

# Zephaniah 1:1-2:3

## The Great Day of the Lord is Near

### Todays Text - Zephaniah 1:1-2:3

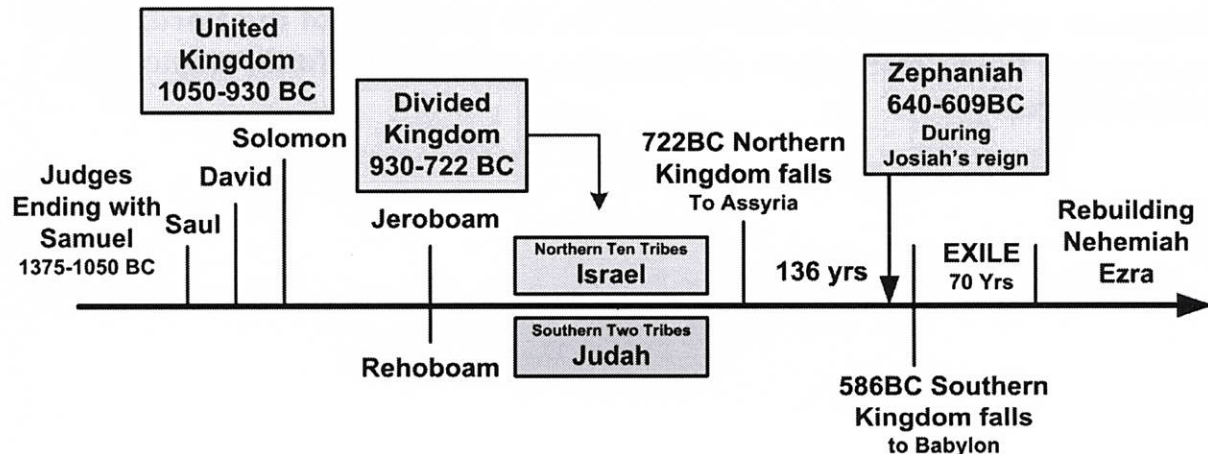
- v-1:1-3 – **The Word of the Lord**
- v-1:4-13 – **The Judgment of the Lord**
- v-1:14-18 – **The Day of the Lord**
- v-2:1-3 – **The Safety of the Lord**

### ZEPHANIAH: A Teaching Outline

I.	The Judgment In the Day of the Lord	1:1—3:8
	A. The Judgment on the Whole Earth	1:1-3
	B. The Judgment on the Nation of Judah	1:4—2:3
	1. Causes of the Judgment	1:4-13
	2. Description of the Judgment	1:14-18
	3. Call to Repentance	2:1-3
	C. The Judgment on the Nations Surrounding Judah	2:4-15
	1. Judgment against Gaza (West)	2:4-7
	2. Judgment against Moab and Ammon (East)	2:8-11
	3. Judgment against Ethiopia (South)	2:12
	4. Judgment against Assyria (North)	2:13-15
	D. The Judgment on Jerusalem	3:1-7
	1. Jerusalem's Wickedness	3:1-4
	2. The Lord's Justice	3:5-7
	E. The Judgment on the Whole Earth	3:8
II.	The Salvation in the Day of the Lord	3:9-20
	A. The Promise of Conversion	3:9-13
	B. The Promise of Restoration	3:14-20

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### Israel-Judah History Timeline



## **Theme and Purpose**

The theme of **Zephaniah** more than any other prophet is the **Day of the Lord**. The prophecy is spoken **not** only to the **nation of Judah** and the city of Jerusalem, but its judgments **foreshadow** or **prefigure** the **global judgment** of God on the whole world at the end of this present world as we know it. This approaching Day has **two outcomes**; one of **judgment and destruction** for those who continue in their **sin** against **God**, and one of **blessing and joy** for those who **look to Him for salvation** from **sin**. God will be **glorified in salvation** and He will do it in a world of judgment. The great **Day of the Lord** is **near** and coming soon so **humble yourself** before the Lord's mighty hand that you may be **saved** from the **Day** of His fierce wrath and judgment on a **proud** and **sinful world** of **sinner**s and brought into His joyful presence forever.

In Zephaniah we hear a **very urgent warning** from God about His approaching judgment of not only Judah, but the **whole world**, including **all mankind**. Here the **scope** of God's **judgment** is brought into clear focus by statements showing a **global judgment** upon the all **humanity** on the face of the **whole earth** (1:3, 1:18, 3:8). As always with the prophets, there is an **offer** of **mercy** to those who will **humble themselves** and **seek the Lord** (2:1-3), and there are some of the most **vivid promises** of the **blessing** of God's presence in all of the Bible (3:9-20). Not only will He restore the fortunes of Israel and Judah, but a day is spoken of when God will save a remnant from all the nations whom He will give purified lips that all may **call upon His name** in a restored world of **pure worship** and **joy**. In it we see the **majesty** and **fearful judgment** of the **great God** of **Heaven** ridding His world of evil and restoring it to a place of peace and prosperity forever.

You see this is the great lesson we learn from the prophet Zephaniah. God is a **God of Judgment** as well as a **God of Promise**. On the great **Day of the Lord**, God is going to **purge the faithless** from all humanity **and** bring the **faithful** into their **full inheritance**.