



# The Prophet Zephaniah

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

**"Make way! I'm coming down!" Ambassador Nofutu yelled as he slid down the pole and landed on the Guest Sleep Deck. "Ouch, ooh, ahh! Wow, that's not as easy as it looks! I think I scraped my hands!"**

Nofutu picked up a pillow and a blanket from the corner of the room and spread it out on a long bench. He could hear Shiloh putting away the tools for the night in the Time Travel Lab on the deck above him. They had still not found Woodstock, but they continued to search for the right formula to bring him home from the past.

The Ambassador yawned and laid down on the bench, pulling the blanket up under his chin. Handsome popped up and gave him his fluffy, brown teddy bear. "Thank you, Handsome," he said as he accepted the bear. Moments later, he was snoring soundly.

Later, in the middle of the night, the computer announced softly, "Time Travel Alert! Time Travel Alert! We have a Time Travel visitor in 3-2-1!"

The prophet Zephaniah slid down the time travel tube. "Aha! Where has the Lord sent me now?" he wondered. He straightened his brown robe, which was tied at the waist with a strip of leather. Then, he lit the lamp in his hand. "Perhaps, God wants me to carry His message to some new soul in this strange place!"

He slid down the pole and into the Ambassador's room. "Behold! A sleeping sluggard! I shall give him God's warning!" He loudly quoted his own writing from the Bible in Zephaniah 1:12, *"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.'"* Just then, the warning alarm sounded and the red lights flashed.

Nofutu jumped up, threw off his blanket, and ran wildly in circles around the room. "Wah! The Dream Police! They've come for me in my bed! I knew they would come for me!"

Zephaniah stared at Nofutu for a moment before announcing boldly, "Relax citizen; I am not the Dream Police! I am a prophet of God!"

Nofutu stopped and stared, his breath coming in gasps. "Oh! You must be the Uncle Woodstock! How nice to meet you! I am Nofutu!"

**"I am not your uncle. I am the prophet Zephaniah and that was my warning!" he bellowed.**

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

**"Zephaniah, the name is Zephaniah."**

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

**"Complacent describes an attitude. The people were being complacent with God. They did not care what He had done or what He was going to do," Zephaniah explained.**

**"You mean like people who don't do any work and just lie around?" Nofutu gasped. "Uh-oh! That is what I have been doing!" he dropped his head in his hands and moaned through his fingers.**

**"No," Zephaniah shook his head. "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."**

**"I am from Planet Jerusalem!" Nofutu held up his bear. "Teddy and I want to honor God! What must we do to please the Lord?"**

**"Fear not, brother! It's never too late to please the Lord. God always gives His people a choice," Zephaniah assured him.**

**"Where can I find this choice of which you speak?" Nofutu asked. Handsome, who had been watching all the commotion, pointed at the power panel.**

**"What's that, Handsome? Of course, we need to check in the Bible," Nofutu said, as he removed the Bible from the glowing box.**

**"Yes!" Zephaniah agreed. "The Holy Scriptures are full of wisdom and power!"**

**Nofutu held up the Bible and pointed excitedly at the title on a page. "Look, there's a book named after you, Sanjaya!"**

**"Zephaniah, the name is Zephaniah."**

**Nofutu turned to chapter two verse three and exclaimed, "Look at this! It says, 'Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, you who do what He commands.'"**

**Zephaniah looked up as the bell rang and the red and green lights flashed. "What was that?"**

**"They call them choice lights," Nofutu explained.**

**"And you just read the choice," Zephaniah said.**

**Nofutu jumped up and down, hugging his bear. "Look, Teddy! We've got a choice! We can seek the Lord and obey His commands. What a faithful God we serve. He gives us a choice to fix our boo-boos!**

**"And, there's always a promise for those who choose to obey the Lord," Zephaniah added.**

**Nofutu's hand shot up into the air. "Ooh! Ooh! I choose to obey the Lord!" he volunteered.**

**Zephaniah laughed. "I like your passion! We should all passionately seek and obey God!"**

**"Now, what about this promise? Come on, you promised to tell me the promise! You promised!" Nofutu begged.**

**"Here is God's promise!" Zephaniah recited from memory the promise he had written thousands of years before, "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." Just as he finished reading, they heard applause and saw the flashing green light.**

**"Oh Handsome, oh Teddy, did you hear that? The Lord our God is with us!" Nofutu cheered. "The Lord your God is with you, He is mighty to save!" he sang.**

**"Yes, my friends, the Lord your God takes great delight in you!" Zephaniah confirmed.**

**Nofutu whispered, "and He quiets us with His love," then shouted, "and rejoices over us with singing!" A huge grin spread over his face. He sang as loudly as he could, "You don't know you're beautiful, oh-oh! That's what makes you beautiful!"**

**"Stop!" Zephaniah yelled, covering his ears. "I'm pretty sure the Lord did not sing that."**

**Nofutu froze in place. "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?"**

**I don't know about the song, but I do know the Lord is NOT angry with you," Zephaniah assured him. "He is not angry with those who seek Him. Remember the promise? 'He will take great delight in you.' That means He enjoys you; you bring Him joy. The Lord is so pleased with you that He sings over you!"**

**Nofutu sighed, "This is great news for all of us who seek Him."**

**"Yes! Now, I must be getting back to my time to tell the people about this promise!"**

**Nofutu shook his head. "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. He'll even tell you that, 'no matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!'"**

**"Excellent!" Zephaniah agreed. "I will follow you to Shiloh." So, Nofutu scurried toward the ladder as Zephaniah followed close behind.**