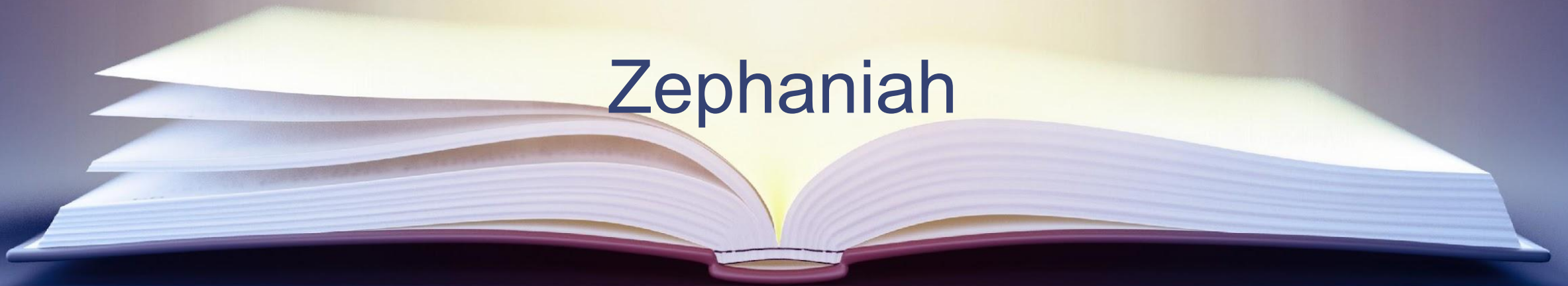


BIBLICAL

A STUDY THROUGH THE SCROLLS OF SCRIPTURE

REVIEW

Zephaniah



Ongoing theme of the Bible

- God is holy.
- He must call all nations and people to account.
- God is merciful.
- He will bless all who call upon Him.

Who was Zephaniah?

- Lineage listed
- Tsephan-yah=
“Yahweh hides’ or ‘Yahweh has hidden’

Who were Manasseh and Amon?

- Son and grandson of Hezekiah
- Over 50 years of negative influence
- Foreign influence of Baal, Asherah, Astral Cult
- 2 Kings 21:1-18

Manasseh-What a guy!

“He rebuilt pagan shrines....constructed altars for Baal and Asherah poles....he bowed before forces of heaven and worshiped them....He even built pagan altars in the Temple of the Lord....He even sacrificed his own son in the fire....he practiced sorcery and divination...”

An open book is shown at the bottom of the slide, with a yellow rectangular highlight box overlaid on its pages. The text within the box is "2 Kings 21:1-6".

2 Kings 21:1-6

Manasseh-What a guy!

“...the people refused to listen, and Manasseh led them to do even more evil than the pagan nations whom the Lord had destroyed when the Israelites entered the land.”

An open book is shown at the bottom of the slide, with a yellow rectangular highlight box overlaid on its pages. The text '2 Kings 21:9' is centered within this box.

2 Kings 21:9

Manasseh-What a guy!

“..Manasseh also murdered many innocent people until Jerusalem was filled from one end to the other with innocent blood...”

An open book is shown at the bottom of the slide, with its pages slightly curved. A yellow rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the book, containing the text '2 Kings 21:16'.

2 Kings 21:16

Date and Setting of the Book of Zephaniah

- During the reign of King Josiah (640-609 BC)
- Before the destruction of Nineveh (612 BC)
- Most likely prophecy occurred (630-625 BC)

Immediate effect of prophecy

- The sins listed out in Zephaniah predate Josiah's reforms so it is likely that Zephaniah's prophecy had some role in preparing for the reforms Josiah implemented.

Josiah did?---Zephaniah Proclaimed?

- Josiah destroyed ‘all pagan shrines, the Asherah poles, and carved idols and cast images....altars for the images of Baal and their incense altars were torn down....’ (2 Chronicles 34:3)
- Zephaniah said God ‘would crush Judah and Jerusalem and destroy every last trace of Baal worship.’ (1:4)

Josiah did?---Zephaniah Proclaimed?

- Josiah ‘burned the bones of pagan priests on their own altars and so purified Judah and Jerusalem.’ (2 Chronicles 34:5)
- Zephaniah proclaimed God would ‘put an end to all the idolatrous priests, so that even the memory of them will disappear.’ (1:4)

Josiah did?

- Josiah 'did the same thing in the towns of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, even as far as Naphtali...he destroyed pagan altars throughout the land...' (2 Chronicles 34:6-7)
- Josiah 'summoned all the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem' (34:29)

Heart to please God, Heart for people in his realm.

“And the king went up to the Temple of the Lord with all the people of Judah and Jerusalem and the priests and the Levites—all the people from the greatest to the least. The king read to them the entire Book of the Covenant that had been found in the temple. ”



2 Chronicles 34:30

Heart to please God, Heart for people in his realm.

“The king pledged to obey the Lord by keeping all His commands, regulations, and laws with all his heart and soul... he required everyone...to make a similar pledge...”



2 Chronicles 34:31

Ongoing theme demonstrated in Zephaniah

- God is holy.
- He must call all nations and people to account.

What kind of actions is Zephaniah calling out?

Ongoing theme demonstrated in Zephaniah

- God is holy.
- He must call all nations and people to account.

Wickedness, Baal worship, idolatry, worship of the heavens, murder, violence, deceit, & indifference.

Indifference

“I will search with lanterns in Jerusalem’s darkest corners to find and punish those who sit contented in their sins, indifferent to the Lord, thinking he will do nothing at all to them...”

An open book is shown at the bottom of the slide, with its pages slightly curved. A bright yellow rectangular box is positioned over the bottom center of the book, containing the text 'Zephaniah 1:12'.

Zephaniah 1:12

Ongoing theme demonstrated in Zephaniah

- God is holy.
- He must call all nations and people to account.

The day of the Lord is described as: terrible, swiftly coming, it makes strong men cry bitterly, it's a day of distress & anguish, ruin & desolation, darkness & gloom.

To escape being held to account, trust in what?

- God is holy.
- He must call all nations and people to account.

‘Your silver and gold will be of no use to you on that day of the Lord’s anger...’ (1:18)

What else will be of no use?

Ongoing theme of the Bible

- God is merciful.
- He will bless all who call upon Him.

Zephaniah encourages them to pray, beg, and humbly do what is right.

Call to Repentance

“..Gather together and pray...Act now...Beg the Lord to save you—all you who are humble, all you who uphold justice. Walk humbly and do what is right. Perhaps even yet the Lord will protect you from His anger on that day of destruction.”



Zephaniah 2:1-3

Day of the Lord

- Judgment
 - Sins of Men, Judah, & Nations (1:2-3), (1:4-18), (2:4-15)
- Salvation
 - Conversion & Restoration (3:9-13), (3:14-20)

Zephaniah's glimpse

“For the Lord your God has arrived to live among you. He is a mighty savior. He will rejoice over you with great gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will exult over you singing a happy song....”

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Zephaniah 3:17

What are we going to do with this advantage?

- Embrace the God of Judgment and Salvation.
- With the power available to me, remove barriers and distractions that will keep ones from a relationship with the Lord.

What are we going to do with this advantage?

- Celebrate that God will gather people of all nations to Himself.
- Walk humbly and do what is right.