

Bible Snapshots



Zephaniah – God’s Wonder and Wrath **Author** – Zephaniah (1:1)

Facts

- Zephaniah means “Hidden of Jehovah.” He is the judgment prophet or the “prophet of punishment and promise.” He identifies himself better than any other minor prophet. He is the “hellfire and brimstone” preacher of the Old Testament; the great grandson of king Hezekiah and was related to King Josiah, in whose reign he prophesied.
- He prophesied and wrote ca. 634-625 B.C. and was perhaps a vital element in the revival of Josiah’s day.
- Contemporary with Nahum and Jeremiah. His book has 3 chapters and 1,617 verses.

Contents

- He foretells the destruction of the Jews by the Chaldeans for their multiple and nationalized sins. He called them to repentance, but bluntly told of the judgment to come if they did not. He also predicted the downfall of many other nations, all of which came to pass. He also prophesied the calling of the gentiles, the conversion of the times of Christ. He placed a great emphasis on the “Day of the Lord.” Though a book of judgment, he also speaks of God’s mercy in hiding the “remnant of Israel,” who seek Him.

Prophecy

- The redemptive work of Christ (1:5 with Acts 13:41)

Christ in Zephaniah

- Israel’s king (3:15) and The Lord in Israel’s midst (3:17)

Key phrase / word / thought

- “The Day of The Lord” (1:14) / search / The fires of jealousy (1:18)

Key chapters/verse

- 3 – God’s deliverance / 1:12

Outline of the book of Zephaniah

- The retribution upon the chosen nation (1:1-2:3)
- The retribution upon the gentile nations (2:4-15)
- The accusation against Jerusalem (3:1-7)
- The restoration of the chosen nation (3:8-20)

Judgments

- The practice of paganism (1:4)
- Mixing their worship with that of other deities (1:5)
- Turning away from the faith of their fathers (1:6)
- Those who identify with the heathens (1:8)
- Those who practice violence and deceit (1:9)
- Those who refuse instruction of God (3:6-7)
- Those who abuse their authority (3:3-4)
- Those who think he is indifferent to their sins (1:12)
- Those who put their trust in anything but him (1:18)

Lessons

Silence before the Lord (1:7); Seek the Lord (2:1-3) – there is an acceptable time to seek him and after that there is the Day of the Lord; Wait for the Lord (3:8); Joyfully worship God (3:14-20) – the entire book ends with a call to worship God. We ought to desire it and joyfully engage in it.