

Zephaniah 1

Jesus

- **Author:** Zephaniah

1. **Meaning:** *The LORD hides.* Divine protection.
2. **Born** during 55 yr. reign of wicked King Manasseh
3. **Date Written:** Days of good King Josiah. Before the revival Approx. 640BC

I. The Great Day of the LORD

1 The **word of the LORD** which came to **Zephaniah** the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the **son of Hezekiah**, in the days of **Josiah** the son of Amon, king of Judah.

Zephaniah of Royal descent: Great grandson of good King Hezekiah of Judah
Hezekiah/Manasseh/Amon/Josiah

- **Hezekiah:** Listened to Micah. Reformed Judah his 1st yr. in 715
- **Manasseh:** Most wicked King of Judah
- **Amon...**

2 Kings 21:20 Amon did evil in the sight of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done. 21 So he walked in all the ways that his father had walked; and he served the idols that his father had served, and worshiped them. 22 He forsook the Lord God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the Lord. 23 Then the servants of Amon conspired against him, and killed the king in his own house. 24 But the people of the land executed all those who had conspired against King Amon. Then the people of the land **made his son Josiah king in his place.**

2 Kings 22:1 Josiah was **eight years old** when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem...2 And he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

- **Josiah:** Inaugurated King 640 BC. Began reform at age 20.

Chronology of Zephaniah

Days of King Josiah but before his reform of Judah, thus...

2 "I will **utterly consume everything** From the face of the land," Says the LORD; 3 "I will consume **man and beast**; I will consume the **birds** of the heavens, The **fish** of the sea, And the stumbling blocks along with the wicked. I will **cut off man from the face of the land**," Says the LORD. 4 "I will stretch out My hand **against Judah**, And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. I will cut off **every trace of Baal** from this place, The names of the idolatrous priests with the pagan priests— 5 Those who **worship the host of heaven on the housetops**; Those who worship and **swear oaths by the LORD, But who also swear by Milcom**; 6 Those who have turned back from following the LORD, And have not sought the LORD, nor inquired of Him."

I will utterly consume everything
I will stretch out My hand against Judah

▪ **I will cut off every trace**

1. Baal worshippers
2. Names of Idolatrous Priests
3. Names of Pagan Priests [difference?]
4. Astrologers
5. Backsliders
6. Godless
7. Compromisers...Those who swear by the LORD and by Milcom

The LORD used Josiah to clean house!

2 Kings 23:5 Then [Josiah] removed the **idolatrous priests** whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense on the high places in the cities of Judah and in the places all around Jerusalem, and those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun, to the moon, to the constellations, and to all the host of heaven ...**12** [Destroyed] The altars that were on the roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, the king **broke down and pulverized there, and threw their dust into the Brook Kidron.**

All Compromise Josiah Pulverized
The LORD addresses any blowback from Josiah's...

7 Be silent in the presence of the LORD God; For the day of the LORD is at hand, For the LORD has **prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.**
8 "And it shall be, In **the day of the LORD's sacrifice**, That I will punish the princes and the king's children, And all such as are clothed with foreign apparel.

Near: Judgment of Judah by Babylon.
Distant: Judgment of the Earth...Great Supper of God

Revelation 19:9 ...Blessed are those who are called to the **marriage supper of the Lamb!**

The LORD DRAWS His enemies to Armageddon

Revelation 16:12 Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. **13** And I saw **three unclean spirits like frogs** coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. **14** For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which **go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.**

Revelation 19:17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to **all the birds** that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and **gather together for the supper of the great God**, **18** that you may **eat the flesh of kings**, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great."**19** And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and

against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. **And all the birds were filled with their flesh.**

Distant: The Lord has prepared a sacrifice and has invited His guests
Near: Babylon is coming to Judah because of their sin...

9 In the same day I will punish All those who **leap over the threshold**, Who fill their masters' houses with **violence and deceit**. 10 "And there shall be on that day," says the LORD, "The sound of a **mournful cry** from the Fish Gate, A **wailing** from the Second Quarter, And a loud crashing from the hills. 11 **Wail**, you inhabitants of Maktesh! For all the merchant people are cut down; All those who handle money are cut off.

Judgment on Pagan Superstition

- Philistines capture Ark of God
- Set it next to pagan deity Dagon...

1 Samuel 5:4 And when they arose early the next morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its face to the ground before the ark of the Lord. The head of Dagon and both the palms of its hands were broken off on the threshold; only Dagon's *torso* was left of it. ⁵ Therefore neither the priests of Dagon nor any who come into Dagon's house **tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day.**

Judgment on godless action: Superstition/Violence/Deceit
Judgment on godless inaction... Spiritual Laziness among God's people...

12 "And it shall come to pass at that time That **I will search Jerusalem** with lamps, And **punish the men Who are settled in complacency**, Who say in their heart, 'The LORD will not do good, Nor will He do evil.'

Sinfully Complacent/Lethargic Apathy toward God
Self-deceived: God will also be complacent toward our sin

IOWs The LORD wont judge...

2 Peter 3:3 ...know this first: that **scoffers will come** in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For **this they willfully forget**: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are **reserved for fire** until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Settled in Dregs: Spiritually complacent, stagnant, and indifferent, like wine left too long on its sediment [lees] that becomes bitter and tainted. It signifies a state of materialistic comfort, spiritual apathy, and a refusal to grow or be challenged

The LORD will search Jerusalem with Lamps
Judging the Superstitious/Violent/Deceitful and the Spiritually Complacent

13 Therefore their goods shall become booty, And their houses a desolation;
They shall build houses, but not inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards,
but not drink their wine."

James 5:1 Come now, you rich, **weep and howl** for your **miseries that are coming upon you!**

14 The **great day of the LORD** is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The **noise of the day of the LORD is bitter**; There the **mighty men shall cry out**. 15 That day is a **day of wrath**, A **day of trouble** and **distress**, A day of **devastation** and **desolation**, A day of **darkness** and **gloominess**, A day of **clouds and thick darkness**, 16 A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers.

The Great Day of the LORD is near and getting nearer
Excruciatingly Loud w/the bitterness screams of mighty men wailing

▪ **Great Day of the LORD:** When God removes His blessings/Actively judges

1. Day of God's Wrath
2. Day of Trouble
3. Day of Distress
4. Day of Devastation
5. Day of Desolation
6. Day of Darkness
7. Day of Gloominess

The Great Day of the LORD is near and getting nearer
Day of alarm for all on the wrong side of the LORD

17 "I will bring **distress upon men**, And they shall **walk like blind men**,
Because they have sinned against the LORD; Their **blood shall be poured out like dust, And their flesh like refuse.**" 18 Neither their silver nor their gold Shall be able to deliver them In the day of the LORD's wrath; But the whole land shall be devoured By the **fire of His jealousy**, For He will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land.

The LORD's jealousy for His people
Leads to the LORD's judgment on His enemies

Proverbs 6:34 For **jealousy** is a husband's fury Therefore he will not spare in **the day of vengeance.**

Proverbs 27:4 Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, But **who is able to stand before jealousy?**

Distress/Confusion/Death

Deuteronomy 28:29 [Curse for disobedience] And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and **no one shall save you.**

Zeph. 1 The Great Day of the LORD
He will make speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land

There is a Point of No Return. Today is the Day of Salvation...

Zephaniah 2

Jesus

I. Call to Repentance Judah/World

1 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O **undesirable nation**, **2 Before the decree is issued**, Or the **day passes like chaff**, **Before the LORD's fierce anger** comes upon you, **Before the day of the LORD's anger** comes upon you!

- **Timeframe:**

1. **Near:** Before Josiah's Reform of Judah
2. **Distant:** Great Tribulation

Near: Before God's decree of Judgment on Judah, Get yourselves together...**now**

Distant: During the Great Trib to the indecisive; Make a decision...**now**

3 Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. **Seek righteousness, seek humility.** It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the LORD's anger.

Q. What does the real decision to seek the LORD look like

A. To Walk in Righteousness and Humility

Joel 1:14 Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly; Gather the elders And all the inhabitants of the land Into the house of the LORD your God, **And cry out to the LORD.**

Psalms 105:4 **Seek the LORD** and His strength; Seek His face evermore!

- **Zephaniah:** The LORD hides. Be hidden in Christ. Hidden in Righteousness/Humility
- God will judge His enemies...

II. Judgment on Nations Israel's Enemies Judged

4 For Gaza shall be forsaken, And **Ashkelon** desolate; They shall drive out Ashdod at noonday, And **Echron** shall be uprooted. **5 Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast**, The nation of the Cherethites! The word of the LORD is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines: **"I will destroy you; So there shall be no inhabitant."** **6 The seacoast shall be pastures**,

With **shelters** for shepherds and folds for flocks. 7 The **coast shall be for the remnant** of the house of Judah; They shall feed their flocks there; In the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening.

Judgment on Nations
Beginning w/Philistia

- **640-649BC** Zephaniah Prophecies

1. **Near Prophecy:** Pharaoh Neco will come against Gaza in 609BC
2. **Distant Prophecy:** Great Day of the LORD...

Amos 1:7 ...I will send a fire upon the wall of Gaza, Which shall devour its palaces. 8 I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, And the one who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn My hand against Ekron, And the remnant of the Philistines shall perish," Says the LORD God.

General Sharon gave Gaza to the *Palestinians* Sep. '05. 8000 settlers/21 settlements removed
Philistia will be restored back to Israel during the Day of the LORD

7... For the LORD their God will intervene for them And return their captives.

Day of the LORD judgment on Philistia
Palestinians Removed/Israel back

Day of the LORD judgment on Ammon/Moab
Present day Jordan

8 "I have heard the reproach of **Moab**, And the insults of the people of **Ammon**, With which they have reproached My people, And made **arrogant threats against their borders**. 9 Therefore, as I live," Says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Surely **Moab shall be like Sodom**, And the people of **Ammon like Gomorrah**— Overrun with weeds and saltpits, And a perpetual desolation. The residue of My people shall plunder them, And the remnant of My people shall possess them." 10 This they shall have **for their pride**, Because they have reproached and made arrogant threats Against the people of the LORD of hosts.



- Moab/Ammon:

1. Descendants of a Lot through incest w/daughters
2. Perpetual Enemies since Judges

Judged for arrogant threats against the people/borders of Israel
Jordan took the West bank of Israel in 1948 formally annexed April 24th, 1950

Joel 3:2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; **They have also divided up My land.**

Zechariah 12:3 And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; **all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces**, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it.

Israel took back control of the West Bank from Jordan
June 7th, 1967, During the sixth day war

11 The LORD will be awesome to them, For He will reduce to nothing all the gods of the earth; People shall worship Him, Each one from his place, Indeed all the shores of the nations.

The LORD will be Awesome to the All Peoples of Earth
Awesome to His people and awesome to His enemies in different ways
Every knee will bow on the Great Day of the LORD

Malachi 1:11 For from the rising of the sun, even to its going down, My name shall be great among the Gentiles; In every place incense shall be offered to My name, And a pure offering; For My name shall be great among the nations," Says the LORD of hosts.

Judgment against the Ethiopians and Assyria

12 "You Ethiopians also, You shall be slain by My sword." **13** And He will stretch out His hand against the north, Destroy **Assyria**, And make Nineveh a desolation, As dry as the wilderness. **14** The herds shall lie down in her midst, Every beast of the nation. Both the pelican and the bittern Shall lodge on the capitals of her pillars; Their voice shall sing in the windows; Desolation shall be at the threshold; For He will lay bare the cedar work. **15** This is the **rejoicing city That dwelt securely, That said in her heart, "I am it, and there is none besides me."** How has she become a desolation, A place for beasts to lie down! Everyone who passes by her Shall hiss and shake his fist.

Near: Assyria destroyed 612 BC by Medo/Babylonian forces 30 yrs after prophesied
Once secure/proud now drive-through animal sanctuary

Distant: The Great Day of the LORD
When AC/army arrogantly invade Israel

Micah 5:6 Thus He [Messiah] shall deliver us from the Assyrian, **When he comes into our land** And when **he treads within our borders.**

Zeph. 2 Judgment on the Nations:
The LORD will be Awesome

Zephaniah 3

Jesus

I. Wickedness/Refinement/Restoration of Jerusalem

1 Woe to her who is **rebellious and polluted**, To the **oppressing city**! 2 She has **not obeyed His voice**, She has **not received correction**; She has **not trusted in the LORD**, She has **not drawn near to her God**. 3 Her **princes** in her midst are **roaring lions**; Her **judges** are **evening wolves** That leave not a bone till morning. 4 Her **prophets** are **insolent**, treacherous people; Her **priests** have **polluted the sanctuary**, They have done violence to the law.

After prophesying the future destruction of their enemies
The LORD now deals with His own people...

- Rebellious/Polluted/Oppressing
- Disobedient/Unteachable/Unfaithful
- Arrogant Political leaders/Cruel judges
- Insolent Prophets: lit. light. To be wanton, reckless, frothy
- Filthy priests treating the law wrongly

All of this in the City of God/Temple of God

5 The **LORD is righteous in her midst**, He will do no unrighteousness. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He never fails, But **the unjust knows no shame**.

The LORD reveals what was right
Yet the unjust know no shame...

Jeremiah 6:15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! **They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush**. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, **They shall be cast down,**" says the Lord.

- 12/11/25 E.g. Accused killer of Charlie Kirk smirking in Court

Judah knew no shame during the Reign of Amon

- **Hezekiah**: Good
- **Manasseh**: Worst: 12 when he became king/ruled for 55 years
- **Amon**: Bad. Also did evil in the sight of the Lord
- **Josiah**: Current King of Judah, yet reform not yet begun

Zephaniah looks ahead to after the near prophesies are fulfilled...

6 **"I have cut off nations**, Their fortresses are devastated; I have made their streets desolate, With none passing by. Their cities are destroyed; There is no one, no inhabitant. 7 I said, 'Surely you will fear Me, You will receive

instruction'— So that her dwelling would not be cut off, Despite everything for which I punished her. But **they rose early and corrupted all their deeds.**

IOWs To Israel: Even after I cut off all your enemies during next 500 years...
You will not repent. Then you will be owned by Rome

John 8:31b ...“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” 33 They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have **never been in bondage to anyone.** How can You say, ‘You will be made free?’” Assyria/Babylon/Now Rome?

You don’t learn! You will have to go through Great Tribulation
Fiery Furnace of Refinement...

II. Faithful Remnant

8 “Therefore **wait for Me,**” says the LORD...

Wait for Me through the Tribulation
You will be refined/Your enemies devoured

8b ...wait for Me,”... says the LORD, “Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to **gather the nations To My assembly of kingdoms,** To pour on them **My indignation, All My fierce anger; All the earth shall be devoured With the fire of My jealousy.**

Armageddon: Nations gathered for the Supper of God
Separation of Sheep and Goats

Matthew 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and **He will separate them one from another,** as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. **46 ...And these [goats] will go away into everlasting punishment,** but the righteous into **eternal life.**”

12/8/25 Kirk Cameron questions eternity of hell as annihilationism “*As so and so posits...*”

- **Everlasting/Eternal:** *aiōnios* without end, never to cease, everlasting, perpetual

9 “For then **I will restore to the peoples a pure language,** That they all may **call on the name of the LORD,** To serve Him with one accord.

Then: IOWs After I remove the wicked from the earth...
There will again be one pure language on earth calling on the Name of the LORD

Isaiah 19:18 In that day five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the **language of Canaan** and swear by the LORD of hosts; one will be called the City of Destruction.

10 From beyond the rivers of **Ethiopia My worshipers,** The daughter of My dispersed ones, Shall bring My offering.

Former enemies of God/God’s people

Now worshipping the True God together!

Psalm 68:31 Envoys will come out of Egypt; **Ethiopia will quickly stretch out her hands to God.**

11 In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds In which you transgress against Me; For then I will take away from your midst Those who rejoice in your pride, And you shall no longer be haughty In My holy mountain.

You will be refined in the Great Tribulation

Zechariah 13:8 And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That **two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die**, But one-third shall be left in it: 9 **I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined**, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, '**The LORD is my God.**' "

Israel refined in the fiery furnace : Daniel/3 Boys...Church gone/Israel stays
You will be humbled in the Great Tribulation

Isaiah 2:12 For the day of the LORD of hosts Shall come upon everything proud and lofty, Upon everything lifted up—And **it shall be brought low...**

Isaiah 5:15 People shall be brought down, Each man shall be humbled, And the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled. 16 But **the Lord of hosts shall be exalted** in judgment, And God who is holy shall be hallowed in righteousness. 17 **Then the lambs shall feed** in their pasture...

The Proud Taken

Jerusalem becomes a City of Righteousness ruled by the Prince of Peace

12 I will leave in your midst **A meek and humble people**, And they shall **trust in the name of the LORD**. 13 The remnant of Israel shall **do no unrighteousness** And **speak no lies**, Nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; For they shall feed their flocks and lie down, And no one shall make them afraid."

Zechariah 8:3 "Thus says the LORD: 'I will return to Zion, And **dwell in the midst of Jerusalem**. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, The Holy Mountain.' ... **16** These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor. Give judgment in your gates for **truth, justice, and peace...**

III. The LORD in our Midst

14 Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! **Be glad and rejoice** with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has **taken away your judgments**, He has cast out your enemy. The **King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst**; You shall see disaster no more. 16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak.

The King of Israel...The LORD is in your midst
The King of Israel is God Himself

17 The LORD your God **in your midst**, The Mighty One, will save; He will **rejoice over you with gladness**, He will **quiet you with His love**, He will **rejoice over you with singing.**"

The LORD God is in your midst quieting all your anxieties w/His love
Singing/Rejoicing over you w/gladness as His bride

Isaiah 62:5b ...as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride So shall your **God rejoice over you.**

Isaiah 65:19 **I will rejoice in Jerusalem**, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying.

18 **"I will gather those who sorrow** over the appointed assembly, Who are among you, To whom its reproach is a burden. 19 Behold, at that time I will **deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame**, And **gather those who were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame** In every land where they were put to shame.

God will vindicate His people in the eyes of the Nations who despised them

20 At that time I will bring you back, Even at the time I gather you; For I will **give you fame and praise Among all the peoples of the earth**, When I return your captives before your eyes," Says the LORD.

2X I will give Israel Fame/Praise among all peoples of the earth
Finally inheriting to totality of the land promised to Abraham

Ezekiel 28:25 'Thus says the LORD God: "When I have gathered the house of Israel from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and am **hallowed in them in the sight of the Gentiles**, then they will **dwell in their own land** which I gave to My servant Jacob.

Zeph. 1 The Great Day of the LORD: Speedy riddance Of all those who dwell in the land

Zeph. 2 Judgment on the Nations: The LORD will be Awesome

Zeph. 3 Wickedness/Refinement/Restoration of Jerusalem: From Tribulation to Exaltation