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


   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.

5. **Wait** for the Lord to judge the wicked and protect the righteous—3:8 & Ps. 27:14.