

Zephaniah's Zeal

Zephaniah – 53 verses

- Minor prophet
- Time: ~ 621BC
- Contemporary of Jeremiah, Nahum, Habakkuk
- Traces his genealogy back four generations to Hezekiah (1:1)

Zephaniah – 53 verses

- Great-great-grandson of Hezekiah
- Related to royal family (Josiah)
- Hezekiah – Josiah, religious decay set in
- Fearful forecast against own people / relatives:
God's judgment is coming . . .
 - “Day of the LORD” etc. (1:7-10...)
 - Total destruction (1:2-2:3)
 - Includes all nations (2:4-3:8)
 - Followed by God's mercy for His remnant (3:9-20)

Overview

- Judah and Jerusalem will be punished on the Day of the LORD, 1:1-18
- Seek the LORD while you can, 2:1-3
- Nations will be punished, 2:4-3:7
- Judah and others nations will turn to LORD, 3:8-20

I. Timing of Judgment:

1:1, days of Josiah

When apostasy prevails...

- Sin is accepted
- Evil dominates
- Timid folks jump on bandwagon
 - But...it's not all bad
 - Ruth – Judges

When apostasy prevails...

- Some Christians would rather switch than fight world's system –
 - Immorality
 - Indifference
 - Imitation (watered-down religion)
 - When Elijah thought he was alone...
 - Maturity: able to stand against enemies

Zephaniah joins ranks with Jeremiah and Josiah

- Warns of judgment – minces no words, shows no favoritism (even against royal family)
- Jer.3: triple indictment –
 - 6-7, backsliding Israel, treacherous Judah
 - 8, Judah did not learn from Israel's slaughter
 - 9-10, Judah: the great pretender.
- Josiah's untimely death freed people from shackles of God