

Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps
Sermon # 36– “Zephaniah”
June 29, 2008

Zephaniah: The Man

Zephaniah is identified as the great-great-grandson of Hezekiah (1:1). It is believed that this was the Hezekiah that was king. If so, then Zephaniah is the only prophet of royal blood. Zephaniah was a contemporary of Habakkuk and Jeremiah, ministering in Judah during the reign of King Josiah (639-609 BC). (If Zephaniah was indeed of the royal line, then he and Josiah would have been distant cousins.) Zephaniah’s name means “hidden by Jehovah.”

Zephaniah: The Message

The prophecy of Zephaniah warns of the impending doom facing Judah (and neighboring Gentile nations) because of their sins. A key phrase that appears more than once in the book is “the Day of the Lord.” The nearness of that day is repeatedly emphasized. The book of Zephaniah also issues a clarion call to repentance for God’s people, while holding out the ultimate hope of a future restoration.

The Book of Zephaniah: An Outline

1. The Warning of Judgment. 1:2-2:3

- Judgment against the earth (1:2-3)
- Judgment against Judah (1:4-13)
 - The idolaters (1:4-7)
 - The princes (1:8)
 - The oppressors (1:9)
 - The merchants (1:10-11)
 - The complacent (1:12-13)
- The Great Day of the Lord (1:14-2:3)
 - A day of wrath (1:14-18)
 - A day for repentance (2:1-3)

2. The Judgment against the Nations. 2:4-15

- Judgment against Philistia (2:4-7)
- Judgment against Moab and Ammon (2:8-11)
- Judgment against Cush (2:12)
- Judgment against Assyria (2:13-15)

3. The Future of Jerusalem. 3:1-20

- The destruction of the rebellious (3:1-8)
 - Jerusalem's sin (3:1-4)
 - Jerusalem's stubbornness (3:5-7)
 - Jerusalem's hope (3:8)
- The deliverance of the righteous (3:9-13)
- The jubilation of the city (3:14-20)