

Zephaniah

Purpose: Judahites should look soberly at the impending doom of Babylonian aggression, but take heart in restoration promises.

Outline: 1:1 – Title

1:2-2:3 – Judgment against nations and especially Judah

2:4-15 – Judgment against foreign nations

3:1-20 – Judgment and salvation for Judah

Author: Zephaniah

Date: “During the reign of Josiah” (1:1) which was 640-609.

Highlights:

Zephaniah ministered during the reign of King Josiah. Josiah would initiate major religious reforms, but he was a child when he first took the throne and the reforms did not begin until well into his reign.

Oracles of Judgment against Judah and Nations (1:2-2:3) [cf. Amos 1:2-2:16]

Oracle of Judgment (1:2-6)

Sentence [Nations and Judah will be judged]

Oracle of Judgment (1:7-13)

Sentence [The day of the Lord is near and punishment is coming to Jerusalem]

Oracle of Judgment (1:14-18)

Sentence [The day of the Lord will be terrible worldwide judgment]

Call for Repentance (2:1-3)

“Perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord’s anger” (2:3)

Oracles of Judgment against the Nations (2:4-15) [cf. Amos 9:12]

Philistia (2:4-7)

Destruction of Nation (2:4-5)

Possessed by Judah (2:6-7)

Moab and Ammon (2:8-11)

Destruction of Nations (2:8-9a, 10-11)

Possessed by Judah (2:9b)

Cush (2:12)

Destruction of Nation

Assyria (2:13-15)

Destruction of Nation

Judgment and Salvation for Judah (3:1-20)

Oracle of Woe (3:1-8)

Accusation (3:1-7)

Sentence (3:8) [Judah will be judged with the nations (Babylonian aggression)]

Oracle of Salvation (3:9-13)

Judah will be gathered and purified

Oracle of Salvation (3:14-20)

Judah should rejoice because of restoration

New Testament Use of Zephaniah

3:13

Zephaniah says that the remnant restored after exile will not be filled with deceit.

-----Historical Contingency-----→

Rev. 14:5

John says those saved in the new world will have no deceit.