

God Will Make the World Right

Someday

International Bible Lesson

Zephaniah 3:9-14, 20

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“They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid” (Zephaniah 3:13).

Some think that the earth and the universe will carry on as it has forever, or at least for a few billion more years. Optimists think that the earth will get better and better, or can be made better and better with the right leaders and policies. Pessimists think that the earth is going from bad to worse and nothing can be done to stop people from declining into an immoral mess. But too many people, including optimists and pessimists, leave God out of their calculations. As revealed in the Bible, God has the final word in the matter. Zephaniah foretold that a great Day of the LORD would come someday, when those who insist on living in rebellion against God and goodness will be removed from the earth. After that Day, those faithful to God who dwell on the earth will do no wrong, tell no lies, and live unafraid. When Jesus the Messiah came the first time, He forgave sinners, cleansed them from sin, and sent the Holy Spirit to indwell believers. Today, believers can have God’s guidance to live right and His perfect love to help them overcome their fears. Jesus also promised to return after all the conditions for His return have been fulfilled. He will come and make all things right on earth. He will fulfill the prophecies of Zephaniah and others completely. Just as no one does wrong or tells lies in heaven, when Jesus returns and establishes the kingdom of God on earth everyone will love and obey the LORD.

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Thinking Further

1. What did the LORD say He would do before the peoples called on His name?
2. How did God say the peoples would serve Him?
3. What kind of people did God say He would remove from Jerusalem?
4. What kind of people did God say He would leave in Jerusalem?
5. When will God fulfill His promise in Zephaniah 3:20?