

ZEPHANIAH

1. TITLES:

- A. Zephaniah = hidden of Jehovah, Jehovah has concealed, or protected
- B. The Book of The Day of Wrath

2. AUTHOR:

Written by Zephaniah, the prophet of The Day of Wrath, who ministered to the House of Judah.

3. DATE:

- A. Zephaniah's ministry covered a period of about 14 years (638-624 B.C.), during the reign of Josiah, King of Judah.
- B. Written between 638 and 624 B.C.

4. KEY WORDS:

- A. Day – 21
- B. Desolate (ion) – 8
- C. Against – 8
- D. Anger, Wrath – 6
- E. Remnant – 4

Key Phrases:

- A. "I will (he, Lord)" – 30
- B. "day of the Lord" – 7
- C. "cut off" – 5

5. KEY VERSES: 1:18

6. PURPOSE:

- A. To warn the House of Judah of the coming day of wrath: Their desolation at the hand of Babylon.

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B. To warn Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Ethiopia, and Nineveh of the coming day of wrath.

C. To comfort the faithful remnant with promises of restoration.

7. MESSAGE:

A. "Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)

B. God Himself will punish nations for their wickedness.

8. OUTLINE:

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| I. | The Day of Wrath upon <u>Judah</u> | Ch. 1:1-2:3 | (Look Within) |
| II. | The Day of Wrath on the <u>Nations</u> | Ch. 2:4-15 | (Look Around) |
| III. | Reason for Wrath upon <u>Judah</u> | Ch. 3:1-7 | (Look Above) |
| IV. | Faithful <u>Remnant Restored</u> | Ch. 3:8-20 | (Look Beyond) |

9. SUMMARY:

Both Zephaniah the prophet and Josiah the king were great, great grandsons of Hezekiah (1:1). Thus Zephaniah was a prince of the royal house of David. His prophecy reflects the evil times begun under the reigns of Manasseh and Amon. He therefore sees the coming day of the Lord as being a day of wrath, anger, trouble, distress, desolation, darkness, and gloominess. This had a historical and local fulfillment in the desolations under Babylon, during which God preserved unto Himself a faithful remnant. His prophecy also points prophetically and ultimately to the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the preservation of the Church.

10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as a Jealous God (1:18; 3:8; 2 Corinthians 11:2) in relation to His people, and the Executor of God's judgments (Jn. 5:27) in the day of wrath (Romans 2:5, 6).