

- **Preexilic Prophet**
- **From Southern Kingdom**
- **Addresses Judah and surrounding nations**
- **11th Hour prophet predicts Captivity**
- **Contemporary of Isaiah and Habakkuk**
- **Has access to Palace and young King Josiah**

Key Facts About Zephaniah

- **Somebody: Only Prophet of noble blood**
- **A resident of Jerusalem (This place 1:4)**
- **May have lived in the Royal Palace**
- **Spoke Key Message: Day Of The Lord: 23x (Joel)**
- **Spoke during Josiah's reign: Last of "righteous kings"**
- **Longer than Nahum by 6 vs (53 vs 47)**

2 Key Prophecies Of Zephaniah

- **The fall of Judah** **1:4-6**
- **The Upcoming “Day of the Lord”** **1:14-16**



The Day Of The Lord

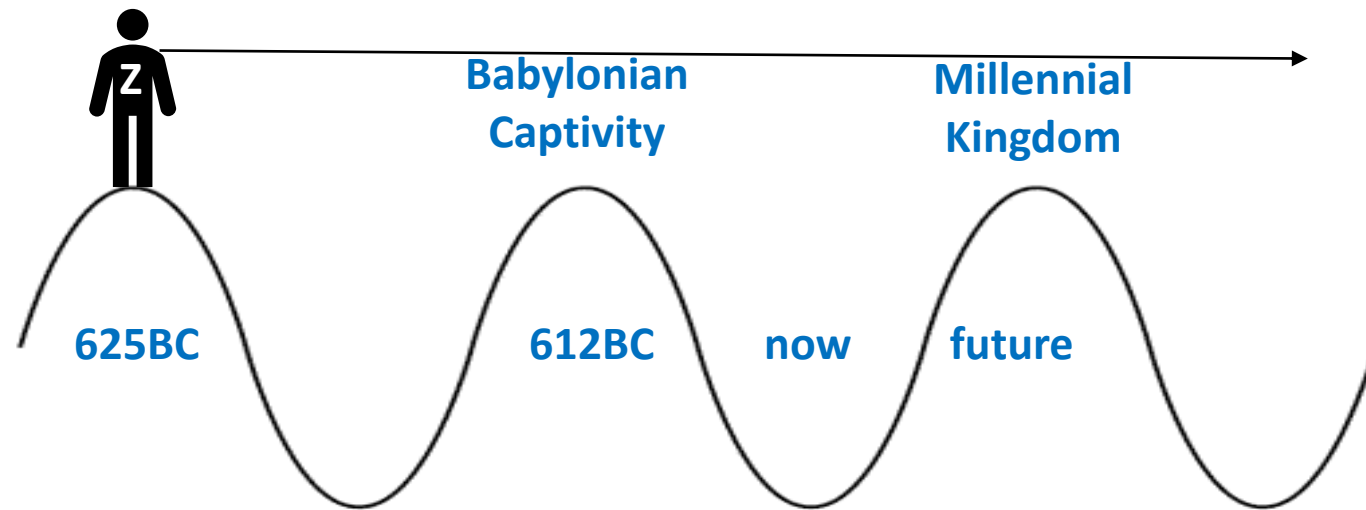
The Day of the Lord is a fierce and grim time of judgment of God upon sin. Desolation, darkness, and ruin will strike Judah and the nations because of the wrath of God upon sin. God will cleanse the nations and restore the fortunes of His people Israel. It is not a literal 24-hour period of time, but rather a season of judgment.

The Day Of The Lord...

- is universal (no escaping) Jerusalem and World
- is imminent
- is a day of terror and judgment upon sin
- will involve the nations of the world
- will have a remnant of God's people left over
- will bring both great judgment and blessing!

Prophetic Double Fulfillment

Like many prophecies in the Bible, there is with the Day of the Lord a double fulfillment. This is when a Prophet speaks to two realities at one time



Two-Fold Message of Zephaniah

- **Judgment of the Lord** **1:1-3:8**
Babylon and Last Times
- **Restoration of God's People** **3:9-20**
Return and Millennial Kingdom

Both of these messages are seen in light of Israel as a nation immediately and in the future Millennial Kingdom.

(Double Fulfillment)



Lesson #1 From Zephaniah For Today

One Person CAN Make A Difference

Zephaniah was the key spiritual influence in the life of young King Josiah.

**Small
Talk**

Lesson #2 From Zephaniah For Today

God's Work In Our World Is Often A Double Edged Sword

The Day Of The Lord in Zephaniah brings judgment to those nations opposing God and ultimately restoration to the nation of Israel.

**Small
Talk**

Lesson #3 From Zephaniah For Today

God Is With You In Times Of Judgment And Trial

Zeph 3:15 “The Lord is in your midst...!”

Remember Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego!

**Small
Talk**

Lesson #4 From Zephaniah For Today

God Delights In Blessing You!

Zeph 3:17 “He will rejoice over you with gladness, he will quiet you by his love, he will exult over you with loud singing!”

- Rejoice: to be happy, bright, cheerful
- Quiet: to rest in peace and quiet, silent love
- Exult: to celebrate with dancing and joy

**Small
Talk**

Lesson #5 From Zephaniah For Today

The final day of restoration for God people is still in the future.

Zeph 3:18-20

In the same way Israel has not yet received the fullness of their restoration, we have yet to receive the fullness of our salvation...yet we rest in the promise of God.

Past: Saved from Penalty of Sin

Present: Saved from the POWER of Sin

Future: Saved from the PRESENCE of Sin

**Small
Talk**

Lesson #6 From Zephaniah For Today

God's Promises Sometimes Take Years
(Generations) To Come To Fulfillment.

When Zephaniah prophesized...

- Jerusalem was still 20 years from destruction
- The Captivity was going to last 70 years
- Partial restoration took place at the end of Captivity...much remains for the Millennial Kingdom

**Small
Talk**

Today's Challenge

- **Are you willing to invest yourself in the children of our church like Zephaniah did with Josiah?**
 - **Are you able to look beyond the immediate impact on you to the big picture?**
 - **Are you able to believe God is with you?**
 - **Do you really believe God takes delight in you?**
 - **Are you willing to wait for the fulfillment of God's promises in your life?**
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