

# Through the Bible

## Zephaniah

Mark Swift — 3/20/2024

- Who is Zephaniah
  - “son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah”
  - Given the lengthy genealogy to specifically link to a guy named “Hezekiah” he is a very likely to be a great, great grandson of king Hezekiah, although it isn’t definitive.
- When
  - during the reign of Josiah and probably during the early part (~640-630 BC) before Josiah’s reforms and before Assyria fell.
- Structure
  - The book of Zephaniah has three parts
    - Zephaniah 1:1-2:3 - The first is an introduction, and a double announcement of total judgement for Judah and Jerusalem including animals used as models for idols.
    - Zephaniah 2:4-3:8 - The second looks at the day of the Lord’s judgment on the other nations and Jerusalem once more.
      - Judah – call to repentance
      - Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Cush, Assyria – these nations will be destroyed and their lands turned into wasteland
      - Jerusalem’s refusal to repent
    - Zephaniah 3:9-20 - The third section explores the hope that remains for the nations and Jerusalem on the other side of judgment
      - Nations purified
      - Jerusalem purged
      - The restoration of the Remnant of Israel
      - Rejoicing in Jerusalem
      - The nation of Israel restored
    - Is the third section really applicable to ancient Judah?
- 8 Therefore wait for me,” declares the LORD, “for the day I will stand up to testify. I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them— all my fierce anger. The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger.
- 9 “Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, so that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him shoulder to shoulder.
- 10 From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring me offerings.
- 11 On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill.

- 12 But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the LORD.
- 13 They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid.”
- 14 Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!
- 15 The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.
- 16 On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.
- 17 The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”
- 18 “I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you.
- 19 At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame.
- 20 At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,” says the LORD..