

Reflection and Discussion

Sermon Series	Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets
Sermon Title	The Lord's Delight
Bible Texts	Zephaniah
Date	July 9, 2023

CONNECT – Getting to know one another

Question 1: What traits do you see in others that cause you to take delight in them?

Question 2: What do you think would bring about God's judgment on his own people?

God's judgment—first his own people, then the world, and finally the restoration!

EQUIP – Understanding God's word

Question 3: Who will be affected by God's coming judgment? (1:1-3)

God judges his own people (1:4-2:3)

Question 4: What are the specific charges against the nation of Judah in 1:4-6?

Question 5: What do we learn about God's purpose in judging his people from these same verses?

Question 6: In 1:5, God names the sin of divided loyalty—loyalty to God plus something else. Why is loyalty to a false god still idolatry, even if we also claim to believe in Christ? (See also Matthew 6:24) What divided loyalties might trap Christians?

Question 7: Many people today are complacent regarding future punishment from a righteous God—either believing there is no God or that God is only benevolent. How does God view such complacency? (1:12-13)

Question 8: What is a healthy fear of the Lord?

Question 9: How are the people of Judah called to respond in the face of God's judgment? (1:7, 2:3, 3:8)

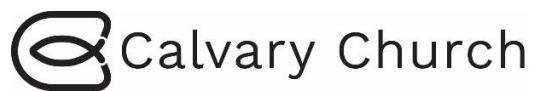
God judges the rebellious world and Jerusalem's leaders (2:4-3:8)

Question 10: Why did God judge his own people before he punished Babylon? (See also 1 Peter 4:17)

Question 11: How are the words of Zephaniah 3:5 relevant for our society today?

God restores (3:9-20)

Question 12: What are the traits and hope of the remnant? (3:12-13) Why do you think these attributes are so important to God?



Question 13: Which of the blessings listed in the remnant's song found in Zephaniah 3:14-20 is most meaningful to you? Explain why.

Question 14: What are some things that God delights in? (For starters Psalm 147:11; Jeremiah 9:24; Micah 6:8)

DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

Question 15: The lord we serve is the one we listen to, believe, and obey—whoever or whatever that might be. In this complex society, how can we guard our hearts so that we never have divided loyalties?

Question 16: According to Zephaniah, how can believers avoid being complacent about the Lord's return and coming judgment?

Question 17: What praises would your song of rejoicing include?