

LESSON NINE

Zephaniah 635-625 B.C.

Introduction (Ryrie)

- Zephaniah means “the Lord **Hides**.”
- Zephaniah’s long genealogy given in 1:1 shows his nobility.
- Zephaniah prophesied prior to and during the time of “good” **King Josiah** in 621 B.C.
- Josiah ended the last of Godly kings in Judah (2 Chronicles 34:3).

Kings of Judah	Bible	Good/Bad	Kings of Israel	Bible	All Bad	General Chronological Line-up of Prophets to Kings																																																																				
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Ahaziah	2 Kings 8-9	BAD	Jehu	2 Kings 3-9	BAD																																																																					
Athaliah	2 Kings 11	BAD	Jehoahaz	2 Kings 9-10	BAD																																																																					
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Manasseh	2 Kings 21	BAD	Assyrian Captivity - No return																																																																							
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Followed by 400 "Silent Years" between the OT & NT, then the life of Christ & Apostles, followed by the destruction of Jerusalem, the temple, and organized nation in 70 A.D.																																																																										

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/9499849198101764/>

- Judah **lost** the Law of God prior to King Josiah.

- After finding and reading the Law, King Josiah ordered the people to destroy all symbols and acts of idolatry (2 Chronicles 34:14).
- **Judgment** is the key theme in Zephaniah.
- Zephaniah refers to the “Day of the Lord,” which can mean:
 - Imminent judgment during a contemporary time
 - Imminent judgment during a **near** or distant future
 - Eschatological Judgment during the End Times.
- The immediate and final judgment that occurred was the destruction of **Jerusalem** by King Nebuchadnezzar (586 B.C.).
- Zephaniah ends with a glorious description of the Millennium.

Chapters 1-3:8-Judgments

- Zephaniah prophesied during the time of Jeremiah and Habakkuk.

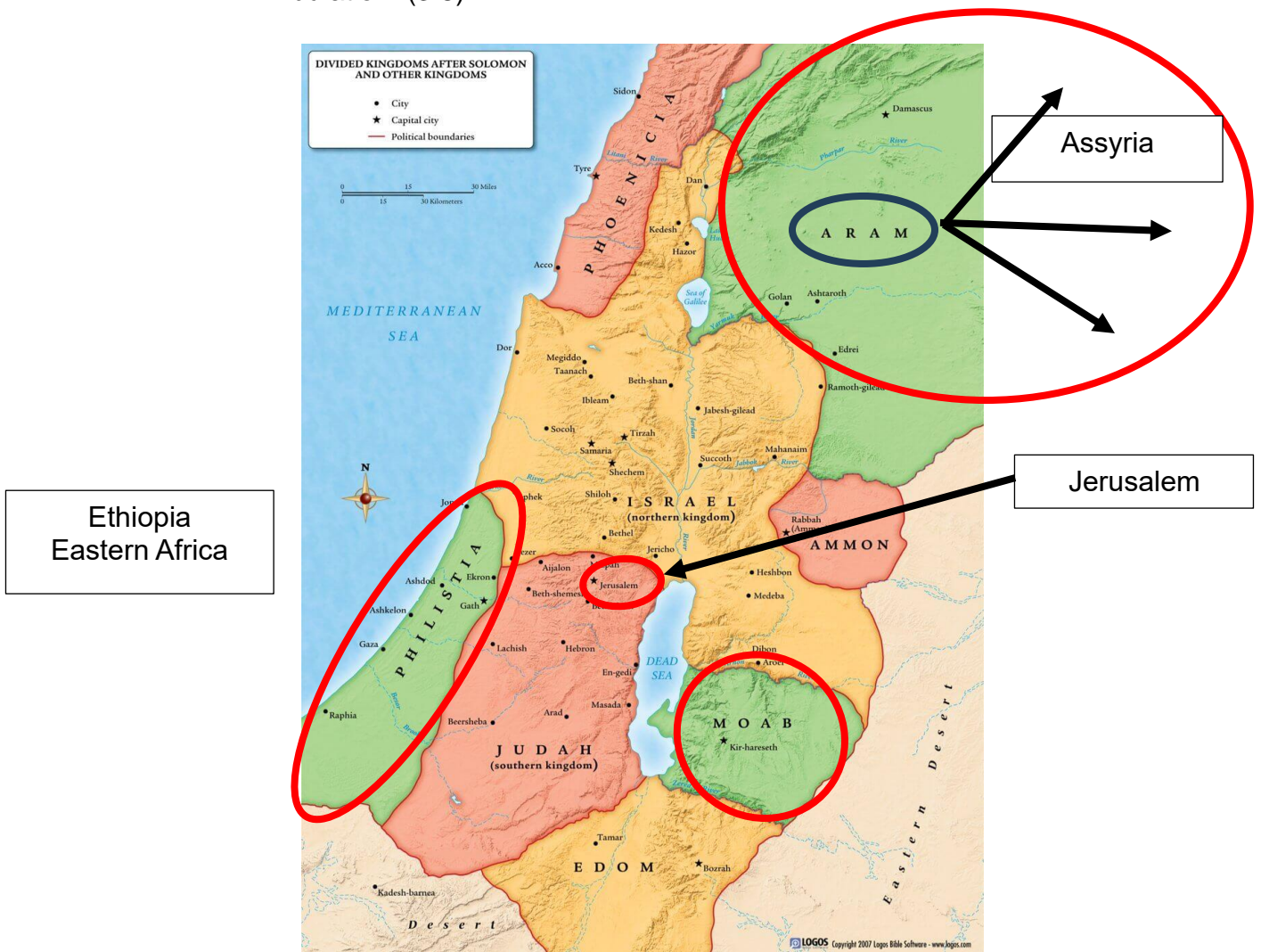
Chronology Of The Prophets

	To Israel	To Judah	To Foreign Nations
Assyrian Age	Amos (c. 763-750 B.C.) Hosea (c. 755-715 B.C.)	Isaiah (c. 740-770 B.C.) Micah (c. 737-690 B.C.)	Jonah (c. 770-750 B.C.)
Babylonian Age		Habakkuk (c. 630-605 B.C.) Zephaniah (c. 640-609 B.C.) Jeremiah (c. 627-580 B.C.) Daniel (c. 605-530 B.C.) Ezekiel (c. 593-570 B.C.)	Nahum (c. 663-615 B.C.)
Persian Age		Haggai (520 B.C.) Zechariah (c. 520-518 B.C.) Joel (c. 800-500 B.C.) Malachi (c. 433 B.C.)	Obadiah (c. 586-553 B.C.)

(c) *Archeological Study Bible*, p. 1483

<https://www.pinterest.com.mx/pin/406027722635672269/>

- These prophets told of Jerusalem’s destruction (1:4, 7, 12, and 14).
- Judah sinned without **shame** (2:1-3).
- Zephaniah prophesied against:
 - Philistia (2:4-7)
 - **Moab** and Ammon (sons of Lot) 2:8-11
 - Ethiopia (2:12)
 - Assyria (2:13-15)
 - Jerusalem (3:1-7)
 - God’s judgment will fall upon **all** these nations by the end of the Great Tribulation. (3:8).



<https://www.understandchristianity.com/timelines/chronology-old-testament-kings/>

Chapter 3:9-20-Prophecies of Blessings toward Israel

- Zephaniah tells of Israel's future blessings during the Millennium.
- During the Millennium, those living in Jerusalem will feel **no shame**. They will live righteously (3:11).
- "**In that day**" refers to the millennial period (3:16).
- "**At that time**" also refers to the millennial period (3:20).

Summary

- Israel had moved far from God.
- Israel showed no shame for their sinful behavior.
- Sin mirrors a slow-growing disease. It weakens and destroys without warning.
- Sin will slowly destroy our relationship with God.
- Ask God each day for cleansing and guidance to keep a close relationship with Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson Nine

1. The book of Zephaniah refers to the Day of the Lord.
 - A. Explain the three aspects of the Day of the Lord.
 - B. Can you give examples in the Bible that characterized the Day of the Lord?
 - C. Might we see signs today concerning the Day of the Lord? Explain.

2. List the Countries that Zephaniah prophesied against.
 - A. Was Zephaniah's life in danger when he prophesied against these powerful countries?
 - B. What gave Zephaniah the courage to prophesy?
 - C. What lesson might we learn from Zephaniah?

3. Even though God destined Judah for destruction, He still gave them encouragement about the future.
 - A. Explain Judah's spiritual condition during Zephaniah's lifetime?
 - B. Was it hard for Zephaniah to bring judgment upon Judah?
 - C. Have you ever found it difficult to preach God's word? Explain.