

2 Peter 3:4 (NIV) They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

What do you think that makes Christians long for it even more?

4. Read Zephaniah 3:14-20 (you'll need your Bible). Jot down two or three phrases that jump out to you. Why were they meaningful? Is there anything in your life situation right now that made those words or phrases pop?

5. In your personal time this week and your SBSG prayer time, take some time to thank God that we look forward to the redemption face of the Day of the Lord coin; not the judgment side. Use some phrases from #4 above to seed your prayers.

Prayer Requests

- Keep your requests concise but complete
- Keep your prayers concise – don't try to impress
- Feel free to springboard off another's prayer as God brings different insights to mind
- Feel free to pray more than once

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A Day like No Other

Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation."

2 Peter 3:3-4 (NIV)

THE DAY OF THE LORD

A two-sided coin – one side shows **judgment** while the other side shows **blessing**.

Special attention toward Judah shows a general principle: Those who **know more** should **know better**.

THE DAY OF THE LORD SHOWS THAT GOD IS AN INTERVENING GOD

God is **closer than people think**
2 Peter 3:3-7; Zeph 1:7-12

God is **more involved than people think**
Zeph 1:12

God is **more interested than people think**
Zeph 1:2, 4; 3:18-20

THE DAY OF THE LORD SHOWS THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN AND SUPERIOR

God is not just God of his people; he is God of the universe

God takes it seriously when people or nations serve other gods or when they think that they are God.

THE DAY OF THE LORD SHOWS THAT GOD IS SERIOUS REGARDING SIN

God mentions the sins of those who don't know him. He details the sins of those who do.

Religious chefs use exotic ingredients from various religions, philosophies, or world views to craft their own creations.

Complacent people don't hate God, they just can't be bothered.

THE DAY OF THE LORD SHOWS THAT GOD SAVES

In the face of judgment God encourages repentance
Zeph 2:1-3

Repentance seeks righteousness and a humble heart toward God

The Day of the Lord unites us all; we stand shoulder-to-shoulder serving him

The Day of the Lord brings mercy, deliverance, healing, and blessing; it is the climax of God's work

Looking back over the sermon, was there anything that stood out to you, challenged you, or bothered you?

My Story

1. Who is your hero? Why?

Digging in

2. God's people in Judah probably thought they weren't particularly bad people. They thought their compromises with other religions and philosophies weren't that serious. We sometimes fall into the same trap. Read Paul's words to a younger man below.

2 Timothy 1:6–7 (NIV) For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 2:14–16 (NIV) Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.

Pick out a couple of principles from these challenges that might help you to avoid the kinds of compromises that the people of Judah were making.

Can you think of a situation in your life when these verses might have helped you avoid some unpleasant consequences?

3. Read Zephaniah 1:12 and 2 Peter 3:4. In your experience what are the reasons people said Jesus wasn't returning? What are some of the reasons even Christians feel that way?

Zephaniah 1:12 (NIV) At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.'