

**JOY COMES IN THE MORNING
ZEPHANIAH / 12-16-18 / PM**

I. WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT ZEPHANIAH?

- A. He is the first of three Minor Prophets who directed his message to Judah alone because the Northern Kingdom had already been destroyed.
- B. He is also the only prophet who traced his genealogy—1:1.
- C. His name means “Jehovah Hides” or “Protects”.
- D. He was the great- great grandson of King Hezekiah, a very good king as the kings went. This means that Zephaniah was a “royal”.
- E. His time of ministry was very narrow based on the reign of King Josiah (640 to 609 B. C.).
- F. Also, Zephaniah mentions the fall of Nineveh and that occurred in 612 B.C.

II. WHAT IS THE OUTLINE AND FOCUS OF ZEPHANIAH’S BOOK?

- A. Zephaniah wrote about three main subjects.
 - 1. First, there is God’s coming judgment on Judah—1:1-2:3.
 - 2. Second, there is God’s coming judgment on surrounding nations—2:4-15.
 - 3. Third, there is God’s judgment turned to joy for Judah—3:1-3:20.
- B. Zephaniah’s book was a source of comfort for Judah during her Babylonian Captivity—3:20.
- C. The prophecy of joy became a reality during the days of Zerubbabel, Ezra and Nehemiah
- D. Zephaniah talked about “The Day of Lord” in his book—1:7, 1:14.
 - 1. In one sense The Day of the Lord refers to some immediate judgment perhaps by an invasion by a neighboring nation.
 - 2. In another sense, The Day of the Lord refers to a future time of judgment—2 Peter 3:7.

III. LESSONS FROM ZEPHANIAH

- 1. Nations and people bring God’s judgment on themselves—1:14-17.
- 2. Complacency is a sin—1:12.
- 3. God’s judgment is sure—1:18.

4. God gives people time to repent—2:3; 2 Peter 3:9.
5. Wait for the Lord to judge the wicked and protect the righteous—3:8 & Ps. 27:14.