

Zephaniah God of both Judging and Rejoicing! Minor Prophets January 7 and 14, 2024

Main point: at the final judgment our God will be both judging and rejoicing!

Summary of the Book of Zephaniah:

Zephaniah, our ninth minor prophet presentation in our ‘God-theater,’ starts off with the prophet announcing God’s severe judgment! As in all 12 minor prophets, ‘judgment unto restoration’ is found here. God’s intention is not merely to destroy everyone, but rather to transform people from each nation into His worshippers. A subset of humanity will do what is prophesied in 3:12, when they “...*shall seek refuge in the name of The LORD...*” God is both powerful in judgment and powerful in redemption, so God rejoices over us with singing! (3:17)

Time stamp of Zephaniah: “*In the days of Josiah!*” (1:1) Note the surrounding years!

good King Hezekiah, 716-687 BC →	<i>country toward God//Zeph. is related (1:1)</i>
evil King Manasseh, 687-642 BC →	country slips away from God
evil King Amon 642-640 BC →	country slips away from God
good King Josiah 640-609 BC →	<i>country toward God//Zeph. prophesied (1:1)</i>
evil King Jehoahaz 608 BC →	country slips away from God
evil King Jehoiakim 608 – 597 BC →	country slips away from God
evil King Jehoiachin 597BC →	country slips away from God
evil King Zedekiah 597-586 BC →	country slips away from God

Outline of Zephaniah:

Introduction (1:1)

God’s judgment against Jerusalem (1:2-2:3)

Judging everyone on the face of the earth. (1:2-3)

The Day of The Lord’s Sacrifice (1:4-9)

Judging Jerusalem (1:10-13)

The Day of The LORD – judging all mankind. (1:14-18)

Call to repent! (2:1-3)

God’s judgment against nations and Jerusalem (2:4 –3:8)

Nations to the West - Philistines (2:4-7)

Nations to the East – Moab and Ammon (2:8-11)

Nations to the South/North – Cush and Assyria (2:12-15)

Judging Jerusalem, again! (3:1-7)

Judging all nations, again! (3:8)

God’s restoration for the nations and for Jerusalem (3:9-20)

Promising a purified remnant people. (3:9-13)

People rejoicing in rescue (3:14-17)

Hoping in restoration (3:18-20)

New Testament images and motifs from Zephaniah:

The impending judgment Day of the LORD. (Rom. 2:16, Phil. 1:6,10, 2 Tim 4:8)

Warrior God coming with His armies to execute judgment! (Rev. 19:11-16)

A Sacrifice prepared by The LORD. (1:7-8) Rev. 19:17-18

A Suffering and Singing Savior. (3:17) Heb. 12:2, Ps. 22:22-24

Future: all nations will be blessed to worship God. (3:9-10) Gal. 3:8-9,14, Phil 2:9-11