

# "FAITH UNDER PEER PRESSURE"

## Survey of Zephaniah

### I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. Reviewing our faith lessons from the minor prophets:
- B. Meet Zephaniah and his contemporaries:
  - 1. His name – "The Lord Protects":
  - 2. His noble birth and contemporaries: (*Nahum, Habakkuk, Jeremiah*)
  - 3. His faith message countering throne room advisers:
- C. The book with two halves: (*See back*)
  - 1. The theme – "The Dark Side of Love":
  - 2. The two central ideas:
    - a. The day of the Lord:
    - b. Jealousy:
  - 3. Key verse: (*3:17 like John 3:16*)
  - 4. Understanding the background:
    - a. #1 - Manasseh: (*II Chron. 33:1-20*)
    - b. #2 - Amon: (*II Chron. 33:21-25*)
    - c. #3 - Josiah: (*II Chron. 34*)

### II. OUTLINING THE BOOK OF THE PRESSURED PROPHET:

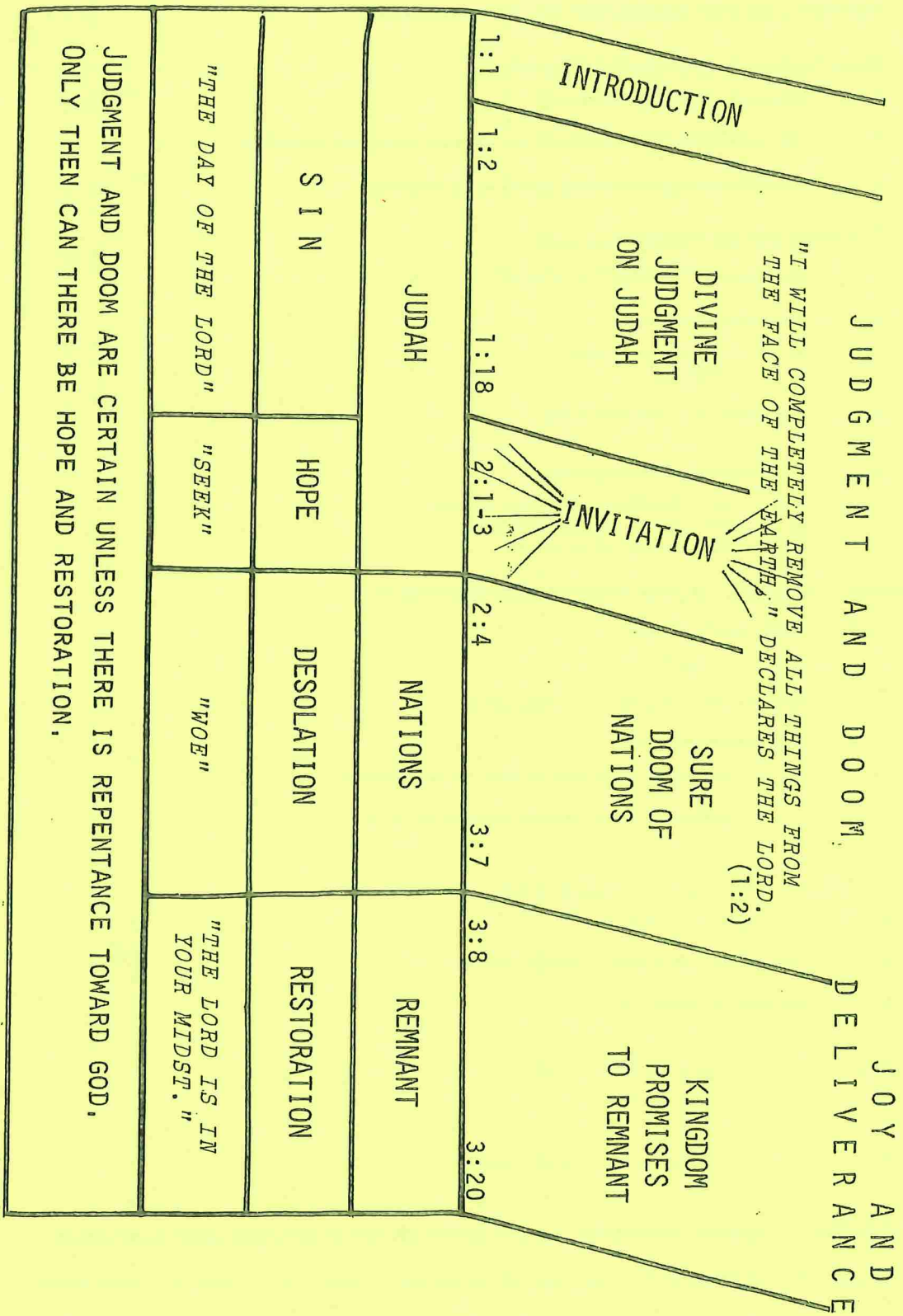
- A. Judgment of Judah: *Chapter 1*
  - 1. A stagnant people:
  - 2. Gibbon's reasoning for a declining nation:
  - 3. How idolatry spreads:
    - a. Allowed in the church in order not to offend: v. 4
    - b. Embraced in the home as a way of life: v. 5
- B. Judgment of every nation on earth: *2:1-3:8*
  - 1. The invitation: vv. 1-3
  - 2. The doom of surrounding nations: *2:4-15*
  - 3. The doom of Judah: *3:1-7*
- C. The conclusion of all judgment: *3:9-20*
  - 1. A universal commitment:
  - 2. Promotion and safety for a humble people:

### III. APPLICATIONS: (*Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice*)

- A. This prophet reminds us that our closest friends either make us or break us. (*I Cor. 15:33*)
- B. This prophet reminds us that those who are content living in sin, are definitely not saved. (*Ja. 2:17, 20; Heb. 12:6-14; Pro. 13:15; Lk. 15:11*)
- C. This prophet reminds us that whether God is judging the lost or the saved, "God is love".

# SURVEY OF ZEPHANIAH

DATE: ABOUT 630-600 B.C.  
 THEME: JUDGMENT BEFORE JOY  
 CONTEMPORARIES: NAHUM, HABAKKUK, JEREMIAH



RELEVANCE: JUDGMENT AND DOOM ARE CERTAIN UNLESS THERE IS REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD. ONLY THEN CAN THERE BE HOPE AND RESTORATION.