

The Minor Prophets “The Twelve”

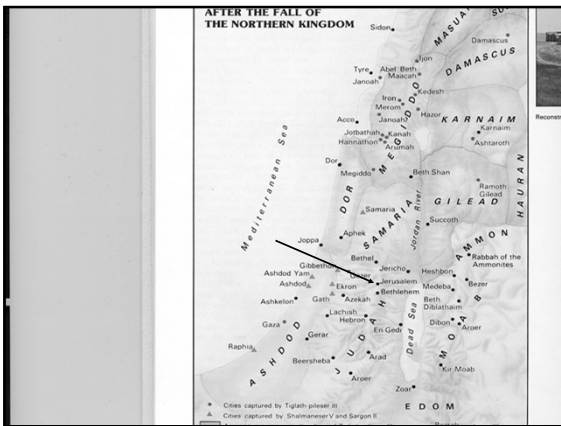
<p>Hosea</p> <p>Joel</p> <p>Amos</p> <p>Obadiah</p> <p>Jonah</p> <p>Micah</p>	<p>Nahum</p> <p>Habakkuk</p> <p>Zephaniah</p> <p>Haggai</p> <p>Zechariah</p> <p>Malachi</p>
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Prophetic Ministry: 800 – 430 B.C.

Zephaniah

Historical Setting:

- **Date:** approx. 630 B.C. (w/ Jeremiah)
 - During the early days of King Josiah (prior to his reforms); preceded by nearly 60 yrs. of great idolatry under Manasseh and Amon
- **Audience:** Judah and Jerusalem



Zephaniah

“A Shelter in the Day of Wrath”

Message:

- **“Day of the Lord”** – catastrophic judgment is coming on Judah and the whole world
- **A Shelter:** there is the possibility of being **“hidden”** on that day (2:3)
 - **“Zephan-iah”** = **“hidden by Yahweh”**
- **A Remnant:** those who take **“refuge”** in the Lord have a glorious future

“The Day of the Lord”

1. What is Coming?

- Catastrophic judgment of the world
- **“Day of Yahweh”** – any period of time in which the Lord profoundly intervenes in the affairs of men, either for judgment or blessing
 - Destruction of Jerusalem (1:7-13)
 - Judgment of all the earth (1:8-18); including all the nations that surround Judah (2:4-15)
 - A day of wrath, desolation, and terror – mercy is absent

“The Day of the Lord”

2. Why is it Coming?

- An arrogant refusal to worship the true God

Romans 1:18, 21, 25

“The wrath of God is revealed from heaven all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...

for even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks;...

for they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.”

“The Day of the Lord”

2. Why is it Coming?

➤ **An arrogant refusal to worship the true God**

(a). Idolatry (1:4-6)

- God demands exclusive devotion

(b). Self-Reliance (3:1-2; 1:12)

- callous indifference toward the Lord
- pursuit of money

** these two forms are complementary*

“The Day of the Lord”

3. How to Escape?

➤ **Humbly “seek” the Lord**

- “seek” – ongoing pursuit of God to know Him and live for Him
- inseparable from seeking righteousness and humility
- These will be “hidden by God” in the day of judgment