



# MINOR PROPHETS

ZEPHANIAH

The *Royal* Prophet



# Zephaniah the Man

- *“The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah ...” (1:1a)*
- *“I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off from **this place** the remnant of Baal and the name of the idolatrous priests along with the priests” (1:4)*

# Zephaniah the Man

- His name means *“Yahweh hides”* or *“Yahweh has hidden.”*
- Date – *“... in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.”* (1:1b)
  - Josiah began ruling over Judah when he was eight years old about 640 B.C.
  - Zephaniah foretells the fall of the great Assyrian capital of Nineveh, which took in 612 B.C. (2:13-15)

# Zephaniah – Background

- Judah had been polluted through the heinous sin of Manasseh (Hezekiah's son).
  - It is doubtful there was any king in all of Judah's history more wicked than Manasseh.
  - For 55 years he attempted to undo all the good that Hezekiah accomplished for God's people.
    - **2 Kings 21:2-6, 9-12**

# Zephaniah – Background

- **Josiah's attempt at reform – Too little, too late!**
  - **Manasseh's grandson.**
  - **Brought spiritual reform to Judah by tearing down the places of idol worship and restoring the true worship of Yahweh.**
  - **In spite of Josiah's efforts, the nation refused to faithfully keep the covenant law of God.**
    - **Zephaniah 1:4-6; 3:2**

# Zephaniah – The DAY OF THE LORD!

- Zephaniah is not the first prophet to mention such a day.
  - Amos (Amos 5:18-20)
  - Jeremiah (Jeremiah 46:10)
  - Isaiah (Isaiah 13:9-11)
  - Joel (Joel 2:11)
  - *“For the day of the LORD is great and very awesome; who can endure it?”* (Joel 2:11)

# Zephaniah – The DAY OF THE LORD!

- How does Zephaniah describe this day?
  - 1) It is imminent! (1:14)
  - 2) It is a time of trouble and distress! (1:15)
  - 3) It is a day of justice! (1:17; Revelation 1:7)
  - 4) It is inescapable! (1:18)



# A Future DAY OF THE LORD!

- Zephaniah is speaking directly to Judah about the coming destruction of their nation and city by the Babylonians (606 / 586 B.C.).
- Both the terminology and character of that day is applicable to a day of the Lord that is yet to come for us.
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:1-6**
  - **2 Peter 3:10-12**

# A Future DAY OF THE LORD!

- How close is our Day of the Lord?
  - Although we cannot know the time when Jesus will return, God's word assures us that he will.
  - *“And just as it is appointed for people to die once – and after this, judgment.”* (Hebrews 9:27, CSB)

**IT IS AS CLOSE AS DEATH!**

