

The Day of the Lord #2
Responding to Omnipotence

Word

Scripture Reference

Zephaniah 1:14–2:3

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been judged unfairly? How did you handle it?
2. God allowed the destruction of Jerusalem in the hands of the Babylonians because of the people's sins. In the same way, God will universally judge the world as a result of our sins, a fact we should not take for granted. Read Zephaniah 1:14–2:3. From this passage we draw out three characteristics of God's power or omnipotence as he deals with sin. The first characteristic is that God is more powerful than any human being (v. 14). God's judgment will come anytime, and when it comes it will be very bitter. Who will cry out in despair as God shows His power? Discuss why people are usually afraid of powerful people? If God is your refuge and security, should you be afraid of others?
3. The second characteristic of God's omnipotence is that He is more powerful than any human institution (v. 15-16). Whatever structure or organization men set up, God can tear them down as He did the fortified city of Jerusalem, which was torn down because of the Israelites' sins. What warning do these verses give you when you put your security on man-made sources of securities? Does it mean to not place your trust on man-made institutions or organizations? Share how you show that you trust God's omnipotence with your security.
4. The third characteristic of God's omnipotence is that He executes judgment fairly (v. 17-18). The omnipotent God does not judge on a whim or haphazardly. He judges fairly. There is always a basis for His judgment. What was the basis of God's judgment in verse 17? Why can you not trust your money to save you from judgment (v. 18)? God

assesses your life according to His standard. What is God's standard according to Romans 3:23? What is the punishment for not meeting this standard (Romans 6:23)? Discuss what God's grace is all about.

5. Zephaniah's purpose for his book is not to make people sad, despaired, or frightened, but to elicit a desire in us to turn away from sin. Chapter 2:1-3 tells us of two responses we should have to God's omnipotence. First is to change your life and do it now (v. 2:1-2). Today is the day of reckoning. Do not wait another day to deal with your sin. Why do people usually procrastinate in dealing with their sins? Does Christian life mean that you have the freedom to do what you want and ignore God's commands? Would you blame the omnipotent God if He punished you for not responding right away?
6. The second response we should have to God's omnipotence is to seek the Lord (v. 2:3). How is seeking God described in this verse? What would be the result if you humbled yourself before God and did what He commanded? Throughout the Bible, what simple truth describes how God deals with obedient and disobedient children? What is your attitude toward the omnipotent God? How are you seeking God in your Christian walk?

Walk

The God whose power is much greater than any human being and any institution is the God who judges fairly. He judges sins, and so do not wait for Him to say "Enough is enough!" Repent today. Change your life by seeking Him. Right now, ask yourself how you are sinning against God, and with a humble heart ask for His forgiveness. Repentance means turning away from sin. Pray for strength not to go back to the sin from which you have repented.

Worship & Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, You are the God of grace and mercy, but sometimes I forget that You are also the God of power and justice. Forgive me for taking that for granted. You gave Your Son to die on the cross so that I can live a transformed life, yet I allowed other people, institutions, and worldly traditions to influence how I live my life. Give me strength to turn away and keep away from sins, not because I fear Your judgment, but because that is Your desire. This I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.