



# *Minor Prophets Book of Zephania*

*Ch 1 and 2 A – The Day of the Lord & the Jews*



**Mar 23, 2025**  
**Module 5, Room 1**

# Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *Feb 23, 2025. - Gen Ch 9*
- ✓ *Mar 2, 2025 - Gen Ch 10*
  - ✓ *Mar 4, 2025. - Manor Lake- Daniel Ch 9*
- ✓ *Mar 9, 2025 - Gen Ch 11*
- ✓ *Mar 16, 2025 - Gen Ch 12 – Last Chapter in Gen Study*
- ✓ *Mar 23, 2025 - Zephaniah Intro and Ch 1-2A*
- *Mar 30, 2025 - Zephaniah Ch 2B – Ch 3*
- *April 6, 2025 - Wade Williams to teach*
- *April 13, 2025. - Palm Sunday*
- *April 20, 2025 - Resurrection Sunday*

# Quick Update .../CYMI

## ***Middle East***

- *Syrian forces are murdering Alawites, Christians, and Orthodox priests in revenge for former Syrian atrocities. Thousands were murdered and little world response.*
- *A resurgence of some terror activities in Gaza and Lebanon, as well as Judea and Samaria – Israel responding*
- *Israel and the US give Hamas a warning...Release hostages or Annexation will begin*
- *Houthis are being attacked by the US*
- *Iran given a timeline by the US for talks to end nuclear ambitions,...or action will be taken.*
- *No new deal with Hamas for the remaining hostages ...or for Phase 2 of withdrawal. Standoff at present. Negotiators trying to bring discussions back online*

## ***US/World***

- *The Russia/ Ukraine war has slowed down with a contingent temporary cease-fire. While this is good, any failure will intensify the war. It is a delicate situation, for sure.*
- *Continuation of DOGE and releasing documents on Epstein, JFK assassination, RFK assassination, and MLK assassination*
- *Fraud, waste, and abuse in Government are shocking, and the detail and neck-deep involvement is almost unbelievable.*
- *Europe is preparing for battles ahead, and preparing people and armies*
- *Tariff war continues with China, Mexico, and Canada*

# Zephaniah –Our next study and why

*I have chosen to fit a small book in this time slot that is 3 chapters long, so we will do about a chapter and a half each week to finish in the two weeks.*

- Like so many of the OT books, they are a wealth of knowledge about God and His actions, but they are seldom studied or even preached in today's church. I had to look hard to find sermons that I could listen to on this book, but thankfully I have complete Commentaries for both the OT and NT which were helpful.*
- This particular book is one of the “Minor” prophets. I dare say not many of us have ever heard a sermon or had a lesson on the **book of Zephaniah**, but that is about to end today. I have a quest to finish the Minor Prophets and record the classes, and this book reduces the number of books left to a smaller amount.*
  - ✓ If I asked you to give me a Thumbnail review of this book, most or all would have no idea what it is about, or the lessons it offers to Israel and us.*

# Zephaniah – Basics of the Book

***Author:*** Zephaniah the prophet

- Zephaniah was a prophet during the divided kingdom and lived when Josiah was king of Judah. The early verses indicate that Zephaniah was a fourth-generation descendant of King Hezekiah, also in Judah. This means that he was likely well-known and had considerable social standing in Judah.*

***Dates/Contemporaries:***

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He was a **contemporary of Jeremiah, Nahum, and Habakkuk**, and this book was written somewhere in the **635-625 BC timeframe**. It is also clear that Zephaniah also knows the magistrate and court issues of the day.



# Zephaniah – Basics of the Book

**Purpose of Writing:** Zephaniah's message of judgment and encouragement contains three major doctrines:

- 1) God is sovereign over all nations.
- 2) The wicked will be punished and the righteous will be vindicated on the day of judgment.
- 3) God blesses those who repent and trust in Him

**Brief Summary:** Zephaniah pronounces the Lord's judgment on the whole earth, on Judah, on the surrounding nations, on Jerusalem, and on all nations. This is followed by proclamations of the Lord's blessing on all nations and especially on the faithful remnant of His people in Judah.

**Life Application Bible says...**

Zephaniah warned the people of Judah that if they refused to repent, the entire nation, including the beloved city of Jerusalem, would be lost. The people knew that God would eventually bless them, but Zephaniah made it clear that there would be judgment first, then blessing. This judgment would not be merely punishment for sin, **but also a process of purifying the people**. Though we live in a fallen world surrounded by evil, we can hope in the perfect kingdom of God to come and we can allow any punishment that touches us now to purify us from sin.

**GotQuestions.org says that**

• **Practical Application:** With a few adjustments in names and situations, this prophet of 7th century B.C. could stand in our pulpits today and deliver the same message of judgment of the wicked ...and hope for the faithful.

# Zephaniah - *Points for Today*

*Zephaniah reminds us that God is offended by the moral and religious sins of His people. God's people will not escape punishment when they sin **willfully**.*

*Punishment may be painful, but its purpose may be redemptive rather than punitive. The inevitability of the punishment of wickedness gives comfort in a time when it seems that evil is unbridled and victorious.*

***We have the freedom to disobey God but not the freedom to escape the consequences of that disobedience. Those who are faithful to God may be relatively few, but He does not forget them.***

- *Of all the Minor Prophets, Joel and Zephaniah use the phrase “**Day of the Lord**” throughout their writings.*

# Zephaniah – Trip back in time to set the context

***King Josiah of Judah**, one of the wonderful kings of Judah.*

***8 years old** – came to the throne on the assassination of his father (who was a wicked king)*

***16 years old** – begins to seek the Lord*

***20 years old** – Removes Idols and Idol worship from the land*

***26 years old** – Begins to **renovate** and **reopen** the Temple of God, which had been closed for a long time. While renovating the temple the builders found a copy of the Law and brought it to Josiah. He begins to study it and makes sweeping changes in the spiritual life of the people of Judah.*

***God calls Zephaniah at this time to come alongside Josiah and rebuke the sin of the people, and the ones who were promoting it. This is where we pick up and start this little book of prophecy.***



# Zephaniah Messages of the Book

*There are 3 chapters in Zephaniah, and this is what they cover:*

***Chapter 1 – The Day of the Lord and the Jews***  
*(1:1-2:3)*

***Chapter 2- The Day of the Lord and the Gentiles***  
*(2:4-15)*

***Chapter 3 – The Day of the Lord and the Kingdom***  
*(3:1-20)*

# Zeph Ch 1:1    Zephaniah identifies Himself

*1 The **word of the Lord** that **came to Zephaniah** son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, **the son of Hezekiah**, during the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah:*

*We understand Zephaniah was from a powerful and wealthy family. He received the "word" of the Lord during the reign of King Josiah, who we just talked about.*

# *Day of the Lord...What is it?*

*What is the Day of the Lord? This is a phrase used all through the Bible and means the following:*

*There are **two main ideas** involved here.*

- ***The first** and most used is the **idea of judgment to come at a particular future time...A Day***
  - *In many cases is an end-times phrase that implies the Judgment by God of the wicked.*
  - *Sometimes it is used **as a short period of time, rather than a Day.***
- ***The Second** is that it is a **time of salvation or deliverance for those who hold to the Lord.***

# Zeph Ch 1:2-6 Judgment on the Whole Earth – Day of the Lord

<sup>2</sup> “I will sweep away **everything** from the face of the earth,” declares the Lord.

<sup>3</sup> “I will sweep away both **man and beast**;  
I will sweep away the **birds** in the sky  
and the **fish** in the sea—  
and the **idols that cause the wicked to stumble.**”

“When I destroy all mankind on the face of the earth,” declares the Lord,

<sup>4</sup> “I will stretch out my hand **against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem.**

I will destroy **every remnant of Baal worship** in this place,  
the **very names of the idolatrous priests**—

<sup>5</sup> those who bow down on the roofs to worship the **starry host**,  
those who bow down and swear by the Lord **and who also swear by Molek**,

<sup>6</sup> those who **turn back from following the Lord and neither seek the Lord **nor inquire of him.****”

# Zeph Ch 1...A Deeper understanding

*Zephaniah is given a view of this coming judgment, and it centers on two items...Idolatry (4-6) and complacency (1-11).*

*We see some of the detail reasons for this judgment to come.*

- **Baal worship.** Baal was the god of the Canaanites, and Baal meant “lord” in the Canaanite language, but it took the form of stars, fertility, weather, and natural events. The Israelites had assimilated Baal as a god to be worshipped and **sought blessings**. Polytheistic in nature and worshipped both Jehovah and Baal.
- **That is not the worst part.** They also worshipped a god called **Molek**, or Malkam in Hebrew. This was the god of the Ammonites, and **this was the god that required child sacrifice. The Jews were sacrificing their children to Molek for his blessings.**



# Zeph Ch 1:7-11

## Judgment to follow

<sup>7</sup> *Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the **Day of the Lord** is near.*

*The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; He has **consecrated those he has invited**.*

<sup>8</sup> *“On **the day** of the Lord’s sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king’s sons and all those clad in foreign clothes. ( by name and position)*

<sup>9</sup> *On **that day** I will punish all who avoid **stepping on the threshold**, (1 Sam 5:5) who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit. (false priests)*

<sup>10</sup> *“**On that day**,” declares the Lord,  
“a cry will go up from the Fish Gate,  
wailing from the New Quarter,  
and a loud crash from the hills.*

<sup>11</sup> ***Wail, you who live in the market district**; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with/using silver will be destroyed*

# Dagon – The Fish God of the Canaanites



# Zeph Ch 1:12-13 You can run, but you can't hide

<sup>12</sup> At that time ***I will search Jerusalem with lamps***  
and punish those who are ***complacent,***  
***who are like wine left on its dregs,***  
who think, ***'The Lord will do nothing,***  
***either good or bad.'***

<sup>13</sup> Their wealth will be plundered,  
their houses demolished.  
Though they build houses,  
they will not live in them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they will not drink the wine.

***This judgment of the Lord affects both what they have, and in the future, what they do. They will not benefit from any of it.***

# Zeph Ch 1:14-16 Bitterness, Despair, Wrath

*<sup>14</sup> The **great day of the Lord is near**—  
near and coming quickly.*

*The cry on the day of the Lord is **bitter**;  
the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.*

*<sup>15</sup> That day will be a **day of wrath**—  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of trouble and ruin,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and blackness—*

*<sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the corner towers.*

[https://youtu.be/7wd\\_L3ejXls](https://youtu.be/7wd_L3ejXls)

# Zeph Ch 1:17-18

# The Wrath of God

*<sup>17</sup> “I will bring such distress on all people  
that they will grope about like those who are blind,  
because they have sinned against the Lord.*

*Their blood will be poured out like dust  
and their entrails like dung.*

*<sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the Lord’s wrath.”*

*In the fire of his jealousy  
the whole earth will be consumed,  
for he will make a sudden end  
of all who live on the earth.*



# Zeph Ch 2:1-3. Judah Summoned to Repent

**2** *Gather together, gather yourselves together,  
you shameful nation,  
<sup>2</sup> before the decree takes effect  
and that day passes like windblown chaff,  
before the Lord's fierce anger  
comes upon you,  
before the day of the Lord's wrath  
comes upon you.*

**3** *Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land,  
you who do what he commands.  
Seek righteousness, seek humility;  
perhaps you will be sheltered  
on the day of the Lord's anger.*

# Zeph Ch 2 Repentance and Judgment of Nations

*Zephaniah lays out the wrath of the Lord against Judah, BUT God gives them hope for a reprieve.*

*Zephaniah asks them to understand what is coming, and BEFORE it comes*

- *Seek the Lord, all you humble people who do what He commands*
- *Seek Righteousness...to be right with God*
- *Seek Him in humbleness without pride and arrogance*
- *Perhaps you will be sheltered and saved in this Day of the Lord*

***Isn't this great advice for us today?***

- *Seek God, pursue Him like a thirsty deer pants for water*
- *Follow Him in Obedience and seek to be in the right relationship with Him*
- *Come without pretension, status, accomplishments, money and*
- *Repent and Return*

# Zeph Ch 2:4-7 The Nation of the Philistines

<sup>4</sup> ***Gaza will be abandoned***

*and Ashkelon left in ruins.*

*At midday, Ashdod will be emptied and Ekron uprooted.*

<sup>5</sup> *Woe to you who live by the sea, you **Kerethite** people;  
the word of the Lord is against you, **Canaan, land of the Philistines.***

*He says, “**I will destroy you, and none will be left.**”*

<sup>6</sup> *The land by the sea will become pastures  
having wells for shepherds  
and pens for flocks.*

<sup>7</sup> ***That land will belong  
to the remnant of the people of Judah;  
there they will find pasture.***

*In the evening they will lie down  
in the houses of Ashkelon.*

*The Lord their God will care for them; He will restore their fortunes.(Land, animals, captives)*

# Zephaniah – A Map of the Countries in this Time



- Note: Philistia at this time was home to Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, and Jaffa (Tel Aviv location)
- Today some of this has already been annexed into Israel
- Israel has told Hamas if they do not release the hostages, Israel will annex large chunks of Gaza
- Prophecy and Fulfillment – It appears to be happening in front of our eyes.



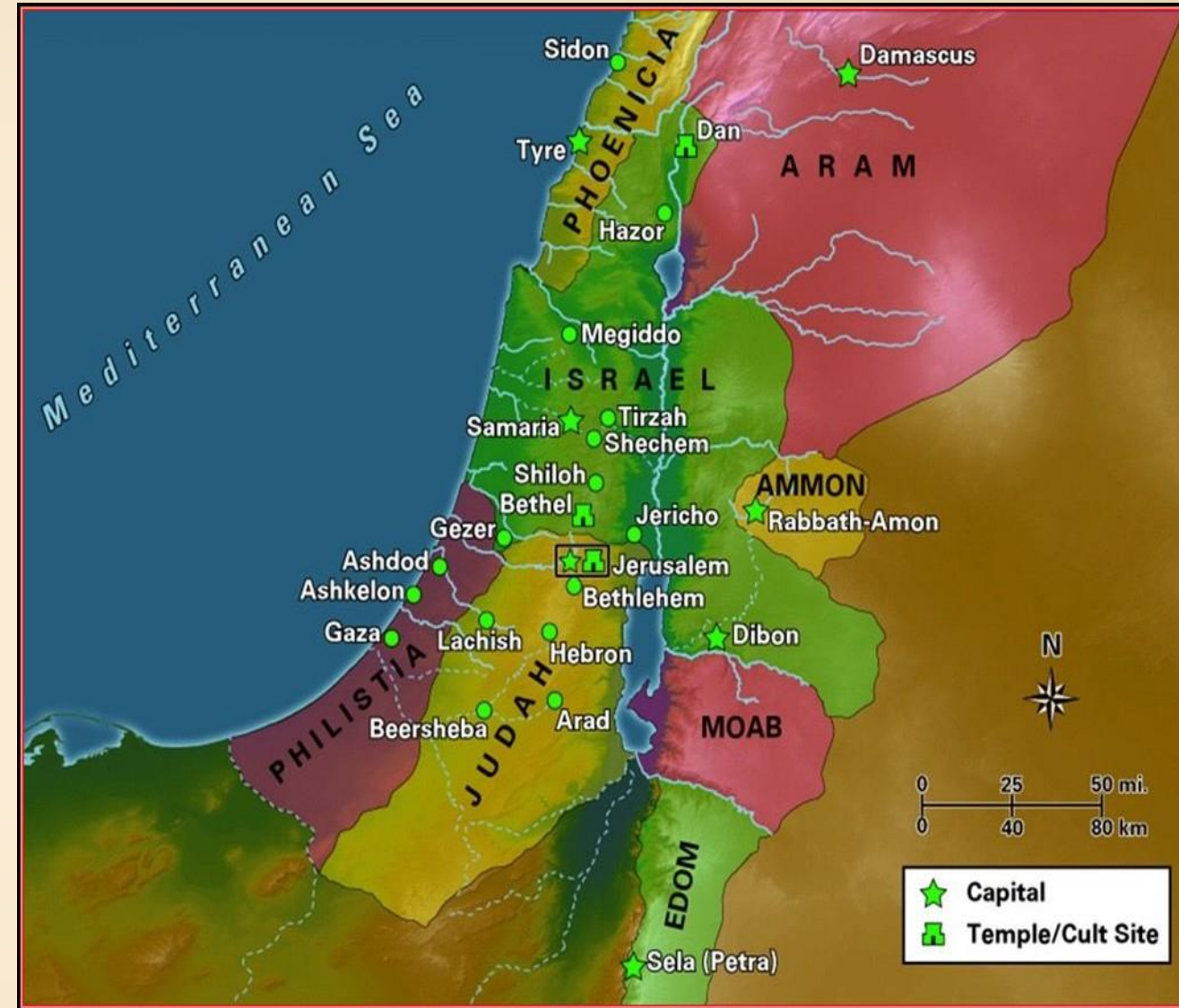
# Zeph Ch 2B and Ch 3

*Next time we will finish Ch 2B and Ch 3, and we will look at*

- Other countries in the crosshairs of God's Wrath on this **Day of the Lord***

## *The Day of the Lord and the Kingdom*

- **Jerusalem:** God's Jealous Anger*
- **The Gentiles:** graciousness and forgiveness*
- The Remnant and Blessing*





*Next time, we will Pickup at in Zephania Ch 2 B and Finish Ch 3*

- *Pray for the US, Israel, and the Peace of Jerusalem*
- *Pray for peace in Ukraine*
- *Pray for First Redeemer Pastors, staff, teachers, and all who lead*
- *Pray for our new building to finish and be glory to God and His mission in this church.*
- *Praise God for his healing and successful surgeries/procedures in the class*
- *Pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to fill the land*