

1:1 Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah,

1:2 "I will completely remove all *things* From the face of the earth," declares the LORD. 3 "I will remove man and beast; I will remove the birds of the sky And the fish of the sea, And the ruins along with the wicked; And I will cut off man from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. 4 "So I will stretch out My hand against Judah And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, And the names of the idolatrous priests along with the priests. 5 "And those who bow down on the housetops to the host of heaven, And those who bow down *and* swear to the LORD and *yet* swear by Milcom, 6 And those who have turned back from following the LORD, And those who have not sought the LORD or inquired of Him."

1:7 Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the LORD is near, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, He has consecrated His guests. 8 "Then it will come about on the day of the LORD's sacrifice, That I will punish the princes, the king's sons, And all who clothe themselves with foreign garments. 9 "And I will punish on that day all who leap on the *temple* threshold, Who fill the house of their lord with violence and deceit. 10 "And on that day," declares the LORD, "There will be the sound of a cry from the Fish Gate, A wail from the Second Quarter, And a loud crash from the hills. 11 "Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar, For all the people of Canaan will be silenced; All who weigh out silver will be cut off. 12 "And it will come about at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And I will punish the men Who are stagnant in spirit, Who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good or evil!' 13 "Moreover, their wealth will become plunder, And their houses desolate; Yes, they will build houses but not inhabit *them*, And plant vineyards but not drink their wine." 14 Near is the great day of the LORD, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. 15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 A day of trumpet and battle cry, Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers. 17 And I will bring distress on men, So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD; And their blood will be poured out like dust, And their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the LORD's wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.

2:1 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather, O nation without shame, 2 Before the decree takes effect - The day passes like the chaff - Before the burning anger of the LORD comes upon you, Before the day of the LORD's anger comes upon you. 3 Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the LORD's anger.

2:4 For Gaza will be abandoned, And Ashkelon a desolation; Ashdod will be driven out at noon, And Ekron will 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; And I will destroy you, So that there will be no inhabitant. 6 So the seacoast will be pastures, *With* caves for shepherds and folds for flocks. 7 And the coast will be For the remnant of the house of Judah, They will pasture on it. In the houses of Ashkelon they will lie down at evening; For the LORD their God will care for them And restore their fortune.

2:8 "I have heard the taunting of Moab And the revilings of the sons of Ammon, With which they have taunted My people And become arrogant against their territory. 9 "Therefore, as I live," declares the LORD of hosts, The God of Israel, "Surely Moab will be like Sodom, And the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah - A place possessed by nettles and salt pits, And a perpetual desolation. The remnant of My people will plunder them, And the remainder of My nation will inherit them." 10 This they will have in return for their pride, because they have taunted and become arrogant against the people of the LORD of hosts. 11 The LORD will be terrifying to them, for He will starve all the gods of the earth; and all the coastlands of the nations will bow down to Him, everyone from his own place.

2:12 "You also, O Ethiopians, will be slain by My sword."

2:13 And He will stretch out His hand against the north And destroy Assyria, And He will make Nineveh a desolation, Parched like the wilderness. 14 And flocks will lie down in her midst, All beasts which range in herds; Both the pelican and the hedgehog Will lodge in the tops of her pillars; Birds will sing in the window, Desolation will be on the threshold; For He has laid bare the cedar work. 15 This is the exultant city Which dwells securely, Who says in her heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me." How she has become a desolation, A resting place for beasts! Everyone who passes by her will hiss And wave his hand *in contempt*.

3:1 Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, The tyrannical city! 2 She heeded no voice; She accepted no instruction. She did not trust in the LORD; She did not draw near to her God. 3 Her princes within her are roaring lions, Her judges are wolves at evening; They leave nothing for the morning. 4 Her prophets are reckless, treacherous men; Her priests have profaned the sanctuary. They have done violence to the law. 5 The LORD is righteous within her; He will do no injustice. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He does not fail. But the unjust knows no shame. 6 "I have cut off nations; Their corner towers are in ruins. I have made their streets desolate, With no one passing by; Their cities are laid waste, Without a man, without an inhabitant. 7 "I said, 'Surely you will revere Me, Accept instruction.' So her dwelling will not be cut off *According to* all that I have appointed concerning her. But they were eager to corrupt all their deeds.

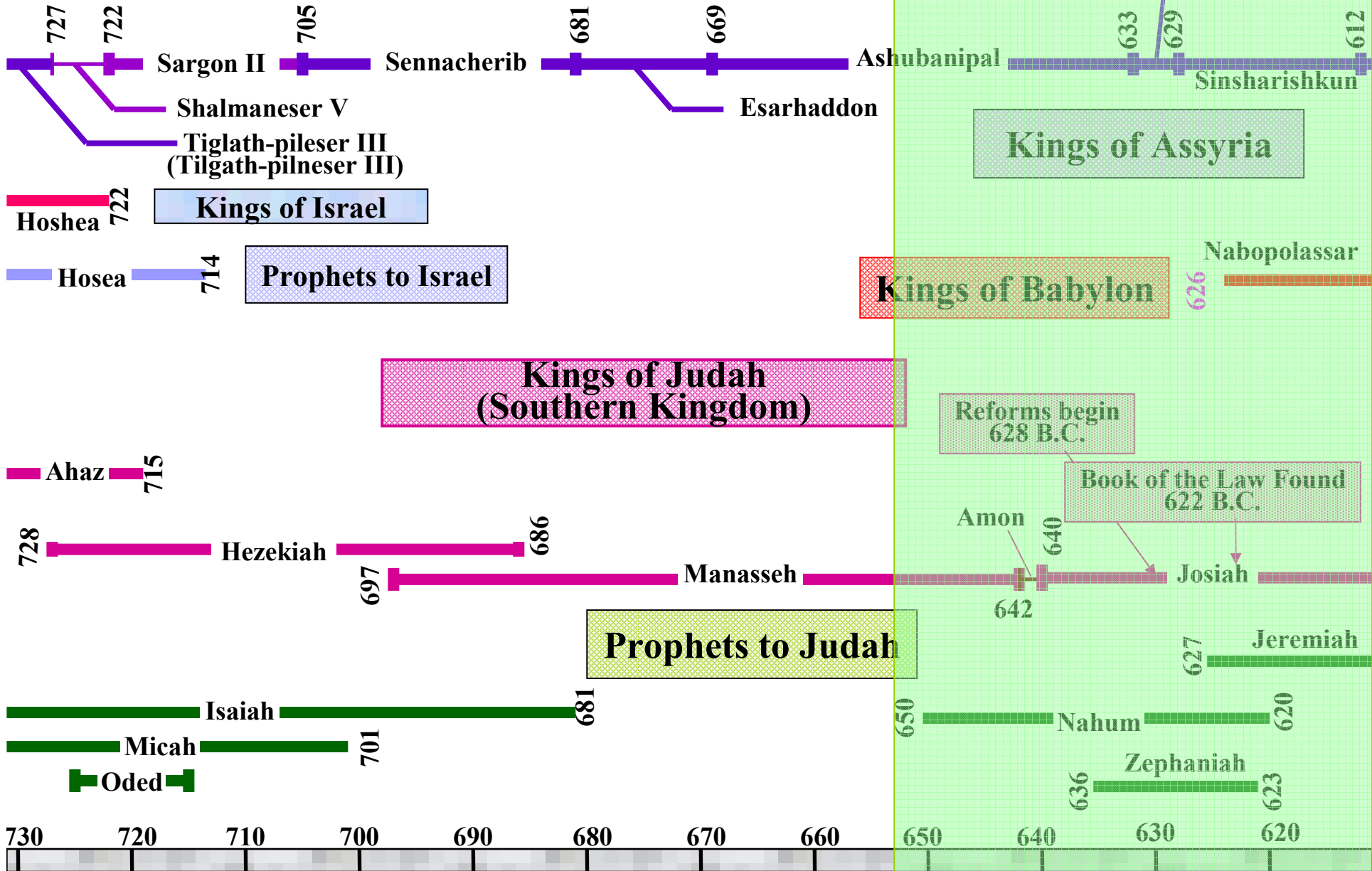
3:8 "Therefore, wait for Me," declares the LORD, "For the day when I rise up to the prey. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.

3:9 "For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder. 10 "From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, My dispersed ones, Will bring My offerings.

3:11 "In that day you will feel no shame Because of all your deeds By which you have rebelled against Me; For then I will remove from your midst Your proud, exulting ones, And you will never again be haughty On My holy mountain. 12 "But I will leave among you A humble and lowly people, And they will take refuge in the name of the LORD. 13 "The remnant of Israel will do no wrong And tell no lies, Nor will a deceitful tongue Be found in their mouths; For they shall feed and lie down With no one to make them tremble." 14 Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The LORD has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more. 16 In that day it will be said to Jerusalem: "Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp. 17 "The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy. 18 "I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts-- They came from you, O Zion; *The reproach of exile* is a burden on them. 19 "Behold, I am going to deal at that time With all your oppressors, I will save the lame And gather the outcast, And I will turn their shame into praise and renown In all the earth. 20 "At that time I will bring you in, Even at the time when I gather you together; Indeed, I will give you renown and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I restore your fortunes before your eyes," Says the LORD.

# The Theme of Zephaniah

# Appendix 1 – The Historical Setting of Zephaniah



## The Sins of God's People

- 1:4 worshipped Baal, their priests were idolatrous  
1:5 bow down to the host of heaven  
swear to the Lord and yet swear by Milcom  
1:6 turned back from following the Lord  
have not sought the Lord or inquired of Him  
1:8 clothe themselves with foreign garments  
1:9 leap on the temple threshold,  
fill the house of their lord with violence and deceit  
1:12 are stagnant in spirit, say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good or evil!'  
1:17 have sinned against the LORD  
1:18 trusted in their silver & gold  
2:1 were a nation without shame,  
3:1 is rebellious & defiled, The tyrannical city!  
3:2 heeded no voice; accepted no instruction  
didn't trust in the LORD or draw near to God  
3:3 Her princes are roaring lions, her judges are wolves  
3:4 Her prophets are reckless, treacherous men; Her priests profaned sanctuary & did violence to the law  
3:5 the unjust knows no shame.  
3:7 were eager to corrupt all their deeds  
3:11 have rebelled against God  
proud, exulting ones in their midst, were haughty  
3:13 did wrong, told lies, had a deceitful tongue

- \* Idolatry, apostates, indifferent to God, stagnant in spirit, priests profane the sanctuary and do violence to the law
- \* Violence and deceit, no shame, princes and judges devour, corrupt deeds
- \* Sinned and rebelled against the Lord, disobedient
- \* Rebellious, defiled, disobedient, reckless, treacherous, proud, exultant, haughty

## The Sins of the Nations

- 2:8 the taunting of Moab  
2:8 the revilings of the sons of Ammon – 2:8  
Moab and Ammon have taunted My people  
and become arrogant against their territory  
2:10 their pride - they have taunted &  
become arrogant against the people of the  
LORD of hosts  
2:11 they worship all the gods of the earth  
2:15 Nineveh the exultant city, dwells  
securely Who says in her heart, "I am, and  
there is no one besides me" - Pride  
3:19 they oppressed Israel

- \* Wicked (1:3)
- \* Taunted and reviled God's people and their territory (2:8)
- \* Arrogant, proud (2:8, 10)
- \* Idolatry (2:11)
- \* Trust in own security (2:15)



## First Impressions:

full of judgments at the beginning but grows more hopeful near the end

## Atmosphere:

dark at the beginning but brighter near the end

## Style:

50 verses in poetic metre, 3 in prose

## Judgments Pronounced Against:

1:2-3, 18 - All things on the earth, man, beasts, birds, fish, the ruins, the wicked

1:4-14; 3:1-7 - Judah, Jerusalem – idolatrous priests, idolatrous people, syncretists, apostates, free-thinkers, princes, merchants, men stagnant in spirit, warriors

2:4-15; 3:8, 19 - Philistines, Moab, Ammon, Ethiopia, Assyria, all the earth - all Israel's oppressors

## The Sins of the People

\* Idolatry, apostates, indifferent to God, stagnant in spirit, priests profane the sanctuary & do violence to the law

\* Violence & deceit, no shame, princes & judges devour, corrupt deeds

\* Sinned & rebelled against the Lord, disobedient

\* Rebellious, defiled, disobedient, reckless, treacherous, proud, exultant, haughty

## The Sins of the Nations

\* Wicked (1:3)

\* Taunted & reviled God's people & their territory (2:8)

\* Arrogant, proud (2:8, 10)

\* Idolatry (2:11)

\* Trusts in own security (2:15)

## Chiasmus

a. Judgment on all the earth (1:1-3)

b. Judgment on Judah & Jerusalem (1:4-2:3)

c. Judgment on the surrounding nations  
(2:4-12-15)

b. Judgment on Jerusalem (3:1-7)

a. Judgment on all the earth (3:8)

## Instructions

1:7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is near,  
For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
He has consecrated His guests.

1:11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar,

For all the people of Canaan will be silenced;  
All who weigh out silver will be cut off.

1:14 Near is the great day of the LORD,

Near and coming very quickly;  
Listen, the day of the LORD!

In it, the warrior cries out bitterly.

2:1 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather, O nation without shame,

2 Before the decree takes effect,  
Before the burning anger of the LORD comes upon you,  
Before the day of the LORD's anger comes upon you.

2:3 Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth

Who have carried out His ordinances

Seek righteousness,  
seek humility.

Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the LORD's anger.

3:7 "I said, 'Surely you will revere Me,

Accept instruction.'

So her dwelling will not be cut off

According to all that I have appointed concerning her.

But they were eager to corrupt all their deeds.

3:8 "Therefore, wait for Me,

For the day when I rise up to the prey.

Indeed, My decision is to gather nations,

To assemble kingdoms,

To pour out on them My indignation,

All My burning anger,

For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal

3:14 Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion!

Shout in triumph, O Israel!

Rejoice & exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem

3:16 Do not be afraid, O Zion;

Do not let your hands fall limp.



## Day of Judgment (1:1-3:8)

### 1:2-3 Universal Judgment

v2 "I will completely remove all things from face of the earth"

v3 man & beasts, birds & fish, the ruins & the wicked

v3 "I will cut off man from the face of the earth"

### 2:4-15 Judgment on the Surrounding Nations

2:4-7 Philistia / West

2:8-11 Moab & Ammon / East

2:12 Ethiopia / South

2:13-15 Assyria / North

### 3:8 Judgment on all the earth / kingdoms

Purpose: to pour out on them My indignation / all My burning anger

### 1:4-18 Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem

#### 1:4-13 The Objects of Judgment

v4 idolatrous priests

v5 star worshipers  
syncretistic worshipers

v6 backsliders  
the indifferent

v8 the princes, the king's sons

all clothed with foreign garments

v9 oppressors, violent, deceitful

v10-11 the merchants

v12-13 the stagnant in spirit

#### 1:14-18 The Description of Judgment

#### 2:1-3 The Escape from Judgment

v1 gather yourselves together, yes gather, O nation without shame

v2 before the decree take effect

before the burning anger of the Lord comes upon you

before the day of the Lord's anger comes upon you

v3 seek the Lord (all the humble & obedient)

seek righteousness, seek humility

#### 3:1-7 Judgment on Jerusalem

v1-4 The Prophet's Indictment

v5-7 The Righteous Judge

## The Day of Restoration (3:9-20)

### 3:9-10 Restoration of the nations

\* spiritual

- call on the name of the Lord
- serve Him
- worship Him

\* from beyond the rivers of Ethiopia

### 3:11-20 Restoration of Israel

v11-13 the redemption of the nation

v14 the joy of the nation

v15-17 the ruler of the nation

v18-20 the reward of the nation



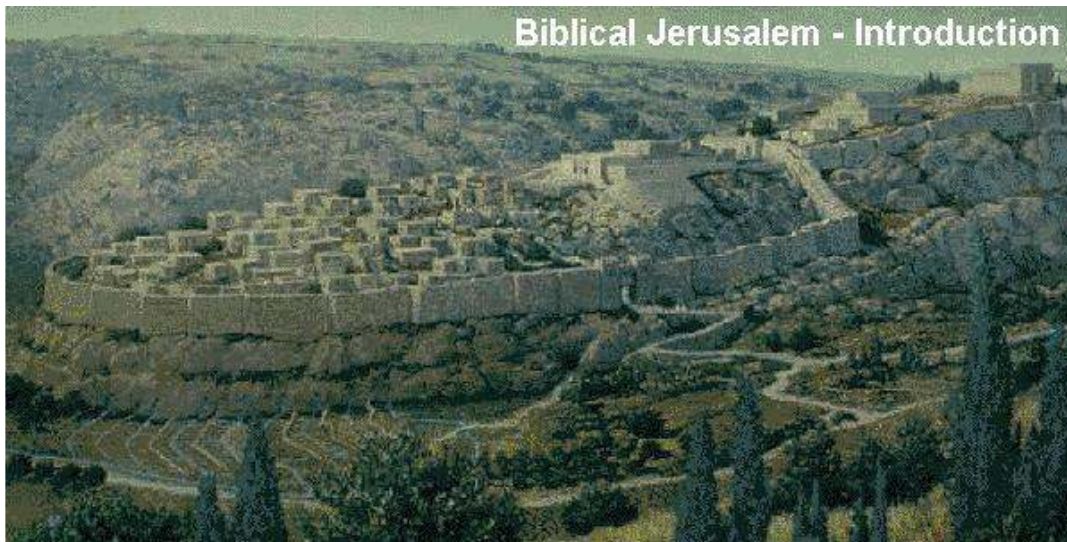
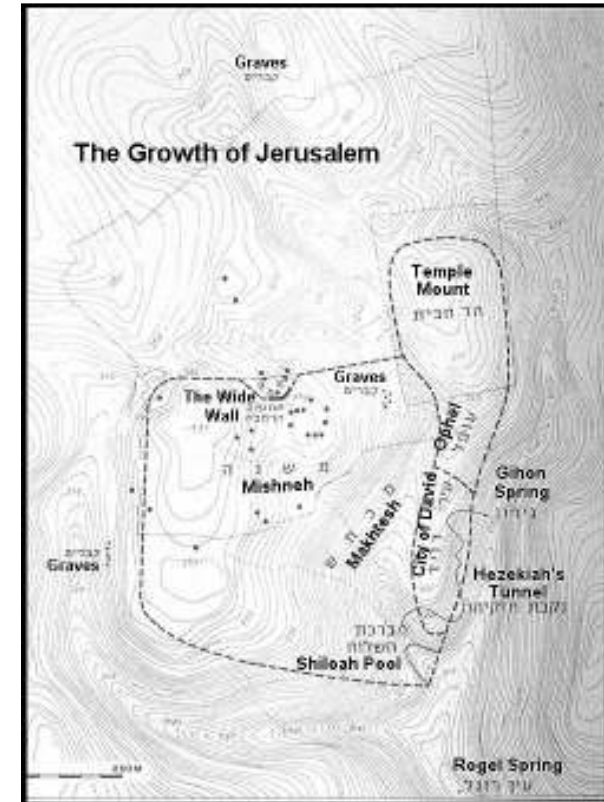
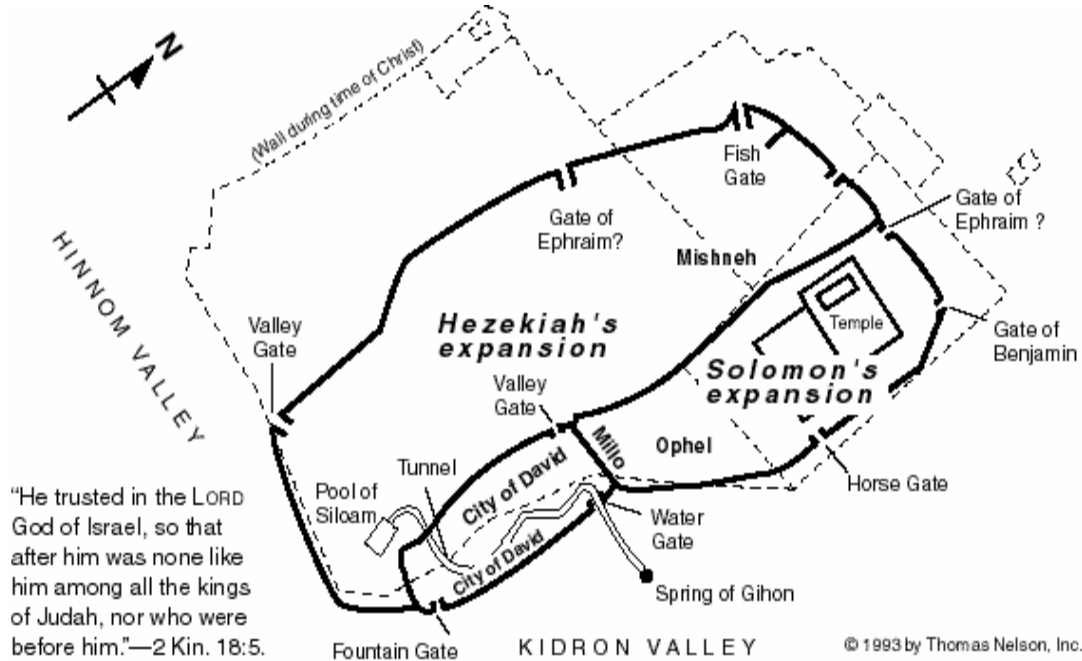
The LORD	The "I will's" of the LORD	On that Day, At that Time
<p><b>Declares the LORD (1:2,3,10; 2:9; 3:8); LORD – 32x;</b>  <b>1:1</b> The word of the LORD came to Zephaniah  <b>1:2</b> I will completely remove all <i>things</i> From the face of the earth," declares the LORD.  <b>1:3</b> I will remove man and beast  <b>1:3</b> I will remove the birds of the sky And the fish of the sea &amp; the ruins along with the wicked  <b>1:3</b> I will cut off man from the face of the earth," declares the LORD - <b>1:5</b> those who bow down on housetops to the host of heaven, &amp; those who bow down &amp; swear to the LORD &amp; yet swear by Milcom, <b>1:6</b> those who have turned back from following the LORD &amp; those who have not sought the LORD or inquired of Him  <b>1:7</b> Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the LORD is near, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, He has consecrated His guests.  <b>1:9</b> I will punish on that day all who leap on the <i>temple</i> threshold, Who fill the house of their lord with violence and deceit.  <b>1:10</b> on that day," declares the LORD, "There will be the sound of a cry from the Fish Gate, A wail from the Second Quarter, And a loud crash from the hills.  <b>1:12</b> "at that time That I will search Jerusalem with lamps, And I will punish the men Who are stagnant in spirit, Who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good or evil!'  <b>1:14</b> Near is the great day of the LORD, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly.  <b>1:17</b> I will bring distress on men, So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD.  <b>2:2</b> Gather... Before the burning anger of the LORD comes upon you, Before the day of the LORD's anger comes upon you.  <b>2:3</b> Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the LORD's anger.  <b>2:5</b> The word of the LORD is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines;  <b>2:5</b> I will destroy you, So that there will be no inhabitant.  <b>2:7</b> the LORD their God will care for Judah And restore their fortune.  <b>2:9</b> "Therefore, as I live," declares the LORD of hosts, The God of Israel, "Surely Moab will be like Sodom, And the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah; The remnant of My people will plunder them, And the remainder of My nation will inherit them."  <b>2:10</b> This they will have in return for their pride, because they have taunted and become arrogant against the people of the LORD of hosts.  <b>2:11</b> The LORD will be terrifying to them, for He will starve all the gods of the earth; and all the coastlands of the nations will bow down to Him, everyone from his <i>own</i> place.  <b>3:2</b> She heeded no voice; She accepted no instruction. She did not trust in the LORD; She did not draw near to her God.  <b>3:5</b> The LORD is righteous within her; He will do no injustice. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He does not fail. But the unjust knows no shame.  <b>3:8</b> "Therefore, wait for Me," declares the LORD, "For the day when I rise up to the prey. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.  <b>3:9</b> "For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.  <b>3:12</b> "But I will leave among you A humble and lowly people, And they will take refuge in the name of the LORD.  <b>3:15</b> The LORD has taken away <i>His</i> judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more.  <b>3:15</b> The LORD has taken away <i>His</i> judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more.  <b>3:20</b> "At that time I will bring you in, Even at the time when I gather you together; Indeed, I will give you renown and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I restore your fortunes before your eyes," Says the LORD.</p>	<p><b>I will remove (1:2;3[2x]) - 1:2 I will completely remove all things from the face of the earth - 1:3 man &amp; beast, birds, fish, the ruins, the wicked</b>  <b>I will cut off (1:3,4 – 2x) man from the face of the earth (1:3), the remnant of Baal from this place &amp; the names of idolatrous priests &amp; the priests (1:4), those who bow to the host of heaven, those who bow down &amp; swear to the LORD &amp; by Milcom (1:5), those who have turned back from following the LORD, those who have not sought the LORD or inquired of Him (1:6)</b>  <b>1:4 I will stretch out My hand against Judah &amp; all the inhabitants of Jerusalem</b>  <b>* I will punish (3x – 1:8,9,12) 1:8 the princes, the king's sons, &amp; all who clothe themselves with foreign garments, 1:9 all who leap on the temple threshold, Who fill the house of their lord with violence &amp; deceit, 1:12 the men Who are stagnant in spirit, Who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good or evil!'</b>  <b>1:12 I will search Jerusalem with lamps</b>  <b>1:17 I will bring distress on men, So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD</b>  <b>1:18 He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth</b>  <b>2:11 The LORD will be terrifying to them</b>  <b>2:11 He will starve all the gods of the earth</b>  <b>2:12 You also, O Ethiopians, will be slain by My sword</b>  <b>2:13 He will stretch out His hand against the north &amp; destroy Assyria</b>  <b>2:13 He will make Nineveh a desolation</b>  <b>3:8 all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.</b>  <b>3:19 I am going to deal at that time With all your oppressors</b>  <b>2:7 the LORD their God will care for Judah &amp; restore their fortune.</b>  <b>3:5 He will do no injustice. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He does not fail</b>  <b>3:9 I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.</b>  <b>3:12 I will leave among you A humble and lowly people</b>  <b>3:17 He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.</b>  <b>3:18 I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts</b>  <b>3:19 I will save the lame And gather the outcast &amp; I will turn their shame into praise and renown In all the earth.</b>  <b>3:20 At that time I will bring you in</b>  <b>3:20 I will give you renown and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I restore your fortunes before your eyes</b></p>	<p><b>1:7</b> Be silent before the Lord God! For <b>the day of the LORD</b> is near, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, He has consecrated His guests.  <b>1:8 on the day of the LORD's sacrifice</b>, I will punish the princes, &amp; all who clothe themselves with foreign garments  <b>1:9</b> I will punish <b>on that day</b> all who leap on the <i>temple</i> threshold, Who fill the house of their lord with violence and deceit.  <b>1:10 on that day</b>, there will be a cry from the Fish Gate, A wail from the Second Quarter, And a loud crash from the hills.  <b>1:12 at that time</b> I will search Jerusalem with lamps, &amp; I will punish the men stagnant in spirit  <b>1:14</b> Near is <b>the great day of the LORD</b>, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, <b>the day of the LORD!</b> In it the warrior cries out bitterly.  <b>1:18</b> Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them <b>On the day of the LORD's wrath</b>; all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, He will make a complete terrifying end, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.  <b>2:1</b> Gather yourselves together, yes, gather, O nation without shame, <b>2</b> Before the decree takes effect - <b>The day</b> passes like the chaff - Before the burning anger of the LORD comes upon you, Before <b>the day of the LORD's anger</b> comes upon you.  <b>2:3</b> Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden In <b>the day of the LORD's anger</b>.  <b>3:8</b> "Therefore, wait for Me," declares the LORD, "For <b>the day</b> when I rise up to the prey. 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# The LORD in Zephaniah

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
<p>* I will completely remove (1:2), I will remove (1:3[2x]) - all <i>things</i> from the face of the earth (1:2), man &amp; beast; birds, fish, the ruins * the wicked (1:3)</p> <p>* I will cut off (2x – 1:3,4) man from the face of the earth, the remnant of Baal, names of idolatrous priests, the priests (1:4), those who bow to the host of heaven, those who swear to the LORD &amp; by Milcom (1:5), those who turned from following the LORD, those who have not sought the LORD or inquired of Him (1:6)</p> <p>1:4 I will stretch out My hand against Judah &amp; all the inhabitants of Jerusalem</p> <p>* I will punish (2x – 1:8,9) on the day of the LORD's sacrifice, I will punish the princes, all who clothe selves with foreign garments (1:8), on that day all who leap on the <i>temple</i> threshold, Who fill the house of their lord with violence and deceit (1:9), the men Who are stagnant in spirit, Who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good or evil!' (1:12)</p> <p>* Declares the LORD (1:2,3,10; 2:9; 3:8) - I will completely remove all <i>things</i> from the face of the earth (1:2), I will remove man &amp; beast, birds &amp; fish, the ruins along with the wicked, I will cut off man from the face of the earth (1:3), there will be a cry, a wail, a loud crash (1:10), Moab will be like Sodom &amp; Ammon like Gomorrah (2:9); wait for Me when I rise to pour all My burning anger (3:8)</p> <p>1:7 Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the LORD is near, For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, He has consecrated His guests.</p> <p>1:12 at that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, 1:14 Near is the great day of the LORD, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly.</p> <p>1:17 I will bring distress on men, So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD</p> <p>1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the LORD's wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.</p>	<p><b>2:1-2</b> Gather Before the burning anger of the LORD &amp; the day of the LORD's anger comes upon you</p> <p>2:3 Seek the LORD, Seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the LORD's anger.</p> <p>2:5 The word of the LORD is against you, O Canaan; I will destroy you - no inhabitant</p> <p>2:7 the LORD their God will care for Judah &amp; restore their fortune</p> <p>2:8 I heard Moab &amp; Ammon taunting &amp; reviling My people</p> <p>2:9 "Therefore, as I live," declares the LORD of hosts, The God of Israel, "Surely Moab will be like Sodom, And the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah, The remnant of My people will plunder them, And the remainder of My nation will inherit them."</p> <p>2:10 Judged because they taunted &amp; was arrogant against the people of the LORD of hosts</p> <p>2:11 The LORD will be terrifying to them, for He will starve all the gods of the earth; &amp; all the coastlands of the nations will bow down to Him\</p> <p>2:12 Ethiopians will be slain by My sword</p> <p>2:13 He will stretch out His hand against the north &amp; destroy Assyria, And make Nineveh a desolation</p> <p>2:14 He has laid bare the cedar work</p>	<p>3:2 She did not trust in the LORD&amp; did not draw near to her God</p> <p>3:5 The LORD is righteous within her; He will do no injustice. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He does not fail</p> <p>3:6 I have cut off nations; I have made their streets desolate</p> <p>3:7 "I said, 'Surely you will revere Me, Accept instruction.' So her dwelling will not be cut off <i>According to</i> all that I have appointed concerning her. But they were eager to corrupt all their deeds</p> <p>3:8 "Therefore, wait for Me," declares the LORD, "For the day when I rise up to the prey. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, &amp; kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal.</p> <p>3:9 I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.</p> <p>3:10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, My dispersed ones, Will bring My offerings.</p> <p>3:11 In that day you will feel no shame Because of your rebellion against Me; For then I will remove from your midst Your proud, exulting ones, you will never again be haughty On My holy mountain</p> <p>3:12 I will leave among you A humble &amp; lowly people, who will take refuge in the name of the LORD</p> <p>3:15 The LORD has taken away <i>His</i> judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst</p> <p>3:17 The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.</p> <p>3:18 I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts</p> <p>3:19 I am going to deal at that time With all your oppressors, I will save the lame &amp; gather the outcast, I will turn their shame into praise &amp; renown In all the earth.</p> <p>3:20 At that time I will bring you in, when I gather you together; I will give you renown and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I restore your fortunes before your eyes," Says the LORD.</p>



## Jerusalem in Hezekiah's Day



Over time, the Judean capital city of Jerusalem grew and expanded well beyond the small boundaries of the City of David. At first, the Temple Mount was an addition to the city and was, apparently, fortified in some way (which still remains unknown). Later, the process of expansion "beyond the walls" occurred after the population continued to increase. The Bible mentions the names of residential neighborhoods outside the City of David, such as Mishneh (Kings II 22;14) and Makhtesh (Zephania 1;11). The main growth in population occurred around 721 C.E., when the Northern Israelite kingdom of Israel was destroyed by Assyria and the refugees fled to the Southern Israelite kingdom of Judea; and in 701 C.E., when King Sennacherib of Assyria led a military campaign, conquering the coastal cities of the Land of Israel.

<b>Manasseh (695-642 BC)</b> <b>(2 Ch 33:1-20)</b>	<b>Amon (642-640)</b> <b>(2Ch 33:21-25)</b>	<b>Josiah (640-609BC)</b> <b>(2Kings 22-23; 2Ch 34:3)</b>
<p><b><u>His Sin (v1-9)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* became king at 12 &amp; reigned 55 years (v1)</li> <li>* did evil in the sight of the Lord according to the abominations of the nations (v2,6)</li> <li>* rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down (v3)</li> <li>* erected altars for the Baals &amp; made Asherim, &amp; worshiped all the host of heaven &amp; served them (v3,5)</li> <li>* built altars (v4-5), put a carved image in the house of the Lord (v7,19)</li> <li>* made his sons pass through the fire in the valley of Ben-hinnom (v6)</li> <li>* practiced witchcraft, divination, sorcery, &amp; dealt with mediums &amp; spiritists (v6)</li> <li>* misled Judah &amp; Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations the Lord destroyed before the sons of Israel (v9)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>His Judgment (v10-11)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* the Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention (v10,18)</li> <li>* the Lord brought Assyria against them, &amp; they captured Manasseh with hooks &amp; bronze chains, and took him to Babylon (v11)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>His Repentance (v12-20)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* in distress, he entreated the Lord, humbled himself greatly before God (v12)</li> <li>* He was moved by his entreaty &amp; brought him again to Jerusalem, then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God (v13,19)</li> <li>* he fortified the city of David &amp; put army commanders in all the fortified cities of Judah (v14)</li> <li>* removed the foreign gods &amp; the idol from the house of the Lord, &amp; threw down all the altars he built in Jerusalem (v15)</li> <li>* set up the altar of the Lord &amp; sacrificed peace &amp; thank offerings on it &amp; ordered Judah to serve the Lord God of Israel (v16)</li> <li>* the people still sacrificed in the high places, although only to the Lord their God (v17)</li> <li>* died &amp; they buried him in his own house &amp; Amon his son became king in his place (v20)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>His Sin (v21-23)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* became king at 22 &amp; reigned 2 years (v21)</li> <li>* did evil in the sight of the Lord as Manasseh his father (v22)</li> <li>* sacrificed to all the carved images Manasseh had made, &amp; served them (v22)</li> <li>* did not humble himself before the Lord as Manasseh had done, but Amon multiplied guilt (v23)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>His Judgment (v24-25)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* killed by his servants in his own house (v24)</li> <li>* the people all his conspirators (v25)</li> <li>* the people of the land made Josiah his son king in his place</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>His Righteous Deeds (22:1-7)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* became king at 8 &amp; reigned 31 years (22:1)</li> <li>* his mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath (22:1)</li> <li>* did right in the sight of the Lord &amp; walked in all the way of his father David (22:2)</li> <li>* at 16, he began to seek the God of his father David &amp; at 20 he began to purge Judah &amp; Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, the carved images &amp; the molten images." (2Ch 34:3)</li> <li>* at 26, he repaired the damages of the house of the Lord (22:3-7)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Finding the Book of the Law &amp; Its Repercussions (22:8-20)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Hilkiah the high priest found the book of the law in the house of the Lord (22:8)</li> <li>* Shaphan read it in the presence of the king (22:9-10)</li> <li>* when the king heard the words of the book of the law, that he tore his clothes &amp; sent to inquire of the Lord concerning the words of this book that has been found (22:11-13)</li> <li>* Huldah the prophetess pronounced judgment on Jerusalem (22:14- 17) but granted that Josiah shall be gathered to his grave in peace &amp; won't see all this evil (22:18-20)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Josiah's Reforms (23:1-27)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* the king &amp; all the people made a covenant to walk after the Lord &amp; to keep His commandments (23:1-3)</li> <li>* the king ordered the cleansing of the temple (23:4), did away with the idolatrous priests (23:5), burnt the Asherah (23:6), broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes in the house of the Lord (23:7), brought all the priests from the cities of Judah, defiled the high places from Geba to Beersheba (23:8)</li> <li>* the priests of the high places did not go up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem, but ate unleavened bread among their brothers (23:9)</li> <li>* defiled Topheth that no man might make his son or daughter pass through the fire for Molech (23:10), did away with the horses given to the sun &amp; burned the chariots of the sun with fire (23:11)</li> <li>* broke down the altars on the roof &amp; the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the Lord (23:12), defiled the high places before Jerusalem which Solomon had built for Ashtoreth, Chemosh &amp; Milcom (23:13), broke in pieces the sacred pillars &amp; cut down the Asherim and filled their places with human bones (23:14)</li> <li>* broke down the altar at Bethel &amp; the high place which Jeroboam had made, (demolished its stones, ground them to dust, and burned the Asherah &amp; defiled the altar according to the word of the Lord which the man of God proclaimed (23:15-16)</li> <li>* did not disturb the bones of the prophet who came from Samaria (23:17-18)</li> <li>* removed all the houses of the high places in the cities of Samaria (23:19), slaughtered all the priests of the high places on the altars &amp; burned human bones on them (23:20)</li> <li>* back in Jerusalem, the king commanded all the people to celebrate the Passover in the 18<sup>th</sup> year of King Josiah (23:21-23)</li> <li>* removed the mediums, spiritists, teraphim, idols &amp; all the abominations in Judah &amp; Jerusalem (23:24)</li> <li>* before him there was no king like him who turned to the Lord with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him (23:25)</li> <li>* However, the Lord did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath with which His anger burned against Judah, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him (23:26-27)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>His Death (23:28-30)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* In his days Pharaoh Neco king of Egypt went up to the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates &amp; Josiah went to meet him &amp; Pharaoh Neco killed him at Megiddo (23:29)</li> <li>* his servants brought him to Jerusalem &amp; buried him in his own tomb (23:30)</li> <li>* the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah &amp; made him king in place of his father (23:30)</li> </ul>

**Title:            The Day of the Lord**  
**The Day of Judgment and of Restoration**

**Theme:    Judgment**

**Historical Setting**

**Key Words**

judgment-words

“I will”

the day of the Lord  
(the day)

**Context  
of  
Zephaniah**

**Purposes for writing**

**1. To prophesy of end-time judgments on all the earth (1:2-3,17-18; 2:4-15; 3:8) and on the surrounding nations (2:4-15)**

**2. To warn Judah that Judgment was near (1:4-16; 3:1-7,11b)**

**3. To prophesy of the restoration of the nations (3:9-10) and of Israel (3:11-20)**

**4. To exhort the people to seek the Lord before irreversible judgment falls (2:1-3)**

**Occasion for writing**

\* Josiah succeeded Amon at 8. At 16 (in 632 BC), he began to seek after God & at 20 (in 628 BC), he purged much idolatry from Jerusalem & Judah (2Ch 34:3). At 26 (622 BC), the book of the Law was found (2 Kgs 22:3-8) & a religious revival occurred (2 Kgs 23:1-25).

\* It was to a politically prospering people that Zephaniah & Jeremiah prophesied of coming judgment

1. **Politically** – in the days of Josiah, king of Judah  
1a. Assyria had taken Manasseh prisoner to Babylon (2Ch 33:11)

1b. Manasseh fortified the cities of Judah (2Ch 33:14)

1c. Judah benefited from the power struggle between Assyria, Babylon & the Medes. Nineveh will be destroyed by the Medes & Babylonians in 612 BC. For the first time in 50 years, Nineveh's hold on Judah was weakened & Josiah extended his influence as far North as Naphtali.

2. **Religiously** – Under Manasseh and Amon, apostasy, idolatry, wickedness & much shedding of innocent blood (2Ch 33; 2Kgs 21; 24:3-4)

2a. Manasseh repented & God brought him back to Jerusalem (2Ch 33:13) and he tore down all the altars & idols he had set up (2Ch 33:15-16)

2b. The people still sacrificed in the high places although only to the Lord (2Ch 33:17)

3. **Restoration:** The book of the Lord was found in Josiah's 18<sup>th</sup> year (2Kgs 22:8-10)

**Author:** Zephaniah, contemporary of Nahum and Jeremiah  
= “hidden” or “protected by the LORD”, of the royal family (1:1)

**Date:** ≈ 635-625 BC before Josiah's reforms in 628 BC



# ZEPHANIAH: THE DAY OF THE LORD (1:14)

## The Day of Desolation and Deliverance (1:15; 2:3)

<b>The Day of the LORD = Judgment</b>						<b>The DOL = Joy</b>	
1:1 Universal Judgment	1:4 Judgment on Judah	2:1 Appeal to Judah	2:4 Judgment on surrounding nations	3:1 Judgment on Jerusalem	3:8 Judgment on all Nations	3:9 Cleansing of the Nations	3:11 3:20 Restoration of Israel
<b>Introduction (1:1)</b>	<b>The Day of Yahweh's Judgment (1:2-3:8)</b>					<b>The Day of Yahweh's Restoration (3:9-20)</b>	
	<b>Judgment on all the earth (1:2-3)</b>	<b>Judgment on Judah &amp; Jerusalem</b>		<b>Judgment on the surrounding nations</b>	<b>Judgment on Jerusalem</b>	<b>Judgment on all the Earth (3:8)</b>	
	Objects of Judgment	Description of Judgment	Escape from Judgment	Philistia (v4-7) Moab & Ammon (v8-11) Ethiopia (v12) Assyria (v13-15)	The Lord's Judgment (3:5-7) The Prophet's Indictment (3:1-4)	Restoration of the Nations (3:9-10)	Restoration of Israel (3:11-20)
<u><b>The Day of the LORD Announced (1:1-2:3)</b></u> 1:1-3 Judgment on All 1:4-18 Judgment on Judah			<u><b>The Day of the LORD Implemented (2:4-3:8)</b></u> 2:4-15 Against the Nations 3:1-7 Against Jerusalem 3:8 Against All the Earth			<u><b>The Deliverance of the Lord (3:9-20)</b></u> 3:9-10 For Gentiles 3:11-20 For Jews	

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4. To exhort the people to seek the Lord before irreversible judgment (2:1-3)
  2. Religiously – Under Manasseh and Amon, apostasy, idolatry, wickedness & much shedding of innocent blood (2Ch 33; 2Kgs 21; 24:3-4)
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