

Zephaniah (Yahweh Hides)

Zephaniah was born during Mannasseh's reign.

The prophecy is given during Josiah's reign (640 – 609 BC). Zephaniah 1:1

Zephaniah traces his lineage back four generations to Hezekiah (1:1)

Josiah was 8 when he began to reign.

First reform of Josiah took place in the 12th year of his reign (628 BC).

2 Chronicles 34:3-7.

Second reform took place in the 18th year (622 BC). This was when the Book of the Law was found in the temple.

2 Chronicles 34:8 – 35:19

Zephaniah was probably written just before the first or second reform of Josiah.

Probable date c. 630 BC

Message of Zephaniah (3 chapters)

Chapter 1

Coming judgment on Judah

The Day of the Lord is near (1:14).

Day of the Lord's wrath (1:18)

Chapter 2

Call to seek the Lord (2:1-3)

Judgment on the nations surrounding Judah

Philistia (4-7) - West

Moab and Ammon (8-11) - East

Ethiopia (12) - South

Destruction of Assyria (2:13) - North

Assyria was defeated by Nebuchadnezzar at Carchemesh in 605 BC

Destruction of Nineveh (2:13)

Nineveh was destroyed in 612 BC

Chapter 3

The evil of Jerusalem

Prince's, judges, prophets, priests – pollute the land with injustice.

The justice of the Lord

Judgment on the nations

Worship from the nations

A remnant upholding the word of the Lord

Restoration of Zion