

Note: Keil believes that Zephaniah prophesied after the completion of the repairs of the temple and the celebration of the passover in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, i.e., about 620 B.C. (cf. 2 Chron. 34:8). His basis for this is that Zephaniah presupposes the maintenance of the temple-worship, and that would not be possible until all idolatrous practices had been removed from the temple court, and that didn't occur until the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign (cf. 2 Chron. 34:8 and 2 Kings 23:24). On this basis he concludes that since Zephaniah presupposes the maintenance of the temple-worship and that worship couldn't be maintained until the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, that Zephaniah didn't prophesy until that time and in all probability not until after the completion of the repairs of the temple and the celebration of the passover that year.

V. Exposition of Zephaniah

A. Heading of the Book (Zeph. 1:1)

The heading assigns the prophecy in this book to Zephaniah.

1. His genealogy

Zephaniah's genealogy goes back to King Hezekiah which makes him Hezekiah's great, great grandson.

2. His prophecy

a. Its source

It came from the Lord.

b. Its date

It was given "the days of Josiah, the son of Amon, King of Judah, i.e., sometime between 638 B.C. and 608 B.C.

B. Announcement of the Lord that judgment will come upon the whole earth (Zeph. 1:2,3)

1. Objects of the Judgment (Zeph. 1:2,3a,6c).

Everything on the earth (Zeph. 1:2) This includes:

a. Man (Zeph. 1:3a)

b. Beasts - animals that move upon the ground (Zeph. 1:3a).

c. Birds of the air (Zeph. 1:3b)

d. Fish of the sea (Zeph. 1:3c)

2. Results of the Judgment (Zeph. 1:3d)

a. All idolatrous images and objects used in coarser and more refined idolatry will be destroyed (Zeph. 1:3d)