

ZEPHANIAH

Background and Overview

According to 1:1

- This book contains “the word of the LORD.”
- Zephaniah was the great-great grandson of one of Judah’s best kings, Hezekiah.
- Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of Josiah (640-609 B.C.)., the last good king of Judah.
 - Josiah was, however, preceded by two very evil kings: Manasseh (51 yrs.) and Amon (2 yrs.).

Highlights of Josiah's Reign

- 8 when he began his reign.
- 16 when he began to seek the Lord.
- 20 when he began to purge Judah of idolatry.
- 26 when he ordered repairs on the temple, which resulted in the book of the Law being found.
- Note especially 2 Kings 23:4-5; 2 Chron. 34:4-5.

ZEPHANIAH

“The Hottest Book in the Bible”

You can feel the heat of God's wrath

- “I will...”
 - consume (1:3); utterly consume (1:2); stretch out my hand (1:4); cut off (1:4); punish (1:8-9); search...and punish (1:12); bring distress (1:17); destroy (2:5).
- “He will...”
 - make speedy riddance (1:18); reduce to nothing (2:11); lay bare (2:14).

You can feel the heat of God's wrath

- “Their blood shall poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse” (1:17).
- “Fierce (or burning) anger” (2:2; 3:8).
- “Fire of His jealousy” (1:18; 3:8).
- “The Day of the Lord”
 - A day of wrath... trouble... distress... devastation... desolation... darkness...gloominess...thick darkness (1:15).

Then a complete change in tone (3:9-20)

- “I will...”
 - Restore (3:9); gather (3:18); save (3:19); appoint you for praise and fame (3:19-20); bring you back (3:20)
- “He will...”
 - “rejoice over you with gladness...quiet you with His love...rejoice over you with singing” (3:17).



ZEPHANIAH

A Prophetic Book

ZEPHANIAH 2-3

Four Key Points

Key Points

- Blessed are the meek, for they shall repent (2:1-3).
- The Jews were God's covenant people, but all nations were accountable to Him (2:4-15).
- It's vitally important that we receive instruction and correction in whatever form it may come (3:1-8).
- God always preserved a remnant of His people, and there is still a remnant today (2:7, 9; 3:9-20).

ZEPHANIAH 3:9-20

The Spiritual Remnant Gathered in Christ

Spiritual Remnant

- *Composition*
 - From many different nations (2:11; 3:8-10; Gal. 3:8-9).
- *Devotion to the one true God.*
 - Will “speak a pure language”—will all “call on the name of the Lord” (3:9).
 - Will bring their offering (worship) to the one true God (2:11; 3:10; John 4:21-24).

Spiritual Remnant

- *Unity*
 - Will “serve Him with one accord” (3:9; John 17:20-21; Acts 2:46; 5:12).
- *Character*
 - “meek and humble” (3:12; contrast with 2:8, 10; 3:4).
 - “shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth” (3:13).

Spiritual Remnant

- *Blessings*
 - The Lord is in their midst, so they can rejoice, and they can feel safe and secure, with no reason to fear (3:13-17; Phil. 4:4-7; Heb. 13:5).
 - Appointed for praise and fame (3:19-20; 1 Peter 1:6-7).