

INTRODUCTION TO Zephaniah

READ ALONG

07/31 Zephaniah 1-3

WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 33. MICAH
- 34. NAHUM
- 35. HABAKKUK
- 36. **ZEPHANIAH**
- 37. HAGGAI
- 38. ZECHARIAH
- 39. MALACHI

KEY THEMES

- **The Day of the LORD:**
 - He pays more attention to this theme than any of the other prophetic books.
 - There are dual sides of this day: 1) Judgment directed at all mankind, and more specifically Judah, and 2) Salvation or restoration for mankind, regardless of ethnic or religious background.
 - This also refers to two time periods: 1) Historical period in which Judah would be punished in the near future, and 2) Eschatological or concerned with end time events.
 - The Day of the LORD very simply means “The Coming of God” and in its focus on end time events refers to both the initial coming of Christ through His Incarnation and His future return (William Wood).
- **Pride/Humility.** The people’s pride brought them to the conclusion that God was not concerned with the affairs of their lives and they could live in any way they so chose, thus rebelling against His ways. Zephaniah calls for a humble people who are willing to repent, obey God’s Word and ways, and seek Him alone.
- **Remnant.** God promises He will preserve a remnant of people who wholeheartedly seek Him. He will purify them, gather and restore them to their land, and give them victory over their enemies. They will respond in jubilant worship of God, knowing His presence, salvation, and forgiveness.

BOOK BASICS



DATE
635-612 BC



TYPE
Prophecy



AUTHOR
Zephaniah

OCCASION

Zephaniah, likely wrote this book during the reign of King Josiah (640-609 BC). He may have been a native of Jerusalem. It is very possible Zephaniah was a descendant of King Hezekiah, which means he was of the royal lineage of Judah (although we cannot be 100% certain). The name Zephaniah means “The LORD hides.” Zephaniah was a contemporary of Nahum, Habakkuk & Jeremiah.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

During this time, the Book of the Law was found in the Temple and was read to King Josiah. Josiah responded by immediately renewing God’s covenant, ordered the destruction of all pagan altars, and the removal from the Temple of all idols and articles used in pagan worship. Zephaniah may have prophesied right before or during this time of spiritual reform in Judah. You can read more about this in 2 Kings 23:1-27 & 2 Chronicles 34:3–35:19.

BASIC STRUCTURE

3 CHAPTERS

