

Zephaniah

(name means “Yahweh has hidden or protected.”)

Summary

Zephaniah was a prophet of royal lineage. He prophesied in the days of King Josiah. The theme of Zephaniah is the day of the Lord - a time of darkness, gloom, and pain as God responds to humankind's sin. It is a time of restoration after judgement. Today we experience glimpses of the day of the Lord as he judges us for our sins, with the hope of restoration. Place yourself in a posture of repentance.

Author and Date:

Zephaniah. 640 - 612 BC.

Audience/ Setting:

Southern Kingdom of Judah. The events of Zephaniah happened while Josiah was king. Josiah began his reign at 8. King Josiah of Judah was attempting to reverse the evil trends made by 2 previous kings (Manasseh and Amon). Josiah was able to extend his influence because there was no strong superpower dominating the world at that time. Assyria was declining rapidly. The prophecy of Zephaniah may have been a motivating factor on Josiah's reform. Zephaniah was a contemporary of Jeremiah.

Purpose:

Warn the people of Judah of the judgement that was coming. Because of their sin, Judah would face consequences.

Key People:

Zephaniah, King Josiah, and the southern kingdom of Judah.

Key Places:

Jerusalem

References

NLY Life Application Study Bible
Tony Evans Study Bible