

A SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Zephaniah

"God hides His people in the day of anger."

Title & Author:

- Zephaniah
 - May mean, "the _____ hides."
 - Zephaniah 2:3, "Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger."
- Summary: "The LORD will send judgment on the nation of _____, but some may be delivered."
- Zephaniah
 - He was the great-great grandson of King _____ (1:1).
 - Related to the reigning king – Josiah.

Date: Approximately _____ BC

- During the reign of _____, 640-609 BC
- Josiah tore down Baal's altars in 628 BC.
- Zephaniah probably prophesied in the early part of Josiah's reign.
 - Before the book of the Law was _____ (2 Kings 22:10-20).
 - Before Josiah tore down Baal's altar (2 Kings 23:4-6,10, 13-14, 20, 24-27).

Background:

- _____ was so evil that God could no longer have mercy on the southern kingdom (2 Chron. 33:1-9).
- Although he did repent in the end (2 Chron. 33:18-20), the nation was _____.
- But his son followed his wicked ways (2 Chron. 33:21-24).
- Josiah became king after these two died (2 Chron. 33:25).

Overview:

- Personal Introduction (1:1)
- Total _____ is Coming (1:2-18).
 - All things will be consumed (1:2).
 - Even Judah will be destroyed (1:4).
 - The wicked in Jerusalem will be searched out (1:12).
 - The "Day of the LORD" will come soon (1:14).
 - _____ will be useless (1:18).
- Possible deliverance (2:1-3)
- Destruction of the surrounding nations (2:4-15)
 - The Philistines (2:4-7)
 - The Moabites and Ammonites (2:8-11)
 - The Ethiopians (2:12)
 - The _____ (2:13-15)
- Woe to the holy city! (3:1-6)
 - The governmental leaders were corrupted (3:3).
 - The _____ leaders were corrupted (3:4).
- The restoration of God's people (3:7-20)
 - All the _____ will be gathered and judged (3:8).
 - The remnant will be holy (3:13).
 - The LORD God will be in the midst of them (3:17).
 - The captivity will be ended (3:20).

Key People:

- Manasseh – the wicked king who led Judah into deep sin
- _____ – the wicked king who was killed in a coup
- Josiah – the righteous king who repented
- Zephaniah – the prophet who ministered during Josiah's reign

Setting: _____

- The current home of Israel's king Josiah.
- The location of the temple that Manasseh had corrupted (2 Chron. 33:4-5).
- The future residence the LORD God's _____.

Christ in Zephaniah:

- Christ is the one who will _____ in Jerusalem.
 - He will gather all the nations (3:8).
 - Then He will destroy them (3:8).
 - But He will make Jerusalem a name to be praised throughout all the earth(3:20).
 - These events parallel the ones described as the Battle of _____ in the New Testament (Rev 16:14-16; 19:11-15).

Key Doctrine:

- The Day of the LORD
 - This phrase occurs several times in the book.
 - It refers to the destruction of Jerusalem that was coming (1:14).
 - A closely related phrase, "the Day that I rise up to the prey," refers God's final day of judgment on all the nations at Armageddon (3:8, 11).

Challenges to Zephaniah:

- Has the " _____ " occurred or is it still in the future?
 - This prophecy was partially fulfilled when _____ destroyed Jerusalem.
 - But it's full completion will not take place until the end times, which are still in the future.

Application: Let's make sure we trust in God so we are prepared for the Day of the LORD when it comes.