

1. Let's learn a bit more about this prophet before we take a look at his prophecy.

- ✓ **Verse 1**, he's not a Levite or priest but is of the Davidic, royal line. King Hezekiah was his great-great-grandfather. He's a cousin to king Josiah and, no doubt, had direct access to the king. He's a contemporary of Jeremiah who was an outsider compared to Zephaniah. Jeremiah was a small-town preacher with no credentials. They both were prophets in Jerusalem during the young years of Daniel before he was among the exiles to Babylon.
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2. His prophecy is based in love.

- ✓ **Zephaniah 3:17**, the one bright spot in a very dark discourse...this book speaks mainly of judgment, but its goal is forgiveness and love. **Verses 1-7, 12-15** are based in love, but the "Day of the Lord" is the theme. Zephaniah uses this phrase more often than any other Biblical writer. This is a phrase that shows up 30 times in the Bible, no less than 19 of those occurrences are in this tiny book. The Day of Lord is the day when God fixes all that's broken, rights all wrongs, and removes from creation all corruption and evil.
 - ✓ God does what He wants and what He wants is love, not judge; that's what He's doing right now! But He won't always get what He wants. If He's bent on judgment, then why even tell us, why not just spring it on us? Why not just act unilaterally and preemptively with no warning if He's bent on judgment. He tells us because He loves us: Matthew Henry "This is not meant to scare you out of your wits, but to scare you out of your sins."
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There is a dark side to God's love in which He deals with us according to our needs. The Great Physician will put His child on the operating table to remove the cancerous growth of sin. His love is the same, whether we are coming under the knife or walking in the light of His blessings.
