

The Book of ZEPHANIAH

Name means: “hidden, the Lord will hide ” Yahweh “has hidden” “has Protected”

Date: 622-612 BC

Last of the Pre-Exilic prophets, canonically if not chronologically.

Jeremiah stays in Jerusalem during the exile until going to Egypt. (Pre and Exilic Prophet)

1:1 The only prophet to give an extended genealogy of his ancestors.

Zephaniah is the great, great, grandson of King Hezekiah.

In the days of King Josiah, great grandson of King Hezekiah, grandson of Manasseh.

Zephaniah would have been a cousin to King Josiah, the last good king of Judah.

Hezekiah was followed by Manasseh.

Hezekiah was great King. Manasseh was a wicked and evil king.

Josiah's father was king for 2 years and did evil before being killed by his servants.

Josiah followed a great king (Hezekiah) and an evil king (Manasseh). Which would he be?

Manasseh worshipped the Ammonite god Molech. Child sacrifices Leviticus 18:21

In Jerusalem, Hebrew Valley of Hinnom, becomes Greek Gehenna

They burned their babies alive, sacrificing to Molech.

Zephaniah's name means “hidden by God”

Protected from being sacrificed as a child sacrifice? Another Moses (?)

Manasseh had Isaiah “sawn asunder” Hebrews 11:37

Josiah became king at 8 years old and reigned from 640 BC to 609 BC.

Influenced by Hilkiah the High Priest

See 2 Kings 22 & 23

At 16, he sought the Lord, and destroyed the pagan altars in Jerusalem.

At 20, he had all the pagan altars in Judah destroyed.

At 28, he ordered a cleansing and restoring of the temple, which had been abandoned.

A copy of the Law of Moses was found, and was read.

Josiah was killed in 609 BC at the battle of Megiddo trying to stop the Egyptians coming to help the Assyrians against the Babylonians.

Zephaniah is a contemporary of Jeremiah. Jeremiah 1:2

Jeremiah quotes Micah 3:12 in Jeremiah 26:18 "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, And the mountain of the temple, Like the bare hills of the forest." NKJV

OVERVIEW OF ZEPHANIAH

Chapter 1 A Look Within Judgement on God's People

- 1:5 worshipping the moon and stars- Astrology Some believe in Allah, the Muslim moon god
1:5 worshipping Milcom, Molech or the Ammorite god Molech 2 Kings 23:10
1:6 you have not sought the Lord, nor inquired of Him
Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all of your heart
1:7 Be Quiet- the day of the Lord is at hand. Do you listen, or just talk to God?
1:9 **"Those who leap over the threshold" foolish superstition See 1 Samuel 5:5**
1:10 Mournful cry from the Fish Gate/ Damascus Gate North gate to South gate
1:11 Maktesh- a mournful cry from the "Valley of Cheesemakers"
 between Mt Moriah and Mt Zion. A commercial area
 Today at the base of the Temple Mount toward the Jewish Quarter.
1:14-18 **The Day of the Lord**
1:17 Because they have sinned against the Lord
1:18 Silver and gold won't help you

Chapter 2 A Look Around Judgement on the Nations

- 2:1-2 The anger of the Lord is simmering- A simmering pot unwatched will boil over
 and its too late to avoid disaster. If you're not paying attention, it will come suddenly.
2:3 that you may be hidden **from the Lord's anger**
 (Zephaniah means "hidden" or "the Lord hides")
2:4 WEST Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Philistia.
 Desolation Sheep and shepherds will sleep in your house
2:8 EAST Moab and Ammon Perpetual desolation like Sodom and Gomorrah
2:12 SOUTH Ethiopia Slain by My sword
2:13 NORTH Assyria Nineveh falls in 612 BC Assyria falls to Babylon in 605 BC
 Nahum 1:14 God said to Nineveh, "I will dig your grave, For you are vile."
2:15 Those that said in their heart. "I'm it." "I'm number one." "There's on one other than me."

Chapter 3 A Look Beyond Return of the Remnant

- 3:1-7 The wickedness of Jerusalem. They removed idols from their homes but not from their hearts.
3:8-20 9 times God says "I will"
3:8 Wait for me- Because judgement hasn't come, does not mean it will not come.
3:9 a pure language When Jews went back to Israel in 1948, Hebrew became the official language
3:12 Humility 3:13 No more lies. No more fear
3:14 Joy in God's faithfulness.
3:15 No more disasters
3:16 No more fear
3:17 God will sing over you
3:18 Those who didn't want to worship, will now gather to worship
3:19 I will deal with your enemies. I will remove your shame
3:20 After Judgement, "I will bring you back." Joy and Final Restoration

The dark side of love: Discipline

God sent Amos to Israel with a message of judgement.
Then, God sent Hosea to Israel with a message of loving forgiveness.
Even when God is disciplining you, God is blessing you. Hebrews 12:6 For Whom the Lord loves He chastens.

Every generation must own God's covenant. God has no grandchildren.
You cannot get so bad you move beyond God's promise of restoration.