

Outline of Zephaniah

1:1 — 2:3	Judah Will Be Judged
2:4 — 3:7	Nations Will Be Judged
2:4	Gaza
2:8-11	Moab and Ammon
2:12	Egypt
2:13-15	Assyria
3:1-7	“Woe” Upon Jerusalem
3:8-20	God’s People Will Be Restored

Author

The title of the book comes from its writer, namely Zephaniah. His name means “Yahweh hides”. We know very little about him. Zephaniah grew up under the reign of Manasseh (697-642BC) and his son Amon (642-640BC). He would have been surrounded by the trappings of idolatry, child sacrifice, and unjust killings (2Ki.21:16; 2Ch.33:1-10). These would have been powerful influences on a young mind. He ministered during the reign of King Josiah (Zp.1:1; 640-609BC). A couple clues help us date the writing of the book. First, he predicted the fall of Nineveh (2:13) that occurred in 612BC which indicates he wrote before the event. Second, he quotes from the Law (e.g., 1:13 from Du.28:30,39). However this document remained lost in Judah for much of Josiah's reign. It was in Josiah's eighteenth year that Hilkiah the priest discovered the Law of Moses in the temple (2Ch.34:3-7). Josiah read it and instituted reforms throughout Judah (2Ki.22:4-25; 2Ch.34:3-35:19). Zephaniah must

ZEPHANIAH

Zephaniah announced coming judgment on Judah in the Day of the Lord, which will extent to all nations of the earth, then bring deliverance to Israel as promised by God including blessing the Gentiles.

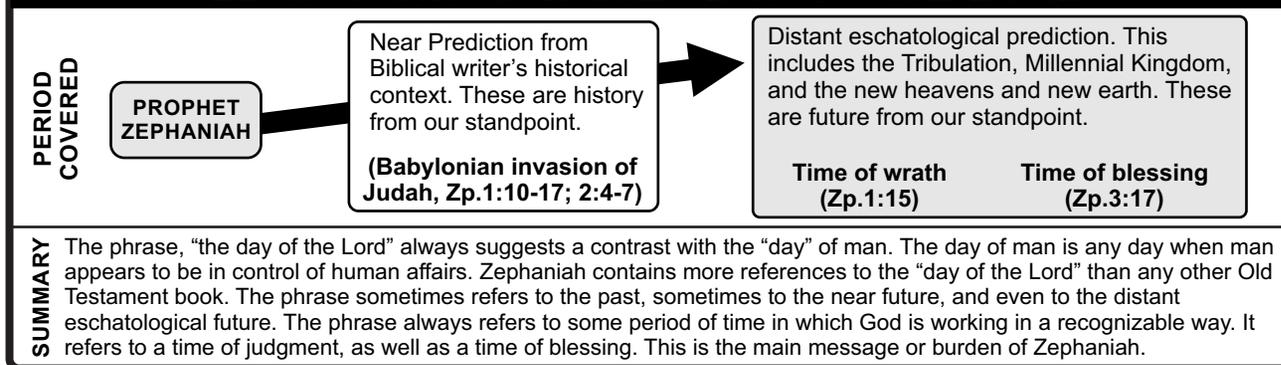
have written after this time, thus he wrote between 622-612BC. The political situation in Judah during king Josiah's reign was peaceful. At this time Josiah was able to extend Judah's territory north into the tribal land of Naphtali. Josiah died prematurely, thus the reform was short lived (2Ch.35:20-27).

blessing for Israel in the future. Zephaniah predicted that it would be the Babylonians that would invade Judah (Zp.1:10-17; 2:4-7). No prophet more vividly pictures the Day of the Lord than Zephaniah. Zephaniah stressed the sovereign justice of Yahweh (1:2-3,7,14-18; 3:8) including His willingness to receive the repentant (2:3). He pointed to the wickedness of

PROPHETS

BOOK 36
Zp.
 ZEPHANIAH
 3 CHAPTERS

ZEPHANIAH AND THE “DAY OF THE LORD”



Summary

The people of Judah had turned their backs on God in both their personal lives and in their worship. They built their own places (called “high places”) of worship to revere other gods. They began to desecrate the temple (Zp.1:9). Zephaniah announced that God was going to send judgment on Judah for her wickedness. He also assured the godly few that the Lord would preserve them and remain true to His promises of worldwide

man (1:3-6,17; 3:1,4). Zephaniah also taught the theme of Yahweh's relationship to Jerusalem (1:4-13; 3:1-7, 11-17).



CHRIST IN ZEPHANIAH

- Zephaniah 3:15-17, Shouts of joy will arise because Israel's Redeemer, the Messiah King Jesus Christ will be in her midst.