

# Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

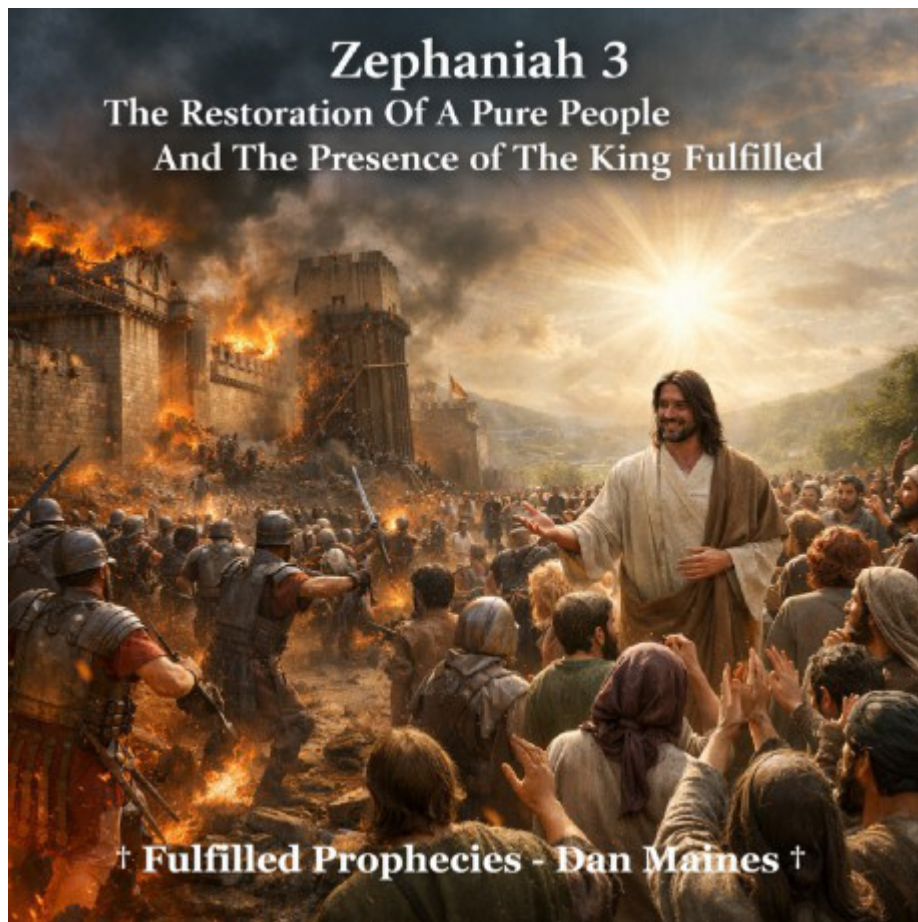
[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

## Zephaniah 3 The Restoration Of A Pure People And The Presence Of The King Fulfilled



By Dan Maines

## Zephaniah 3 The Restoration Of A Pure People And The Presence Of The King Fulfilled

### Introduction

† Zephaniah 3 brings everything to a climax, judgment is declared, corruption is exposed, and then God reveals restoration, not in some distant future, but in the fulfillment of His covenant purpose.

† This chapter shows the transition from a corrupt Jerusalem under judgment to a purified people where the Lord dwells in their midst, this is exactly what was fulfilled in Christ and completed in the destruction of Jerusalem.

† What Zephaniah saw wasn't two separate plans, it was one unfolding reality, judgment on the old covenant system and the establishment of a new covenant people.

### **Zephaniah 3:1-2**

Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, The oppressive city!  
She heeded no voice, She accepted no instruction. She did not trust in the LORD, She did not draw near to her God.

† This is Jerusalem, not the nations, the city that had the law and the prophets but refused to listen, this is the same condition Jesus confronted in Matthew 23:37.

† The issue wasn't lack of revelation, it was rejection, they had everything and still would not draw near to God, showing that outward religion doesn't equal covenant faithfulness.

† This directly ties to the first century generation that rejected Christ, proving the judgment Zephaniah spoke of was reaching its fulfillment in their time.

### **Zephaniah 3:3-4**

Her leaders within her are roaring lions, Her judges are wolves at evening, They leave nothing for the morning. Her prophets are reckless, treacherous people, Her priests have profaned the sanctuary. They have done violence to the Law.

† The leadership was completely corrupt, civil rulers, judges, prophets, and priests, every level was compromised, this matches exactly what Jesus said about the scribes and

Pharisees.

† The temple system itself had become defiled, meaning judgment wasn't just coming on people, it was coming on the entire system.

† This explains why the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 wasn't random, it was covenant judgment against a fully corrupted order.

### **Zephaniah 3:5-7**

The LORD is righteous within her, He will do no injustice. Every morning He brings His justice to light, He does not fail. But the unjust knows no shame. I have cut off nations, Their corner towers are in ruins, I have made their streets desolate, With no one passing by, Their cities are laid waste, Without a person, without an inhabitant. I said, Surely you will revere Me, Accept instruction. So her dwelling will not be cut off According to all that I have appointed concerning her. But they were eager to corrupt all their deeds.

† God was present the whole time, His justice was clear, yet they ignored it, showing that judgment comes after persistent rebellion, not without warning.

† The history of other nations being judged was meant to serve as a warning to Israel, but they didn't listen.

† This reinforces that the destruction in AD 70 was deserved and consistent with God's past dealings.

### **Zephaniah 3:8**

Therefore wait for Me, declares the LORD, For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All

My burning anger, For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.

† This is the day of the Lord language, not about the end of the physical planet, but about covenant judgment.

† Gathering the nations points to the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem, fulfilling this judgment.

† The fire of His jealousy reflects the covenant breaking of Israel, just like in Deuteronomy 32:21-22.

### **Zephaniah 3:9**

For then I will restore to the peoples pure lips, So that all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

† After judgment comes restoration, a purified people, not based on ethnicity but on calling on the Lord.

† This is fulfilled in the gospel going out to all nations, as seen in Acts 2, where many languages are united in one message.

† The pure language isn't literal speech, it's unified worship under Christ.

### **Zephaniah 3:10-11**

From beyond the rivers of Cush My worshipers, My scattered people, Will bring My offerings. On that day you will feel no shame Because of all your deeds By which you have rebelled against Me, For then I will remove from your midst Your proud, arrogant ones, And you will never again be haughty On My holy mountain.

† The nations are now included, even those far off, showing the expansion of God's people beyond Israel.

† The removal of the proud points to the fall of the old covenant leadership.

† This is fulfilled as the gospel removes the exclusive system and establishes a humble people in Christ.

### **Zephaniah 3:12-13**

But I will leave among you A humble and lowly people, And they will take refuge in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel will do no wrong And tell no lies, Nor will a deceitful tongue Be found in their mouths, For they will feed and lie down With no one to frighten them.

† This is the remnant, not all Israel, but those who believed.

† This remnant becomes the foundation of the church, those who trusted in Christ.

† Their peace and security reflect the new covenant reality, not political safety but covenant rest.

### **Zephaniah 3:14-15**

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, Daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, You will no longer fear disaster.

† This is the turning point, judgment removed, enemies cast out, and God dwelling with His people.

† This is fulfilled in Christ, Emmanuel, God with us.

† Fear is removed because the covenant judgment has been completed.

### **Zephaniah 3:16-17**

On that day it will be said to Jerusalem: Do not be afraid, Zion, Do not let your hands fall limp. The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will rejoice over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.

† This is one of the clearest pictures of God's presence with His people.

† This isn't about a future earthly kingdom, it's about the realized presence of God in His people.

† God rejoicing over His people shows restored relationship, something only possible through Christ.

### **Zephaniah 3:18-20**

I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts, They came from you, Jerusalem, The reproach of exile is a burden on them. Behold, I am going to deal at that time With all your oppressors, I will save those who limp And gather the scattered, And I will turn their shame into praise and fame In all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, Even at the time when I gather you together. Indeed, I will make you famous and praised Among all the peoples of the earth, When I restore your fortunes Before your eyes, says the LORD.

† This final section shows full restoration, gathering, healing, and honor.

† This is fulfilled in the new covenant community, where those scattered are brought together in Christ.

† The captivity being reversed is covenantal, not political, it's about being restored to God.

## **Historical References**

† Josephus records the corruption of Jerusalem's leadership and the destruction in AD 70, confirming the judgment described here.

† Eusebius writes about the fall of Jerusalem and the escape of believers, showing the remnant preserved.

† Tacitus describes the Roman involvement, aligning with the gathering of nations against the city.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† We're not waiting for this to happen, it's already fulfilled, we live in the reality of God dwelling with His people.

† The warning still stands, outward religion without true faith leads to judgment.

† The promise stands too, God is in the midst of His people right now, not in a future system.

† We are the result of this restoration, a unified people calling on His name.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** Was Zephaniah 3 about a future end of the world?

**A** No, it was about covenant judgment and restoration fulfilled in

the first century, as seen in Luke 21:20-22.

**Q** Who is the remnant in this chapter?

**A** Believing Israel who followed Christ, forming the foundation of the church, Romans 11:5.

**Q** What does God being in the midst mean?

**A** It refers to His presence with His people through Christ, Matthew 28:20.

**Q** What is the pure language?

**A** Unified worship and calling on the Lord through the gospel, Acts 2:6-11.

**Q** Has this restoration already happened?

**A** Yes, through Christ and the completion of judgment in AD 70, Hebrews 12:28.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

© Fulfilled Prophecies - Dan Maines.

## Source Index

† Zephaniah

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews; Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History; Tacitus, Histories

Share on Facebook

## Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

---

**You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.**