

JOSIAH

The boy king



- Zephaniah prophesied in the late 1/3rd of the 7th century B.C., during Josiah's reign
- Northern Kingdom had been gone for 90 -100 years
- Judah all that remained of Israel
- As Josiah grew older, he began religious reforms
- Zephaniah wrote his prophecy over a period of years, as was typical for most Prophets



CHAPTER 1

Prophet Zephaniah

THE VISION OF GOD'S WRATH UPON
THE EARTH

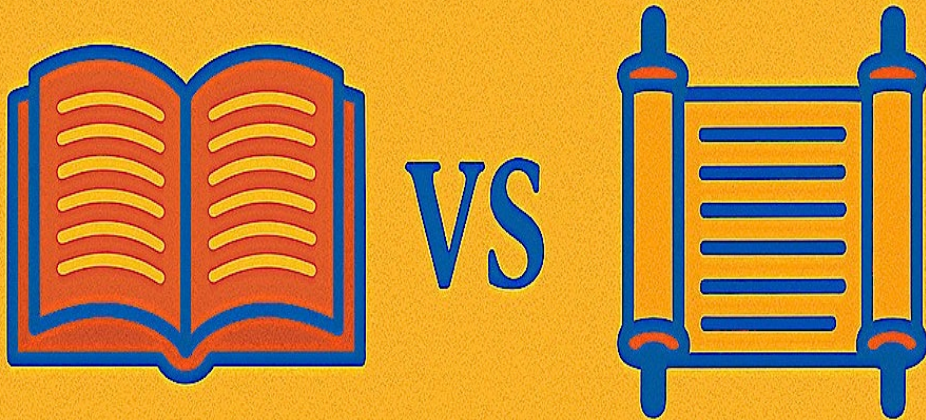
- God's wrath would apply to Judah as with the world
- But, Judah would also be differentiated from the world
- Vss. 1 – 3 Even those of the Kingdom of God will not be spared
- In the End Times, Believers are not immune from the coming universal tribulation

TRIBULATION VS. WRATH

ARE THEY THE *SAME*?

- In the Bible, “tribulation” is a common noun
- The Church has added “the” before it to create a proper noun (a named event)
- The Greek “*ton*” (the) is NOT there
- Tribulation is the result of man’s evil against men
- Wrath is God directed and can reach the cosmic level
- We see a progression of tribulation to wrath in Zephaniah

SEPTUAGINT



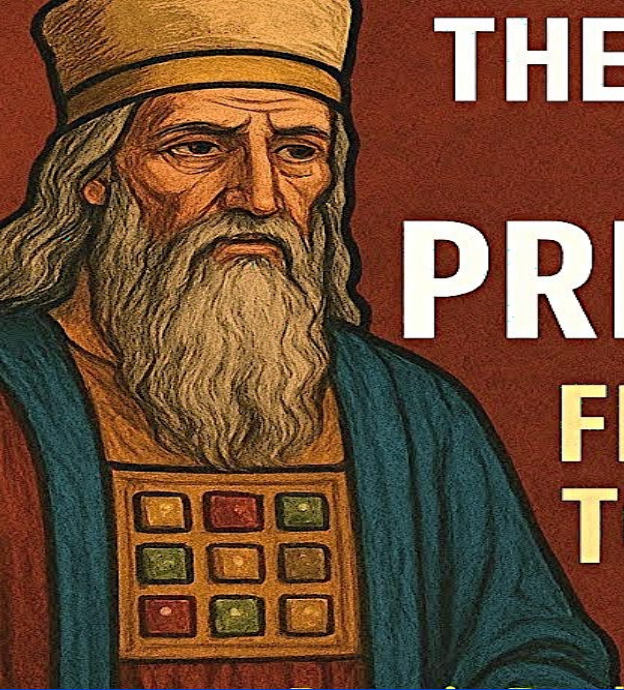
MASORETIC TEXT

- We have proof that the Hebrew used for the MT was the same as used as the main Bible in the 2nd century B.C.
- LXX (Old Greek) was created in the 3rd century B.C. in Alexandria, Egypt
- All translations are by nature, redactions
- Dating Bible books is problematic, proof is impossible
- The possible range for Zephaniah is narrow

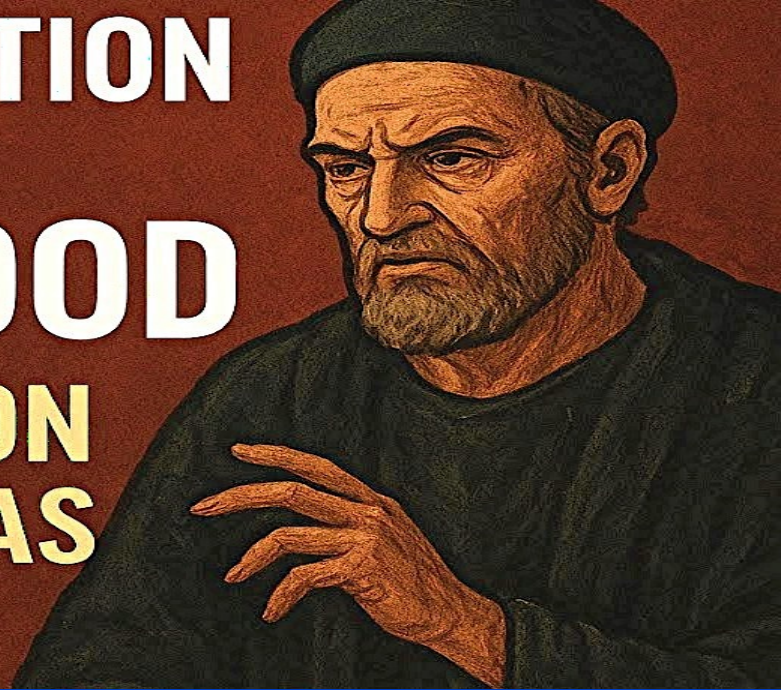
**WHY BIBLE TRANSLATORS REPLACE
GOD'S NAME WITH "THE LORD".**

**AND WHY IT
DOESN'T MAKE A
LICK OF SENSE.**

- Vss. 4, 5 & 6 need to be read together
- Why do the Prophets and others use God's name so much? Over 6000 times in the Bible.
- NOT using it is a violation of the 3rd Commandment!
- A god can ONLY be known by His name and attributes; replacing it with "lord" obscures which god
- Baal also means "Lord" in English



THE CORRUPTION OF THE PRIESTHOOD FROM AARON TO CAIAPHAS



- Vs. 4 When God “stretches out His hand (or arm) He is stretching out His authority
- His target is Judah and Jerusalem, with a goal to wipe out every vestige of Baal worship
- Shem = name, memory, reference to, manifestation
- The Levite priests integrated Baal worship with God’s Word
- These priests’ names will be eliminated, meaning their family blood-lines

STAR WORSHIP



- Vs. 5 Not referring to Gods hosts of angels
- Flat roofs were the norm for homes
- Deuteronomy 4:19 Jeremiah 8:1 – 2
- To “swear by YHWH” means to declare allegiance
- **Shachah** = bowing (not worshipping)
- 2 classes of worshippers addressed: 1) star worshippers and 2) those who had a hybrid worship

THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES FROM TURNING AWAY FROM GOD

A person in a dark suit stands on a road that splits into two paths. The left path is dark and stormy, with a large black cloud and lightning bolts. The right path is bright and sunny, with a yellow glow. The background is a blue sky with white clouds.

- Vs. 6, a 3rd class of worshippers
- Christianity says there is no such thing as a Christian who worshipped, then renounced, Yeshua
- Nothing we can do, including walking away from God, can change our saving relationship, says the Church
- Walking in His ways goes beyond claimed allegiance
- It means obedience

BE SILENT WHEN GOD APPEARS

- Vs. 7 An outburst of praise from Zephaniah
- The Day of YHWH, ought to be a day of silence
- When Messiah returns, no one will have words
- Day of YHWH = Day of Judgment = Judgment Day
- Other Judgment days in the past; End Times one will be wider in scope and destructive power
- Matthew 24:15 - 22



THE SACRIFICE OF JUDAH



- The nations are invited to come and partake of the “sacrifice” of Judah
- **Zebach** = sacrifice
- Judah to be a sacrifice like Egypt was a sacrifice
- Vss. 8 – 11 a unit that says every rank and social status will have to deal with God’s judgment
- Zephaniah 1:8
- These are sons of Judean kings and Israel’s leaders
- Josiah’s sons ruled like Manasseh... wicked

PEOPLE ON EVERY LEVEL TO BE AFFECTED

- Those wearing foreign clothes, the rich who identify with pagan nations and their gods
- Vs. 9 Speaking of thieves who break into homes... criminals
- Vs. 10 Fish Gate is the Damascus Gate, 2nd Quarter is Huldah Gate, hills are the lower parts of Mt. Moriah
- Means all parts of Jerusalem destroyed
- Vs. 11 The Merchant class of Jerusalem

