
BOOK OVERVIEW

Zephaniah

Author: The prophet Zephaniah (means “He whom Jehovah has hidden”)

Date: 630 B.C. (during King Josiah’s reign and after the Northern Kingdom—Israel—was taken into captivity)

Recipients: Judah and Jerusalem.

Summary: Zephaniah warns of impending judgment and comforts the faithful remnant.

Key verses: Zephaniah 1:7, 12

Key words: Day of the Lord (20), desolation (7), remnant (4)

Notes:

Zephaniah was probably the great-great-grandson of Judah’s king Hezekiah. Apparently, Zephaniah was familiar with the political leaders of Judah.

The book foreshadows “The Day of the Lord” mentioned in the New Testament, when God will reestablish His kingdom on earth.

The book makes it clear that the worship of God and idolatry do not mix. (1:4-6)

Pagan offerings were often made on altars that were erected on rooftops. (1:5)

Tradition says that Zephaniah was associated with Huldah the prophetess (II Chronicles 34:20-30) and Jeremiah in the initiation of the reformation of the kingdom.

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