

The image features a parchment scroll with a weathered, yellowish-brown texture. The scroll is partially unrolled, revealing two pages of text below. The main title 'ZEPHANIAH' is written in large, bold, black serif capital letters across the top. Below it, a smaller, torn-edged strip of parchment contains the subtitle 'A Prophetic Book' in a smaller, black serif font. The background of the scroll is filled with faint, illegible cursive handwriting in brown ink. The entire scene is set against a dark, almost black background.

ZEPHANIAH

A Prophetic Book

King Solomon

**JUDAH
SOUTH**

=
Jerusalem



Rehoboam		
Abijah	913	
Asa	911	
Jehoshaphat	870	
Jehoram	848	
Ahaziah, Athaliah	841	
Joash	835	
Amaziah	796	
Azariah	767	
Jotham	739	
Ahaz	731	
Hezekiah	715	
Manasseh	686	
Amon	642	
Josiah	640	
Jehoahaz	609	
Jehoiakim	598	
Jehoaichin, Zedekiah	594	

Babylonian Captivity: 70 yrs

Judah
↓
To Babylon
(2 Kings 24-25)

Jeroboam I	971
Nadab	931
Baasha	910
Elah, Zimri	909
Tibni	886
Omri	885
Ahab	880
Ahaziah	874
Joram	853
Jehu	852
Jehoahaz	841
Jehoash	814
Jeroboam II	798
Zechariah, Shallum	782
Menahem	753
Pekahiah, Pekah	742
Hoshea	732
	722

**ISRAEL
NORTH**
=
Samariah

Israel
↓
To Assyria
(2 Kings 17:1-12)



Assyrian Captivity ...

- = King did good before God
- = King did good & evil
- = King did evil

THE FINAL KINGS OF JUDAH

Judah's First
Deportation
606 BC

Daniel taken
to Babylon...

Second
Deportation
597 BC

Third & Final
Deportation
586 BC

Solomon's Temple
was destroyed...

ZEPHANIAH
635 BC ... ?

700

680

660

640

620

600

580

560

540 B.C.

JUDAH'S EXILE IN BABYLON = 70 yrs

606 597 586

13. Hezekiah
716 – 687



16. Josiah
640 – 609



20. Mattaniah = Zedekiah 597-586

14. Manasseh
687 – 643

17. Jehoahaz = "Shallum" 609

15. Amon
643 – 640

18. Eliakim = Jehoiakim 609 – 597

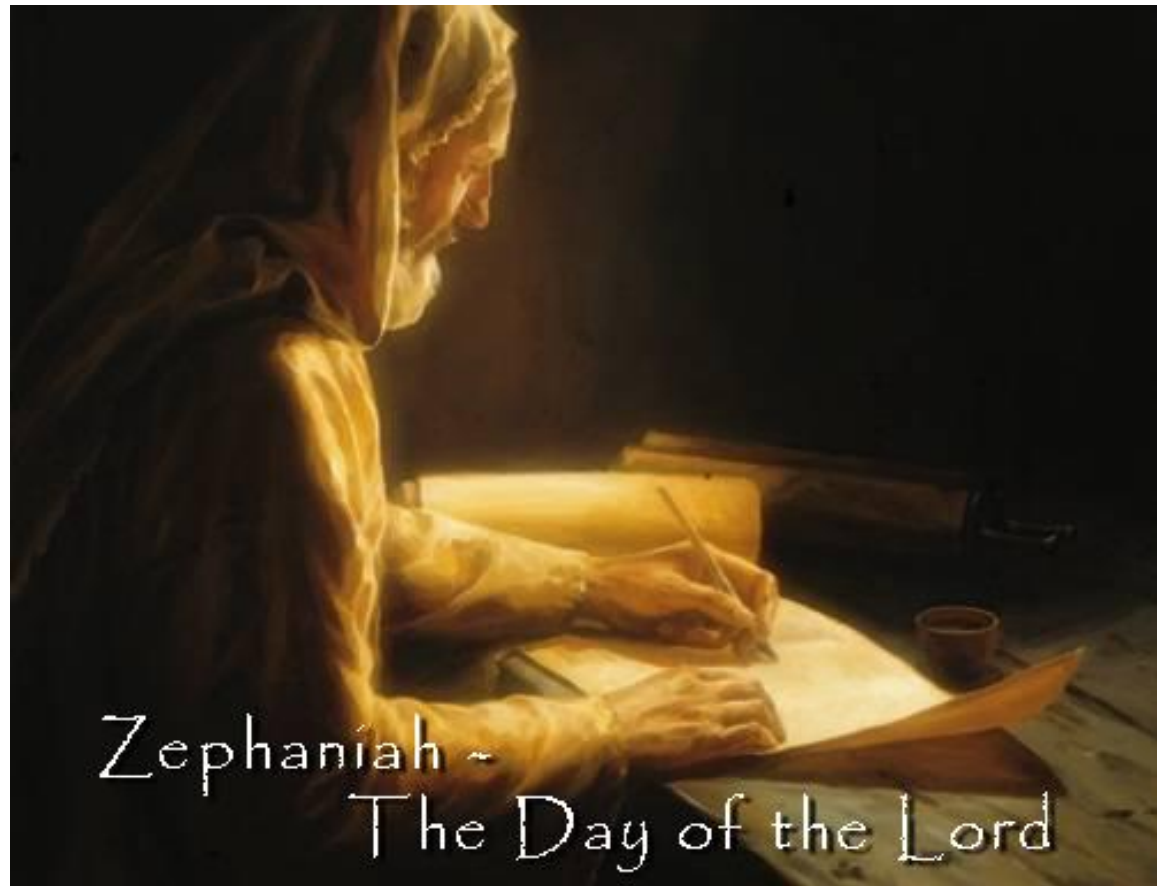
19. Jehoiachin 597

What do we know about Zephaniah?

- See **1:1**. → **Zephaniah** was a great-great-grandson of Hezekiah, one of the good reformer kings of Jerusalem.
- **Zephaniah** lived during the reign of another good reformer king named Josiah, who began to rule aged 8. (See 2 Kings 22-23, and 2 Chronicles 34-35)
- **However**, the intervening 3 kings had been very evil, and Judah had become increasingly corrupt & evil...
- **Therefore** it is likely that Zephaniah spoke during the early part of Josiah's reign, and was instrumental in turning some of Jerusalem back to God during the rest of Josiah's reign of reformation... (= 635 BC?)

A Major Theme in Zephaniah...

- 1:7
- 1:8
- 1:9
- 1:10
- 1:14
- 1:16
- 1:18
- 2:2
- 2:3
- 3:8



“The Day of JHWH is near... The Day of the LORD’s sacrifice is near... On that Day... The Great Day of the Lord is coming. The Day of JHWH will be bitter... That Day of Wrath... Anger.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH

- **1:1** The Word of the LORD to the Prophet:
During the reign of Josiah, the king of Judah.
- **1:2-3** Warning of Total Destruction
over the Whole Earth!
- **1:4-13** The Day of the Lord's Judgement & Wrath
against Judah & Jerusalem
- **1:14-18** The Day of the Lord will consume the Whole
World and make a sudden end of all living people
- **2:1-3** Seek the Lord before it is too late:
a call to Humility, Obedience and Justice

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH

- **2:4-15** Destruction of Surrounding Nations prophesied:
 - ➔ Philistia, ➔ Kereth,
 - ➔ Moab, ➔ Ammon,
 - ➔ Cush & ➔ Assyria...
- **3:1-4** The Reasons why Jerusalem is Condemned
- **3:5** Only the Lord is Righteous & Just
- **3:6-8** God assembles the Nations
to consume them with His Wrath
- **3:9-20** Comfort for the Faithful Remnant:
The Lord has forgiven, saved & loved you!
He will gather you & bring you home again!

TWO MESSAGES IN ZEPHANIAH

Impending Judgement... → “The Day of the Lord”

Zephaniah

Distant Hope... → “Forgiveness, Rescue, Restoration”



TWO MESSAGES IN ZEPHANIAH

2:7 the remnant will find pasture. God will care for them

3:9 God will purify the peoples, they will call on Him and serve Him

Zephaniah

3:12-13 A Remnant Impending Judgment
will be humble & truthful & Distant Hope

3:15 “The Lord has taken away your punishment, God is with you, never again will you fear any harm...”

3:17 “God saves you, delights in you, loves you, rejoices over you with singing...”

3:19-20 God rescues, gathers, honours, restores...

What can we learn from Zephaniah?



- 1. How I behave Towards the LORD GOD...**
- 2. How I relate towards PEOPLE in my life...**
- 3. How I look towards my INNER SELF...**

Zephaniah – Towards the LORD God

- **1:5-6 SYNCRETISM & IDOLATRY** – Am I trying to both serve the Lord and my idols? Am I slipping, turning away from following the Lord? Am I slow to seek Him?
- **1:7-10 & 14-18 THE DAY OF THE LORD** – Am I ready for the “Day of the LORD” when everything will come to an end and my life will be judged by Him?
- **2:3 MY HEART ATTITUDE** – Am I seeking the LORD with all my heart? Do I obey what He commands me to do? Do I do what is right, and do it with a humble attitude?

Zephaniah – Towards People in my life

- **2:8-10 PRIDE & ARROGANCE** – Am I storing up God's wrath because of my arrogance and pride towards people He has placed in my life?
- **3:1-3 MY RELATIONSHIPS** – Is my relationship with God marred by my stubbornness, my twisting of His words and my refusal to accept His correction? Are my human relationships marred because I oppress others, & am proud and hurtful towards those closest to me?
- **3:4-5 MY PERSONAL IDENTITY** – Is there a disconnect between who I say I am (prophet, priest, elder, leader) and the way I actually live towards God and people?

Zephaniah – Towards my Inner Self

- **3:12-13 FAITH & TRUTH** – Do I trust in the LORD wholeheartedly? Do I live in the truth with honesty and transparency before other human beings?
- **3:15 & 20 FORGIVENESS & SALVATION** – Has the LORD taken away my punishment and saved me? Has He gathered me back to Himself and brought me home?
- **3:16-17 LOVE & JOY** – Do I experience the LORD's delight? Am I quieted by His love? Does He rejoice over me with singing? Do I live in the joy of His delight?

**To Obey
is Better
Than
Sacrifice**

by
Keith
Green

1953 – 1982



What can we learn from Zephaniah?

TOWARDS THE LORD GOD:

- Will I serve the LORD God or my little petty idols?
- Am I ready for the coming of the “Day of the LORD”?
- Do I seek and obey the LORD with all my heart?

TOWARDS PEOPLE IN MY LIFE:

- Am I arrogant and proud towards people in my life?
- Are my relationships marred by my stubbornness?
- Do I claim to be a Christian but live out another identity?

TOWARDS MY INNER SELF:

- Do I live in the truth with honesty and transparency?
- Have I let God take away my punishment and save me?
- Do I experience the LORD’s love and delight in me?