

# Old Testament Survey

## Zephaniah

### ***The Meaning of Zephaniah***

Zephaniah's name means "Jehovah has hidden (him)." Zephaniah's theme is God's sovereignty in the world in spite of contrary evidence. God will display this control in the terrible judgment he will bring on Judah because of its idolatry.

### ***General Outline of Zephaniah***

- I. The Day of the Lord Prefigured - Zephaniah 1:1-3:7
  - A. In judgment upon Judah and Jerusalem - Zephaniah 1:1-2:3
  - B. In judgment upon the surrounding nations - Zephaniah 2:4-15
  - C. Woe upon Jerusalem because of her sin - Zephaniah 3:1-7
- II. Establishment of the Future Kingdom - Zephaniah 3:8-20
  - A. Judgment of the Nations - Zephaniah 3:8-13
  - B. The rejoicing remnant and the Messianic King - Zephaniah 3:14-20

### ***Authorship and Time of Composition***

1. Zephaniah is the son of Cushi, and the great-grandson of Hezekiah who could have been the king Hezekiah.

*However, further analysis and chronological complications make this impossible.*
2. Zephaniah apparently lived in Jerusalem since he describes it in detail.
3. Zephaniah delivered his message during the reign of Josiah, most likely very early on in his reign prior to the revival of 621 B.C.
4. Critics have denied in some cases the authenticity of Zephaniah 2:4-15 and 3:18-20 because these verses appear to contain ideas which developed much later.

*Again, we see the ugly head of the evolutionary approach to the development of the Israelite religion rear itself again.*

### ***Message of Zephaniah***

1. Zephaniah appears to refer to the sudden appearance of the Scythians around 630 B.C. who threatened the Middle East. He uses this to warn Israel of the coming Day of the Lord when judgment will be swift and certain.
2. Along with this message, Zephaniah urges his listeners to repent. This appeal was primarily addressed to Judah since Israel's judgment appeared certain.
3. Zephaniah appears to contain Millennial overtones, especially in the promise of blessing as found in Zephaniah 3:13.