

# An Old Testament Glance

## The Minor Prophets Books – Zephaniah

Name Meaning	Dates of Service	Home Town	# of Chap	Kings Reigning	Audience Targeted	Theme or Subject
"God Protects"	640-608 BC	Judah	3	Josiah (S)	Jews in South	Day of the Lord
<b>Prophets Ministering at the same time:</b>			<b>Probably None</b>			
<b>Scripture References:</b>			<b>Isaiah 10; Zephaniah 1-3</b>			

*It appears that the Prophet Zephaniah was ministering to Judah (Southern Kingdom) at the same time Habakkuk was preaching & writing. They undoubtedly knew each other. Both men knew that judgment (punishment in the form of exile) was coming to Judah. Little did they know that they only had 75 years to go.*

<b>The 54-Year Judah Overview</b>			
Prophets	Date	King	Years Left
Zephaniah	640-609 BC	King Josiah	54
Jeremiah	609-609 BC	King Jehoahaz	23
Habakkuk	609-598 BC	King Jehoikim	23
Obadiah	598-597 BC	King Jehoichin	12
	597-586 BC	Zedekiah	11

*It's very possible that 5 prophets were preaching to Judah's people & leadership at the same time.*

1. Who was king when Zephaniah was preaching (ministering)? (Hab. 1:1)
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### A BRIEF OUTLINE OF ZEPHANIAH

- A. Warning (To all world, to Judah, to Jerusalem) (Habakkuk 1:2-18; 2:4 – 3:7)
- B. Repentance (By Judah) (Habakkuk 2:1-4)
- C. Blessing (To Judah, to all the world) (Habakkuk 3:8-20)

2. Check out the words Zephaniah used to describe God's punishment.
  - a. (Zeph. 1:2,3) \_\_\_\_\_ (Same word)
  - b. (Zeph. 1:3,4) \_\_\_\_\_ (Same word)
  - c. (Zeph. 1:4) \_\_\_\_\_

*Pretty harsh words to cut someone off, utterly consume them or be against them.*

*God's judgment is for all who turned away from God (duh!! – all mankind?)*

*It gets specific too: (1:1-3) – Punishment to all in the world  
 (1:4-6) – Punishment to Judah (Southern Kingdom)  
 (1:7-18) – Punishment to the city of Jerusalem*

*Zephaniah warned to repent: (2:1-3) Jerusalem  
 Judah  
 All the world*

3. Why did the Jews in Judah & Jerusalem need to repent? What exactly were they doing? (Write words as found in the verses)
- (1:4) \_\_\_\_\_ (A foreign god)
  - (1:4) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evil religious leaders)
  - (1:5) \_\_\_\_\_ (Foreign god who receives infant sacrifices)
  - (1:6) \_\_\_\_\_
4. How were the Jews to repent? (Write words as found in the verses)
- (2:1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2:3a) \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2:3b) \_\_\_\_\_

**"Seek" = Searching desperately for & then following sincerely**

*Other prophets had the same message (What a surprise!) God's Word does not change; it is the same yesterday, today & whatever prophet is talking.*

- What did Isaiah say? (Isaiah 55:6) \_\_\_\_\_
- What did Jeremiah say? (Jer. 50:4) \_\_\_\_\_
- What did Amos say? (Amos 5:6) \_\_\_\_\_
- What does God do for those who come back from punishment, disappointment, and after losing everything?
  - "I will restore \_\_\_\_\_." (Zeph 3:9)
  - "I will take away \_\_\_\_\_." (3:11)
  - "I will leave \_\_\_\_\_." (3:12)
  - "I will gather \_\_\_\_\_." (3:18)
  - "I will save \_\_\_\_\_." (3:19)
  - "I will give \_\_\_\_\_." (3:20)

**Sweet!!!**

A final thought that shows the incredible protection that God promised to the Jews after they returned from exile. The list of nations that attacked & hated Israel for centuries. These same nations who surrounded Israel for thousands of years were destroyed in that day.

9. God's protection surrounds you. React.

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