

ZEPHANIAH: [\(print this article\)](#)

By : [Emil G. Hirsch](#) [Ira Maurice Price](#)

One of the twelve Minor Prophets who describes himself as "the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah, the son of Amon, King of Judah" (Zeph. i. 1). He seems, therefore, to have been a descendant of Hezekiah, King of Judah, since otherwise only the name of his father would have been given (comp. Isa. i. 1; Ezek. i. 3; Joel i. 1). If he was of royal descent, he probably lived in Jerusalem; and evidence of this is seen in his prophecies, where he describes various parts of the city. According to the first verse of the book which bears his name, he flourished during the reign of Josiah, and on the basis of his utterances the majority of modern scholars date his activity prior to the reforms so rigorously inaugurated and promulgated after 621, the pictures of corruption and the approaching foe being most appropriately referred to the situation in Judah during the early years of Josiah and the Scythian invasion.

The contents of the book of this prophet fall into two parts: i. 1-iii. 8, the coming judgment on the world, including Israel and the nations; and iii. 9-20, a promise of universal salvation. Zephaniah's special denunciations are directed against false worship and irreligion. The calamity will find every one, even in the hiding-places of Jerusalem; Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Cush, and Assyria shall be overwhelmed by punishment and disaster; Jerusalem in particular, being rebellious, corrupt, and disobedient to the word of Yhwh, shall fall under the divine wrath. Yet, on the other hand, God's promise is made known to the nations, that He will so purify them that they may call on Him, and all shall bring Him offerings. After the storm of judgment Israel shall be humble, and shall trust in Yhwh alone. New social conditions shall arise, and justice and righteousness shall prevail, so that the redeemed shall rejoice in the Lord.

Zephaniah is a forceful book. Its language is vigorous and picturesque, and betrays an acquaintance with the Earlier Prophets. The ideas most emphasized are the providential control of the nations of the world, the necessity of purity and justice as opposed to the prevalent corruption and injustice of the day, and the refining value of judgment and suffering.

Bibliography: Davidson, *Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah*, in *The Cambridge Bible for Schools*, 1896;
Nowack, *Die Kleinen Propheten*, in *Handkommentar zum Alten Testament*, 1897;
Smith, *The Book of the Twelve Prophets*, ii., in *The Expositor's Bible*, 1898.E. G. H. I. M. P.

This article is Rated: 2.66

Please rate this article: **Poor** 1 2 3 4 5 **Excellent**

[Most Popular](#)

[Recently Visited](#)

[Highest Rated](#)

[Bible/World History Chart](#)

World's Entire History in one view.
Bible Prophets organized in time.
www.mybibletimeline.com

[Free Messianic Bible](#)

If you love Israel & Jewish People
Reserve your Free Bible Today!
www.MessianicBible.com

[Learn Biblical Hebrew](#)

Online Biblical Hebrew lessons.
Understand the Bible completely.
www.ClassicalHebrew.com

Ads by Google

Original Pages



(1)

Images

no images available

Discussion Forum

- This article has (1) message posts.
[click here to view.](#)

[add](#)

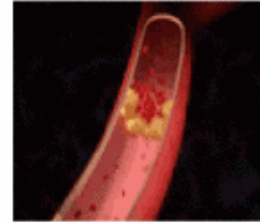
[Earn a Bible Degree](#)

Study The Bible Online. Earn a Degree Today. Request Free Info!
www.eLearners.com/Bible

[Free Messianic Bible](#)

If you love Israel & Jewish People
Reserve your Free Bible Today!
www.MessianicBible.com

Ads by Google



[Say Goodbye to Blood Pressure Drugs](#)

Natural discovery drops high blood pressure as much as 60 points.



[Hugh Downs Reports:](#)

Artery clearing breakthrough from Nobel Prize winner

Bottom Line
BOOKS

www.bottomlinesecrets.com
Ads by Google

Conceived, created, and funded by
The Kopelman Foundation

search powered by
THUNDERSTONE
Document Retrieval & Management

Copyright 2002 JewishEncyclopedia.com. All rights reserved. • [Privacy](#) • [Terms of Use](#) • [Contact](#)