

A quill pen with a white shaft and a dark, pointed nib lies horizontally across a piece of aged, yellowed paper. The paper has a textured, fibrous appearance and some darker spots. The quill's feathers are dark and fan out to the right.

THE MAJOR
MESSAGE

OF THE MINOR
PROPHETS

Dr. Gregg Marutzky

Zephaniah: Revival

MAJOR
STUDIES

FROM THE

minor prophets

Dr. Gregg Marutzky

Zephaniah

Revival

Author & Background

- ✦ Zephaniah was a prophet for the Southern Kingdom of Judah around **630 BC** before the reforms of King Josiah that were made between 629-620 BC (**First Reform: 628 BC- 2 Chronicles 34:3-7; Second Reform: 622 BC-2 Chronicles 34:8-35:19**).
- ✦ Zephaniah's name means "**hidden by Yahweh**" which could refer to Zephaniah being hidden from the evil kings Manasseh and Amon. The book describes Zephaniah announcing the coming **judgment of God** upon the nations, Judah and Jerusalem.

The Book of Zephaniah

Focus	The Day of the Lord					
Divisions	God's Wrath on Judah		God's Woes on the Nations		God's Will for the Remnant	
	1	1	2	2	3	3
Topics	Judgment against Judah		Judgment Against the Nations		Judgment & Salvation for Judah	
	Judgment				Joy	
Place	Judah & the Nations					
Time	Between 641-612 B.C.					
Author	The Prophet Zephaniah					

Author & Background

- ✦ This pattern of announcing the coming “**Day of the Lord**” for universal judgment, national judgment and specific judgment towards Jerusalem occurred three times in the book: (1) Zephaniah 1:1-2:3; (2) Zephaniah 2:4-3:7; (3) Zephaniah 3:8-20.
- ✦ Josiah’s reforms came **too little too late** but held off the judgment of God for a time.
- ✦ Do not delay revival in your life since it can be too late with the arrival of the **Day of the Lord**.



Key Verse

Zephaniah 1:14-18 *"The great day of the LORD is near— near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. That day will be a day of wrath— a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness— a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers. "I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath." In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth."*

Key Verses

Zephaniah 2:3 *“Seek the **LORD**, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the **LORD**’s anger.”*

Zephaniah 3:17-20 *“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.” “I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. 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. 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.”*

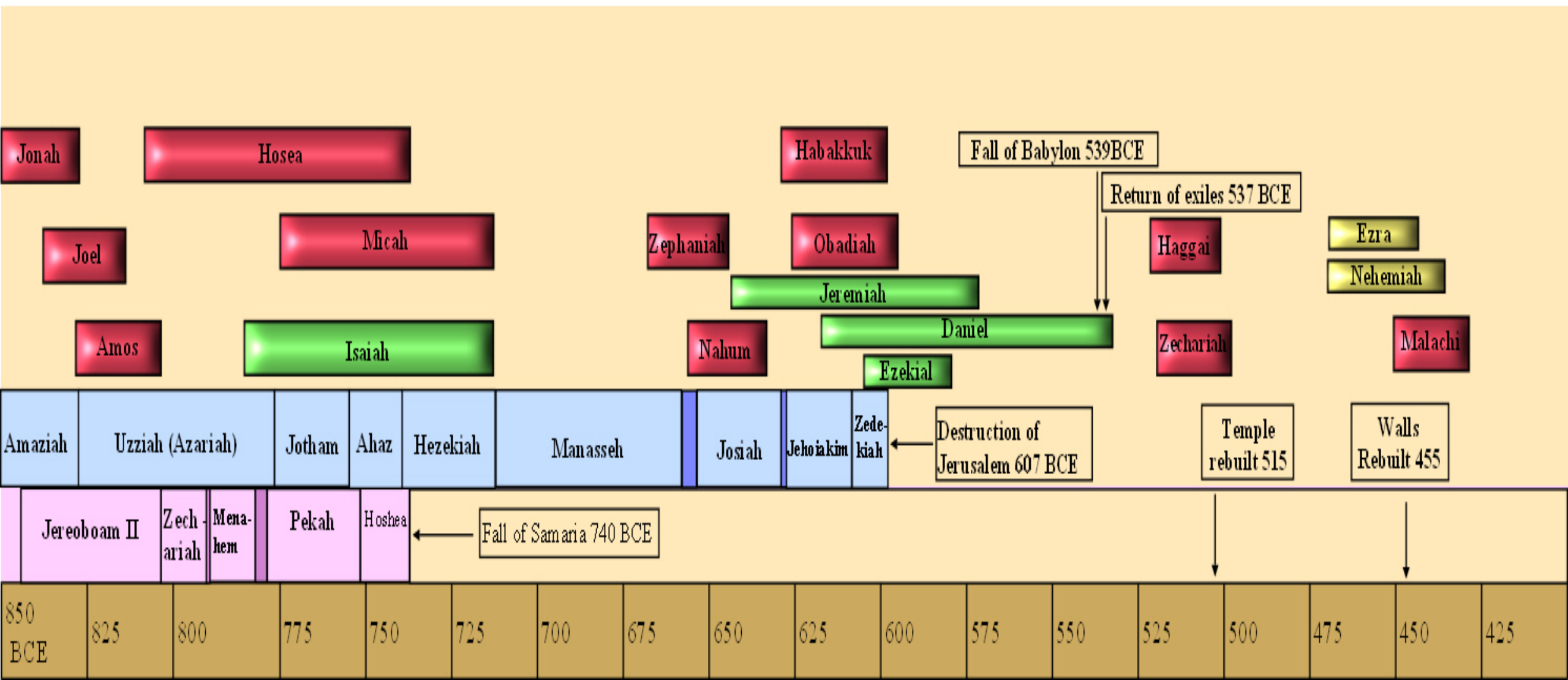


Zephaniah Outline

- ✦ **Zephaniah 1:1-18** The Great Day of the Lord
- ✦ **Zephaniah 2:1-15** Corporate Repentance
- ✦ **Zephaniah 3:1-20** Restoration from Revival

Timeline of the minor prophets

- 12 Prophets
 - Contemporary Prophets
 - Other Contemporaries
 - Kings of Judah*
 - Kings of Israel*
- *Kings who ruled more than two years



Zephaniah's Prophecy

Zephaniah 1:1 Zephaniah shares his genealogy back four generations to King Hezekiah. He was the only prophet of **royal descent** being the great-great-grandson of a righteous king.

(Vs. 2-3) Judgment Against Creation *"I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD.* God holds us accountable for how we live.

Idolatry

(Vs. 4) **Judgment Against Judah and Jerusalem** *“I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place, the very names of the idolatrous priests.”* Judgment came because of idolatry and the worship of false gods. **God is a jealous God!**

Be Silent Before the Lord

(Vs. 7) "Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near. The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited."

Silence demonstrates acceptance of the Sovereignty of God. The verse describes being reverent before God. Reverence is being in awe of God.



THE LORD YOUR GOD
IS WITH YOU
HE IS MIGHTY TO SAVE

*He will take great delight over you
He will quiet you with His love
He will rejoice over you with
singing*

ZEPHANIAH 3:17

Scoffers, Skeptics, Mockers

(Vs. 12) *“At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, ‘The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.’”* God walked through the city of Jerusalem with “light” searching for mockers and skeptics.

Judgment Day

(Vs. 18) The Great Day of the Lord *“Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD’s wrath.”* *“In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth .”*

Corporate Repentance

(Vs. 2:1-7) *“Gather together, gather yourselves together, you shameful nation, before the decree takes effect and that day passes like windblown chaff, before the LORD’s fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the LORD’s wrath comes upon you.”* Zephaniah pleaded with the people to repent before God’s judgment. (Vs. 2:3) *“Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD’s anger.”* Humility and righteousness are necessary in seeking the Lord. We must humble ourselves and confess our sins.

Remnant Theology

(Vs. 2:7) *“That land will belong to the remnant of the people of Judah; there they will find pasture. In the evening they will lie down in the houses of Ashkelon. The LORD their God will care for them; he will restore their fortunes.”* Remnant Theology is scattered throughout the minor prophets. God claims to always recognize the few faithful believers who are unwavering in their love for the Lord. Ashkelon was a coastal city that was destroyed and later rebuilt when the remnant returned from exile. (See also 2:9 *“The remnant of my people will plunder them; the survivors of my nation will inherit their land.”*)

Judgment Against the Nations

(Vs. 2:4) "Gaza will be abandoned, and Ashkelon left in ruins. At midday Ashdod will be emptied and Ekron uprooted." Philistia

(Vs. 2:8) "I have heard the insults of Moab and the taunts of the Ammonites, who insulted my people and made threats against their land." Moab and Ammon

(Vs. 12:13) "He will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, leaving Nineveh utterly desolate and dry as the desert." Assyria

Pride before Fall

(Vs. 2:20) *“This is the city of revelry that lived in safety. She said to herself, “I am the one! And there is none besides me. What a ruin she has become, a lair for wild beasts! All who pass by her scoff and shake their fists.”*
Nineveh thought it was impregnable but God humbles all.



Righteous Judgment

(Vs. 3:1-2) **Judgment on Jerusalem** *“Woe to the city of oppressors, rebellious and defiled! She obeys no one, she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD, she does not draw near to her God.”* **When correction is refused then discipline follows.**

(Vs. 3:5) *“The LORD within her is righteous; he does no wrong. Morning by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail, yet the unrighteous know no shame.”* **God is the Righteous Judge.**

God Will Not Be Mock!

(vs. 3:8) Judgment! *“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.”*
God will not be mocked.

A man with a long white beard and a dark hood is shown in profile, writing on a scroll. He is wearing a dark, textured robe. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light source from the left illuminating his face and the scroll. On the table in front of him are several other scrolls, a small wooden bowl, and a quill pen. The background is dark and indistinct.

Zephaniah ~
The Day of the Lord

Remnant Restoration

(Vs. 3:11-13) **Restoration of the Remnant** *“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. But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the LORD. 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.”* The kingdom of God gathers those who chose to be righteous and humble.

Corporate Repentance

- ✦ **Contrition** (Vs. 3:1-8) – Conviction and Godly Sorrow
- ✦ **Purification** (Vs. 3:9-13) – Confession and Repentance
- ✦ **Celebration** (Vs. 3:14-20) – Cleansing and Rejoicing

Lessons Learned

- ✦ **The Day of the Lord** is real and occurs when God intervenes.
- ✦ **God judges the nations** due to immorality, idolatry, and injustice.
- ✦ **God recognizes a remnant** of true believers who never give up their faith.
- ✦ **God promises restoration** and revival for his remnant of humble, meek followers.



Zephaniah

Impending Judgment
& Distant Hope