

Zephaniah Outline

Introduction: Zephaniah writes in the South at a time early in the reign of King Josiah (640-609 BCE) before Josiah's reforms. Like his more famous elder, Isaiah, Zephaniah rails against the lack of justice and the poor leadership from the priests, judges, and prophets.

Perhaps most interesting for our own day is Zephaniah's indictment against Nineveh that it was an essentially modern city- a city focused entirely upon itself and full of people focused entirely upon themselves. This is a strong word of warning against any rich and powerful people tempted to ignore the world around them.

Chapter 1: God will sweep away; day of the Lord near

Chapter 2: Gather together while all are being scattered; the proud will be put down- the city Who says "I am, and there is no one else."

Chapter 3: The leaders have failed; there is no justice; in the moment of destruction God will About a new and better day; the lame will be saved and the outcast gathered in

Texts to know: God will sweep away (1:1-6); Criticism of self-centeredness and lack of justice (2:15-3:5); the hope (3:9-20)