


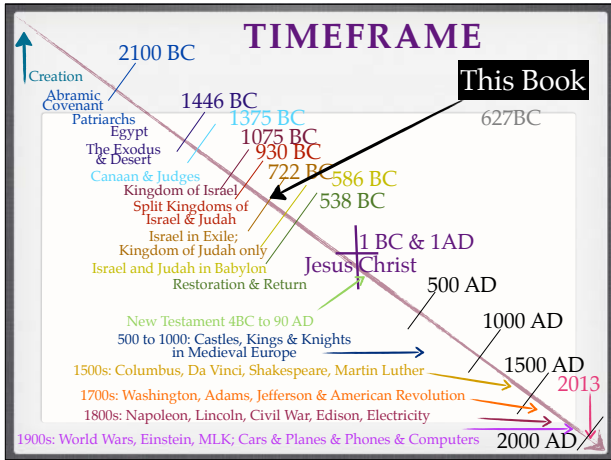
ZEPHANIAH

Book of the Day of the Lord



Waldo Canyon Fire; Colorado Springs; June 26, 2012

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TYPE OF BOOK

- Moses' Torah / Pentateuch
- History
- Poetry & Wisdom
- Major (Long-book) Prophets
- Minor (Short-book) Prophets ✓

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AUTHOR

- 1:1
- Zephaniah

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READERS & RECIPIENTS

- Judah
- “Zephaniah announces God’s wrath against the nations as a warning for Judah, whom he calls to repent.”
- LSB 1511

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Major OT Themes found in this Book:

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1. God is Love
2. God Creates
3. Israel (we) are supposed to be God’s Obedient Servants
4. Israel (we) are Sinful
5. God is Angry with His People for Rejecting Him
6. God Forgives and Blesses those who Follow Him
7. Israel (we) are God’s Chosen Examples
8. God Speaks through His Prophets
9. God is Always with His People
10. God is Just and Merciful
11. God Keeps His Promises
12. Israel (we) are Redeemed and Restored by the Blood of Christ
13. Israel (we) are JoGoPd
14. Israel (we) will Inherit the Kingdom of God

STORYLINE

- 1:1 through 3:8--The Judgment in the Day of the Lord
- 3:9 through 3:20--The Salvation in the Day of the Lord
- Judgment is bad; salvation is good

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THEOLOGICAL CONTRIBUTION

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- "The judgment of the Lord portrayed by the prophet Zephaniah springs from His nature as a God of holiness. Because God demands holiness and righteousness in His people, He will judge those who continue to sin and rebel (1:17). But the Lord also is merciful and faithful to His promise."
- CSB 188

SECULAR CONTRIBUTION

11

- ?

KEY VERSE

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- 3: 14-15--Zephaniah's vision of heaven:
- 14: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ESV

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REQUIRED READING

- 3
- Judgment, Conversion, eventually Joy, eventually Restoration

14

WHEN TO TURN HERE

- What is Law and Gospel?
- Why does God have to follow through with His promises that bad things have to happen to those who don't follow Him?

15



LUTHER SAYS:

- Zephaniah lived at the time of Jeremiah, and writes about the same things, including the coming destruction of Jerusalem and Judah.
- "He says simply that God will bring misfortune and affliction upon the people so that they may be moved to repentance." LSB 1511

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MR. MARTIN SAYS:

- “The Day of the Lord” means what?
- The End of the World--
- Judgment to the unrepentant,
- Salvation to His people.
- The Day we see heaven or hell.

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LIFE LESSONS FROM ZEPHANIAH

- The Day of the Lord approaches (TIBSBS 223). What does God expect you to be doing with your life while you wait? Are you supposed to be sitting around waiting for Jesus?

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ACTIVITIES

The Short-book Prophets:

The last twelve books of the Old Testament are often referred to as the "Minor Prophets". However, "minor" is a bit misleading, since "minor" refers to the fact that the books are short, and not that the books are, as is the case frequently thought, "lesser". These books as a whole mainly discuss two themes, which will become clear as you read them. They clearly exemplify God's plan for humankind, as laid out in Genesis 12:1-3. He sees God dealing very clearly with his people--there are clear consequences for their actions. After several of these books predict the coming Messiah through the building of the Temple in Jerusalem. This will be the same Temple that Jesus visits in John 2:14, and the certain of which is born at Jesus' death in Matthew 27:51. These bold prophets speak directly with God and often have to tell the people of His terrible judgments against them. Sometimes, they have the honor of talking of God's blessings.

The following are some key verses for each of the twelve short-booked prophets. Read the verses and try to determine the major theme of the book. Feel free to read more verses from the book if you need more help. Please use at least two complete sentences for each. Since there is not enough space below, please answer these using your own lined paper.

- Hosea: 4:1-14:4
- Josiah: 2:1-2:32
- Amos: 1:2-9:10
- Obadiah: 1:1-14
- Jonah: 1:1-4:11
- Micah: 1:1-7:12
- Nahum: 1:1-3:19
- Habakkuk: 1:1-3:19
- Zephaniah: 1:1-3:16
- Haggai: 1:1-2:23
- Zechariah: 1:1-14:21
- Malachi: 1:1-4:5
