



Walking the Ancient Path

Zephaniah

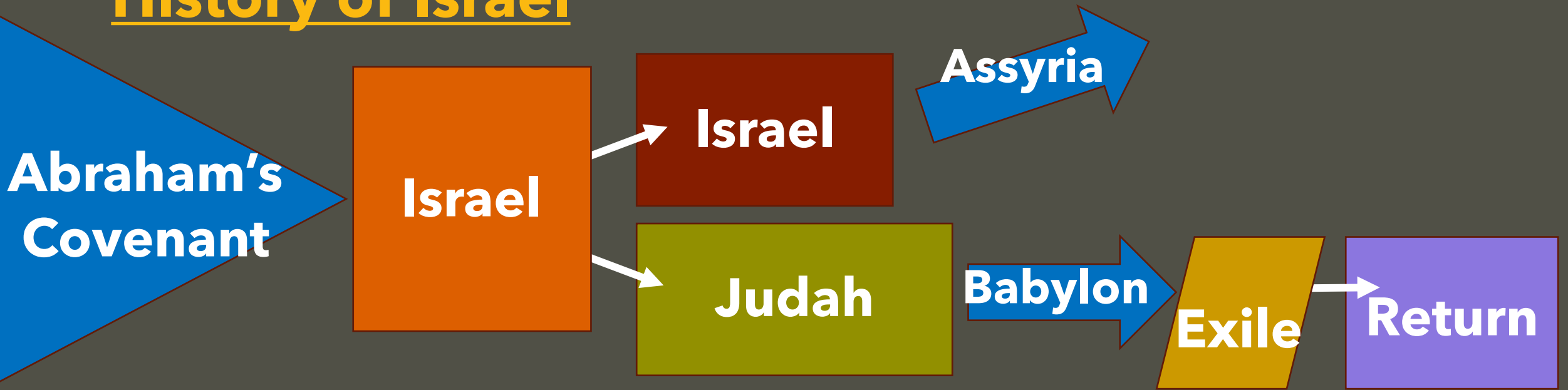
16 This is what the Lord says:

**“Stand at the crossroads and look;
ask for the ancient paths,
ask where the good way is,
and walk in it,**

and you will find rest for your souls.

Jer. 6

History of Israel



Prophets of Israel

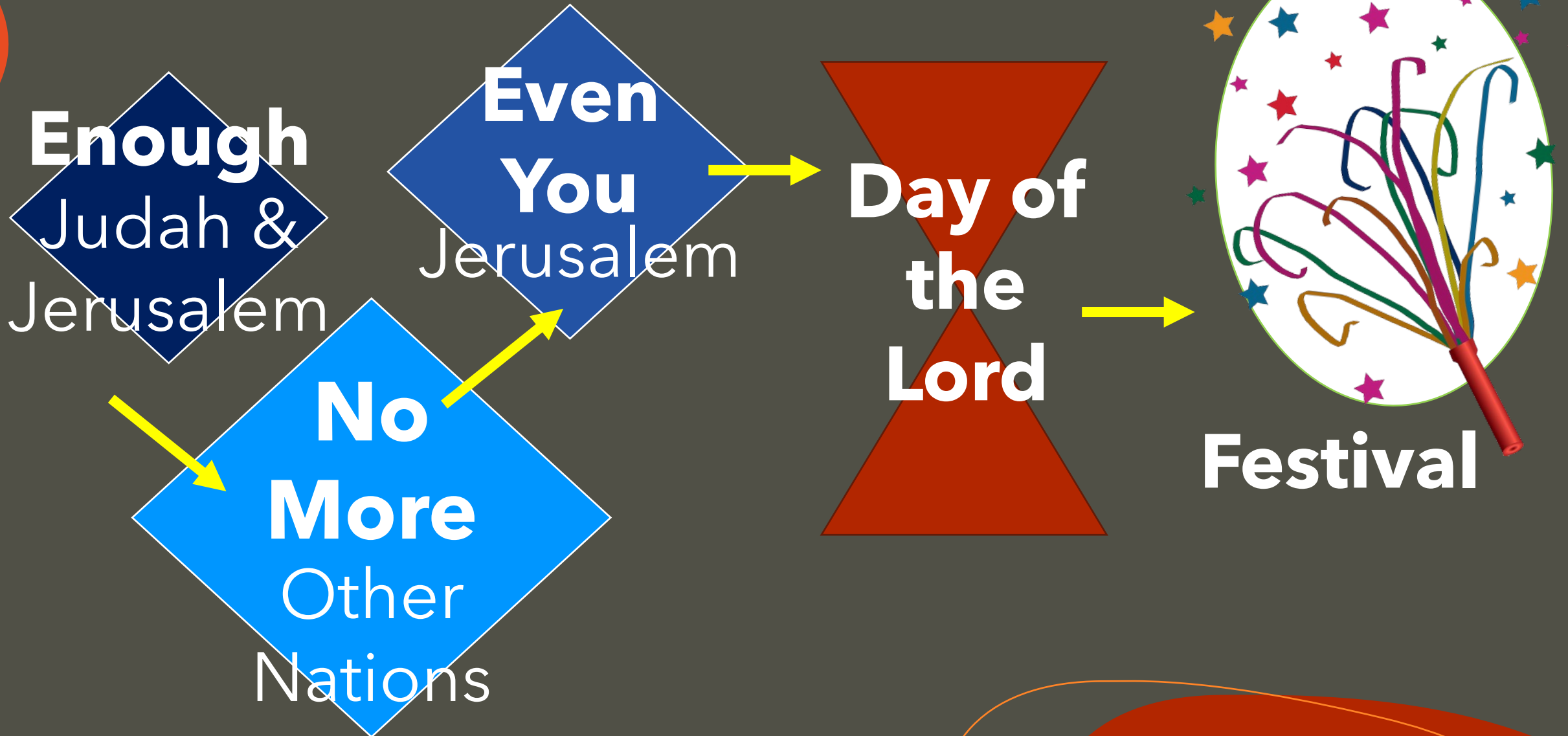




Who Was Zephaniah?

- **Jerusalem Resident**
- **Distant Grandson of Hezekiah**
- **Prophet "Baptized in Vinegar"**
- **Keenly Aware of God's Nearness**
- **Visionary**

The Flow





A Time Is Coming

Zeph 1:2-6

**“I will sweep away everything
from the face of the earth,”
declares the Lord.**

**³ “I will sweep away both man and beast;
I will sweep away the birds in the sky
and the fish in the sea—
and the idols that cause the wicked to
stumble.”**



**“When I destroy all mankind
on the face of the earth,”
declares the Lord,**

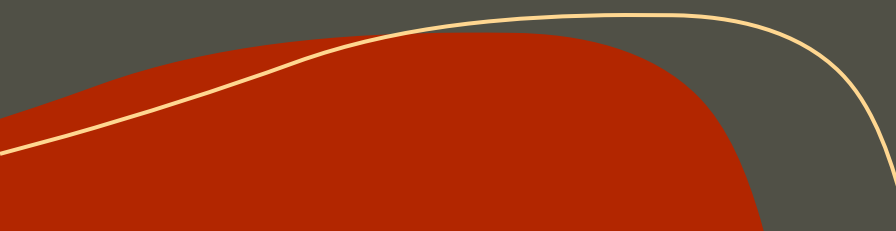
**4 “I will stretch out my hand against Judah
and against all who live in Jerusalem.
I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship
in this place,
the very names of the idolatrous
priests—**



**⁵ those who bow down on
the roofs
to worship the starry host,
those who bow down and swear by the Lord
and who also swear by Molek,
⁶ those who turn back from
following the Lord
and neither seek the Lord nor
inquire of him.”**



Why is God
so harsh?



Is God Harsh?

1. Sin is devastating. Deceitful.

¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that **turns away** from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be **hardened** by sin’s **deceitfulness**. Heb 3:12-13



Is God Harsh?

2. Trust God's goodness.

1 Sam 16:7

The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”



Is God Harsh?

3. The Cross shows His justice & mercy.

²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood . . . ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be **just and the one who justifies** those who have faith in Jesus.

Rom 3:25-26



Better Question:

**Why am
I so
stubborn?**

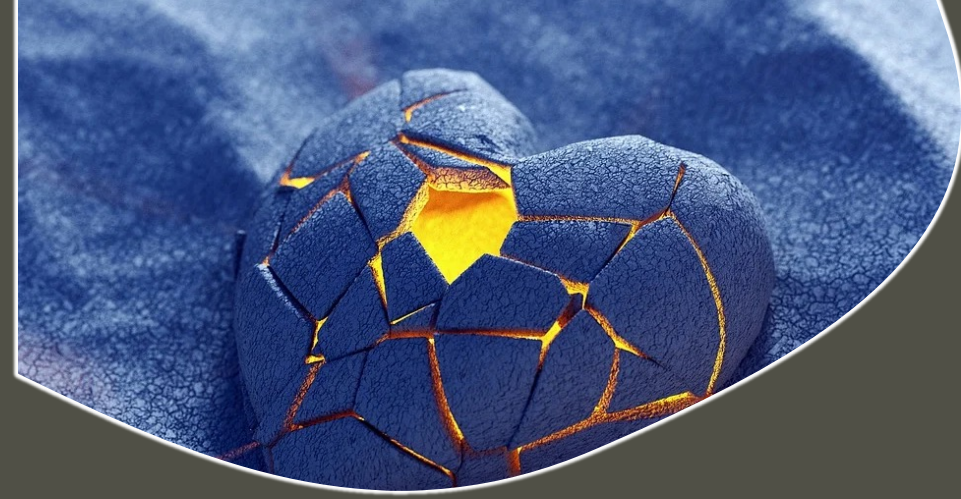




2 Heart Tests

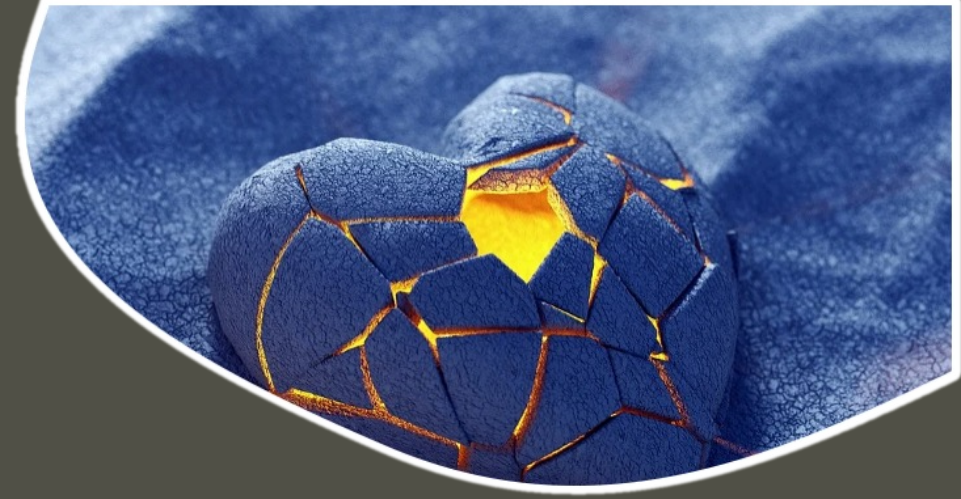
**Be silent
before the
Sovereign Lord,
for the day of
the Lord is
near.**

Zeph 1:7



**Do you often think
of His return?
Does it silence
your heart?**

I will search
Jerusalem with
lamps, and I will
punish the people
Who are stagnant in
spirit, who say in their
hearts, "The Lord will
not do good nor
harm!" Zeph 1:12



Do you think God
is passive? Have
you given up on
God?



Great News

9 **“Then I will purify the lips of the peoples,**
that all of them may call on the name of the Lord
and **serve him shoulder to shoulder.**

10 From beyond the rivers of Cush

Then - a specific period/time

Serve. Side by side.

my worshipers, my **scattered**
people,
will bring me offerings.
¹¹ On that day you, Jerusalem,
will not be put to shame
for all the wrongs you have
done to me,
because I will **remove from you**
your arrogant boasters.

Who?
Those
beyond

A purging
has
happened

Never again will you be
haughty
on my holy hill.

¹² But I will leave within you
the **meek and humble**.

The remnant of Israel
will trust in the name of
the Lord.

A New
Israel ...
Not by
birth, but by
the cross.
The Israel of
God.
Gal 6:14-16

**13 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.”**

Made
faultless by
Jesus

Held in
God's hand.

¹⁴ **Sing**, Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with **all**
your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has **taken away** your
punishment,
he has **turned back** your
enemy.

Incredible!
The Lord
has done it.

Punishment
removed.

Enemy
defeated.

The Lord, the King of Israel, is
with you;

never again will you fear any
harm.

¹⁶ On that day

they will say to Jerusalem,

“Do not fear, Zion;

do not let your hands hang
limp.

This King is
with you!

No fear.

17 The Lord your God is with you, the **Mighty Warrior** who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice **over you** with singing.”

Mighty
Warrior
who sings
over us.

18 “I will **remove** from you
all who mourn over the loss
of your appointed festivals,
which is a burden and
reproach for you.

19 At that time I will deal
with all who oppressed you.
I will rescue **the lame**;
I will gather the exiles.

A purging
and a
gathering
of the
marginalized.

I will give them **praise** and
honor
in every land where they
have suffered **shame**.

²⁰ At that time I will gather you;
at that time I will bring you
home.

The
shamed to
be honored

Home.
Home.