:14, 15, 17. Why do you think churches avoid preaching passages like this one? What are the dangers of avoiding such texts (multiple answers)?
- According to Zephaniah 2:3 and 3:11, 12, what are the characteristics of the person whom God will restore? What else does God say about humble people in Psalm 25:8, 9; Isaiah 66:2; James 4:8, 10; and II Chronicles 7:14? Why is it hard to be humble?
- Read Zephaniah 3:14-17. What does full-blown restoration include? What's your favorite part of this picture? Why?
- How is reading Old Testament prophecy like driving toward the Rocky Mountains? What was the immediate fulfillment of Zephaniah's prophecy regarding judgment and restoration? What's the distant fulfillment of this prophecy? Why is a prophecy addressed to ancient Israel about restoration applicable to Christ followers? (Hint: I Peter 2:9, 10.)
- What are some ways in which Zephaniah's message of judgment might impact your life? What are some ways in which Zephaniah's message of restoration might impact your life?