Interesting Facts About Zephaniah

MEANING: “Yahweh Hides.”
AUTHOR: Zephaniah
TIME WRITTEN: Between 640 and 612 B.C.
POSITION IN THE BIBLE:
• 36th Book in the Bible
• 36th Book in the Old Testament
• 14th of 17 books of Prophecy (Isaiah - Malachi)
• 9th of 12 minor prophets (Hosea - Malachi)
• 30 Books to follow it.

CHAPTERS: 3
VERSES: 56
WORDS: 1,476

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT ZEPHANIAH:

■ Zephaniah was:
  • Born during the later part of the reign of King Manasseh.
  • The great-great grandson of the godly king Hezekiah.
  • The only prophet of royal descent.

■ Zephaniah was a contemporary of:
  • Jeremiah
  • Habakkuk

■ Zephaniah was indeed an “11th hour” prophet to Judah.

■ Josiah:
  • Became the King of Judah at age 8
  • By age 16 his heart had already begun to turn toward God.

■ Josiah’s two sets of reform:
  • 1st reform occurred during the first year of his reign in 628 B.C.
    - Tore down all the altars of Baal.
    - Destroyed the foreign incense altars.
    - Burned the bones of the false prophets on their altars.
    - Broke the carved images and molten images in pieces.

  • 2nd reform six years later in 622 B.C. having been kindled when Hilkiah the priest found the book of the law in the Temple (2 Chronicles 34:8-35:19).

■ Zephaniah pronounces God’s coming judgment upon the nations that surround Judah.
  • To the west: Philistia
  • To the east: Moab and Ammon
  • To the south: Ethiopia
  • To the north: Assyria

■ Jerusalem is characterized by:
  • Spiritual rebellion
  • Moral treachery

■ The Book of Zephaniah:
  • Opens with:
    - Idolatry
    - Wrath
    - Judgment
  • Closes with:
    - True worship
    - Rejoicing
    - Blessing

“Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility.”
Habakkuk 2:20