



The Day of Judgement 1 - Zephaniah 1:1 – 2:3

- 1) What do we learn from Zephaniah 1 about the “Day of the Lord”? To what extent does the prophet address a specific historical situation and to what extent is his writing relevant for us today?
- 2) What do you know about the reign of King Josiah? Is it plausible or likely that Zephaniah influenced him? And how? (See 2 Kings 22 & 23 for help)
- 3) In your experience how do our contemporaries react to the idea of divine wrath and a final judgement? What do you think of Ian’s approach to an apologetic of this issue? How would you approach these issues? Are there alternatives or improvements to Ian’s approach?

Ian’s approach was, briefly, that moral accountability, indignation and sanction are built into the very fabric of the universe and are found in one form or another, however distorted or imperfectly, in every culture. This surely reflects the justice and righteousness of God as we are created in his image.

- 4) Zephaniah addressed God’s covenant people who should have been a light to the nations. They had however failed and instead the idolatrous darkness of the nations had entered Judah. What does idolatry look like on our contemporary culture and to what extent has or could such idolatry enter and compromise the church (universal or local)? Give examples of ways in which the “world” could enter the church to extinguish its light from the inside?
- 5) How should we respond to Zephaniah’s warning? Can you remember Ian’s suggested four appropriate responses starting with the letter “S”? Are these adequate? Or can you think of other ways in which we should respond?

(Hint for any who can’t remember: silence, self-examination, seeking, shelter.)
- 6) Is there any gospel hope in Zephaniah? If so, where?