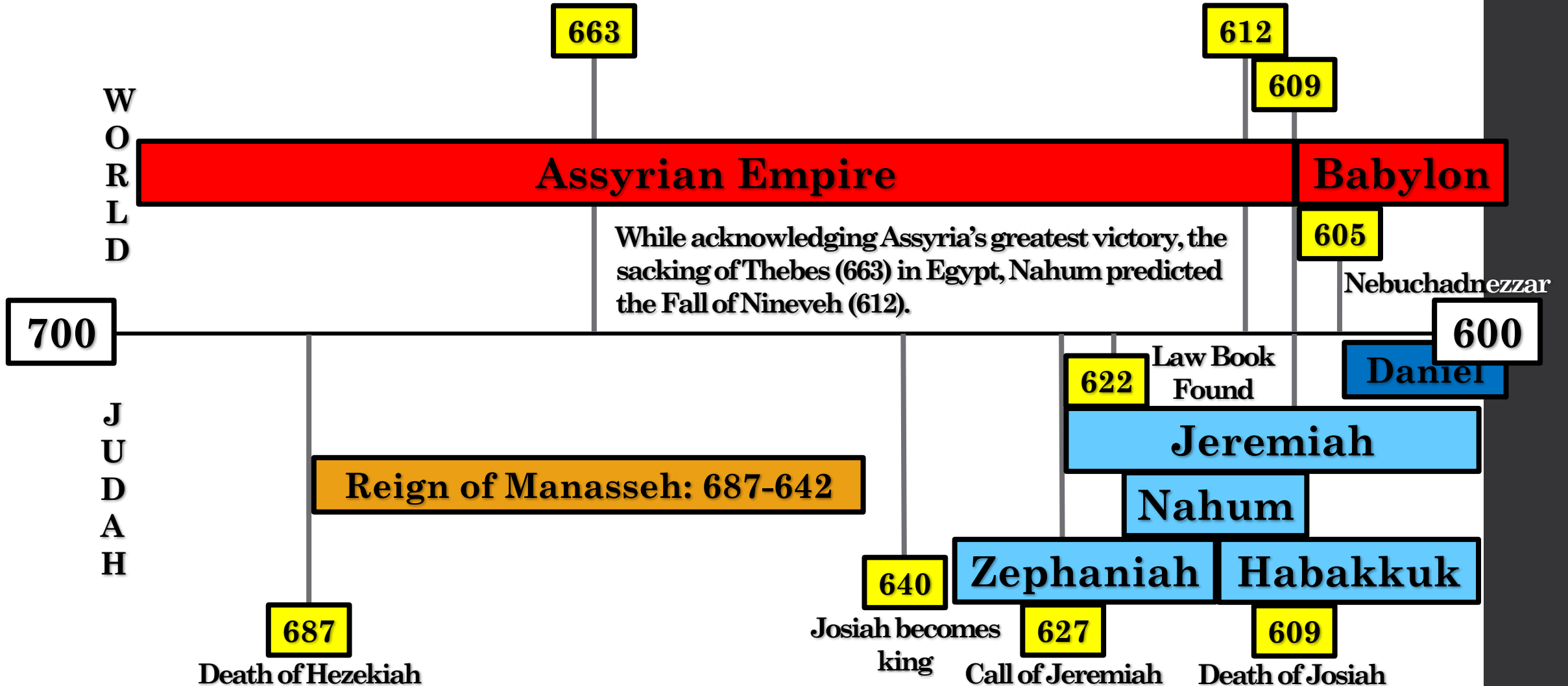




Book of Zephaniah

Old Testament Workshop
Morrison Heights Baptist Church
April 5, 2020

Historical Context



Biographical Data

The Book of Zephaniah is 53 verses. Personal information about the prophet occurs in just one verse, the first verse.

No Information Available

Name

Zephaniah may mean “Yahweh has treasured,” “Yahweh hides,” or “hidden of Yahweh.” The prophet’s birth had occurred during Manasseh’s reign of terror (**2 Kg. 21:16**), the cause of a lengthy period of prophetic silence, 698-626 BC.

The same Hebrew verb [יָצַו] appears in Psalm 119:11. “Your word I have **hidden** in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”

Biographical Data

Four-Generation Genealogy (1:1)

The lineage of **NO** other prophet—if given—is traced beyond one generation.

Purpose



- a. To disclose Zephaniah's royal ties
The genealogy ends with Hezekiah, most likely the former king of Judah (715-686 BC).
- b. To prove Zephaniah's Jewish roots
The genealogy begins with Cush, an Ethiopian name.
SEE also 2:12; 3:10.

Biographical Clues

Ministry Time Period: Josiah

Before

612 BC Predicted Destruction of Nineveh (2:13-15)

Before

627 BC When King Josiah's Reforms (2 Chr. 34:3-13, 31-33; 35:1-19) Targeted the Wickedness throughout Judah (1:4-13) and in Jerusalem (3:1-7)

Ministry Location: Jerusalem

- a. Jerusalem mentioned (1:4, 12; 3:14, 16)
- b. Jerusalem described (1:5, 10-11, 13)
- c. Jerusalem addressed (1:4-13; 3:1-20)
- d. Reference to temple, offerings, and feasts (1:9; 3:4, 10, 18)
- e. Reference to priests (1:4; 3:4)
- f. Reference to the royal family who lived in Jerusalem (1:8; 3:3)
- g. "Zion" and "Holy Mountain," names for Jerusalem (3:11, 14, 16)

Content of Zephaniah

① Day of the Lord

a. Judgment of Nations

1:2-3, 14-18; 2:4-15; 3:6, 8, 15, 19

b. Judgment of Judah

1:4-13; 2:1-3; 3:1-7, 11

② Hope

2:1-3, 7, 9; 3:5, 8-20

③ Remnant

2:7, 9; 3:12-13



3:17

“The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.”

The Hebrew noun **זָנַח** refers to singing or praise in 2 Chronicles 20:22; Psalm 30:5; 42:4; 47:1; 105:43; 107:22; 118:15; 126:2, 5-6; Proverbs 11:10; Isaiah 14:7; 35:10; 44:23; 48:20; 49:13; 51:11; 54:1; 55:12.