



**Worship Illustration: Script**  
**The Love Sub**  
**Prophets & Promises Part 2: Elijah - Malachi**  
**Unit 8, Lesson 40**

# The Prophet Zephaniah

**Zephaniah 1:12; 2:3; 3:17-20**

**Running time:** Approximately 6 minutes

**Setting:** The Love Sub scripts (Lessons 35-52) will be set onboard a kaleidoscopic submarine in the late 1960's. The set is designed to look like the interior of an old submarine that also serves as a time travel device. There is a sliding board (the Time Tube) used for the entrance of visitors from the past and a ramp (or steps) to invite children up to participate in object lessons. There are two working portholes; the stage left porthole squirts water and the stage right porthole contains the Bible. Everything is painted in vibrant colors and has 1960's decor. For extra fun, build windows where characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

**Characters:** Ambassador Nofutu is a very joyful but confused dignitary. He knows nothing about our culture but loves God and has the curiosity and enthusiasm of a child. For fun, add an unusual accent. Zephaniah is an Old Testament prophet. He is righteous and speaks with passion and great authority. "Handsome" is a human hand (Actor's body is hidden except for his hand.) Handsome assists everyone by handing them props.

**Plot:** Zephaniah appears and warns Ambassador Nofutu not to be complacent. Nofutu chooses to seek the Lord with all his heart. We learn God is not angry with those who seek Him.

**Costumes:** Nofutu wears a crazy patterned shirt, shiny tunic, silk pantaloons, silly hat, and clogs. Zephaniah wears a Bible times robe, wig, and a beard.

**Props:** Bible, teddy bear, flashlight

**Sound effects (SFX):**

1. Intro/outro music suggestion: 1960's Surfer music
2. Porthole music suggestion: Song about God's power such as "Power in the Blood"
3. 3 dings: Microwave timer dings or bells
4. Submarine alarm sounds, bells
5. Warning siren
6. Choice bell
7. Promise fanfare
8. Voiceover: Time Travel Alert

**Visual effects (VFX):**

1. Video Intro featuring animated submarine is available at ResourceWell.org.
2. Stage left porthole squirts water when opened.
3. Stage right porthole holds the Bible. When it opens, a light shines out and music plays.
4. Warning Lights: Red beacons
5. Warning Slide: ***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.'***  
**Zephaniah 1:12**
6. Choice Lights: Blinking spotlight
7. Choice Slide: ***Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what He commands. Zephaniah 2:3a***
8. Promise Lights: Flashing lights
9. Promise Slide: ***The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17***
10. Silly Song Suggestion: "You Don't Know You're Beautiful"
11. Fallback Slide: ***No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!***

### **Adaptations:**

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form located at ResourceWell.org

**The Love Sub**  
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**Video Intro:** (available at ResourceWell.org)  
(VFX: Scientific images, SFX: Newsreel music) **Since the dawn of man, scientists have longed to travel through time! In the late 1960's a crack team of geniuses combined their talents to attempt to break the time barrier. In the Florida Keys, Dr. Woodstock P. Havens was given the task of building a special space shuttle— (SFX: Record scratch) Woodstock: Yeah, but I decided to make a submarine instead, man! (SFX: Intro music, VFX: Animated sub) So, come on and join me as we float through time. Climb aboard the Love Sub!**

### **Ambassador Nofutu**

**Hello, kids! It's me, Ambassador Nofutu! Make way! I'm coming down! Oh, I am stuck! Ouch, ooh, ahh! (slides down fire pole) Wow, that's not as easy as it looks! Welcome back! I am loving to be on the "The Love Sub!" We are still looking for the Uncle Woodstock but it is so nice here. Handsome does all the cooking, Shiloh does all the driving, and I do all the resting. Speaking of resting, it's naptime! I'm so glad I woke up in time to take my nap! (SFX: 3 dings) (Handsome pops up with teddy bear.) Oh, Handsome, thank you so much! I can't get a wink of sleep without my teddy. Nighty-night! (Handsome waves and exits.) Good night, Teddy! (Nofutu claps twice.) (VFX: Lower lights to 1/4) Good night, kids!**

### **Voiceover**

**Time Travel Alert! Time Travel Alert! We have a time travel visitor in 3-2-1! (SFX: Submarine alarm sounds, bells)**

### **Zephaniah** (enters with flashlight)

**Aha! Where has the Lord sent me now? Perhaps, God wants me to carry His message to some new soul in this strange place! Behold a sleeping sluggard! I shall give him God's warning! (SFX: Warning siren, VFX: Warning lights and slide)**

***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."***

### **Nofutu** (jumps up and runs)

**Wah! The dream police! They've come for me in my bed! I knew they would come!**

### **Zephaniah**

**Relax, citizen, I am not the dream police! I am a prophet of God!**

### **Nofutu**

**Oh! You must be the Uncle Woodstock! How nice to meet you! I am Nofutu!**

### **Zephaniah** (points to screen)

**I am not your Uncle. I am the prophet Zephaniah and that is my warning!**

### **Nofutu**

**Of course! No wonder the warning lights went off. What do you want to tell me, oh prophet Zephyr Hills?**

### **Zephaniah**

**Zephaniah, the name is Zephaniah.**

### **Nofutu**

**Ambassador Nofutu. I am pleased to meet you! You and your lamp came to warn us not to be complacent. I promise I will never be a complacent. What is a complacent?**

**Zephaniah**

Complacent is about an attitude. The people were being complacent with God. That means they did not care what God had done or was going to do.

**Nofutu**

You mean like people who don't do any work and just lie around all day? Uh-oh! That is what I have been doing!

**Zephaniah**

No, I mean like people who are still disobeying God and don't think He will do anything about it. That is what Jerusalem was doing! They stopped caring about obeying and honoring God.

**Nofutu**

I am from Planet Jerusalem! Teddy and I want to honor God! What must we do to please the Lord?

**Zephaniah**

Fear not, brother! You and Teddy will have a second chance. God always gives His people a choice.

**Nofutu**

Where can I find this choice of which you speak?

**Zephaniah**

I always look to the Holy Scriptures for they are full of wisdom and power!

**Nofutu**

I don't know what a holy scripture is but we do have a Bible.

**Zephaniah**

The Bible is the Holy Scripture!

**Nofutu**

Oh! Why didn't you say so! We keep that in the porthole! It's right over here! (Opens stage left porthole and water squirts out.) Oh! We sprung a leak! Maybe it's this side. (Opens stage right porthole and removes Bible, SFX: Porthole music, VFX: Beam of light shines from porthole) Neato Burrito! Look, there's a book named after you, Sanjaya!

**Zephaniah**

Zephaniah, the name is Zephaniah.

**Nofutu**

Oh, Nofutu, pleased to meet you. Look at this:

*Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what He commands.*

(SFX: Choice bell, VFX: Choice lights and slide)

**Zephaniah**

What was that?

**Nofutu**

They call them choice lights.

**Zephaniah** (points at screen)

And, there is your choice.

**Nofutu**

Where? Where?

**Zephaniah**

Right there!

**Nofutu**

Look, Teddy! We've got a choice! We can seek the Lord and obey His commands! High five! (gives Teddy a high five) Oh Teddy, what a faithful God we serve. He gives us a choice to fix our booboos!

**Zephaniah**

And a promise!

**Nofutu**

What? There's a promise? Well, pat my head and call me Susie! I didn't know there would be a promise!

**Zephaniah**

There's always a promise for those who choose to obey the Lord.

**Nofutu** (raises hand, as if in a classroom)

Ooh! Ooh! I choose to obey the Lord!

**Zephaniah**

I like your passion! We should all passionately seek and obey God!

**Nofutu**

Now, tell us. What is this promise, oh great prophet, Zack and Cody?

**Zephaniah**

Zephaniah, my name is Zephaniah!

**Nofutu**

Oh, Nofutu, pleased to meet you! Now, what about this promise? Come on, you promised to tell me the promise! You promised!

**Zephaniah**

**Let us search for it!** (Points to screen, SFX: Promise signal, VFX: Promise lights and slide)  
**Here is God's Promise.**

*The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.*

**Nofutu**

Oh, Teddy, did you hear that? The Lord our God is with us! (sings) The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save!

**Zephaniah**

Yes, my friends, the Lord your God takes great delight in you!

**Nofutu** (whispers)

**And, He quiets us with His love,** (shouts) **and rejoices over us with singing! Singing! I love singing!** (SFX: Silly song) (Nofutu sings along.) **"The way you smile at the floor means you just don't know. Oh, oh, oh-oh, you don't know you're beautiful, oh-oh! That's what makes you beautiful!"**

**Zephaniah**

**Stop! I'm pretty sure the Lord did not sing that song.**

**Nofutu**

(concerned) **Oh, prophet Zippadeedooda, do you think the Lord did not wish me to sing that song? Ohh, do you think the Lord is now angry with me?**

**Zephaniah**

I don't know about the song, but I do know that the Lord is NOT angry with you. He is not angry with those who seek Him. Remember the promise?

*He will take great delight in you.*

**Nofutu**

What is this delight?

**Zephaniah**

That means He enjoys you; you bring Him joy. The Lord is so pleased with you that He sings over you!

**Nofutu**

Imagine that! Well, my friend, this is great news for all who seek Him.

**Zephaniah**

I must be getting back to my time to tell the people about this wonderful promise!

**Nofutu**

Oh, I don't know how to send people backward in time, but I will introduce you to Shiloh. He'll know what to do.

**Zephaniah**

**Excellent!**

**Nofutu**

**Okay, kids, say goodbye to Sweet Papaya!**

**Zephaniah**

**Zephaniah! It's Zephaniah!**

**Nofutu**

**Nofutu, pleased to meet you! See you later, kids! Make godly choices! And remember, "No matter where you are in time ... it's Howdy Doody Time! No wait, that's not it! God is good all the time!" Bye, bye!** (SFX: Intro/outro music, VFX: Fallback slide)

(exit)