

The Old Testament book of Zephaniah

The book of Zephaniah is the ninth of the twelve minor prophets and the last before the seventy years of the Babylonian captivity of the nation of Judah . Zephaniah was of royal descent tracing his ancestry to King Hezekiah , who reigned from 724 to 695 BC and possibly further back to Samuel considered to be the first of the prophets . The dominant theme of the book is the coming day of the Lord –chapter 1 verse 14- and the saving of his people in chapter 3 . . Although other prophets refer to these ideas, they dominate the book with the aspects of judgement and redemption explored in depth. The book concludes with a song of joy *'Sing O daughters of Zion shout aloud O Israel Be glad and rejoice with all your heart The Lord has taken away your punishment and turned back your enemy . The king of Israel is with you ; never again will you feel any harm.....NIV*

This book starting with the theme of doom but finishing with joy is , I would say, relevant to our times of the global pandemic of Covid – 19 with its optimistic conclusion with the restoration of the fortunes of **all** of God's people

Ian Silcox