

Sunday, August 7, 2022

“Minor Prophets: Eternal Questions”

Summary of The Message of Zephaniah: What’s There to Be Thankful For?

Zephaniah 3:17

Wayne Shelton

Zeph. 3:17

To help us figure out what we have to be thankful for, we turn to the next book in our series on the Minor Prophets of the OT, the book of Zephaniah. We know more about the man Zephaniah than we do about most of the minor prophets, particularly from v1: Zephaniah’s father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and even great-great grandfather are listed. Why would they all be listed? Well, to show who his great-great grandfather was – the great king Hezekiah from the previous century. Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of King Josiah, who reigned from 639 to 609 BC. He prophesied early in Josiah’s reign, maybe around 630 BC – just after Nahum’s prophecy against Nineveh and just before Habakkuk’s prophecy against Judah. First, Zephaniah prophesied against the still powerful Nineveh (2:13-15), and Nineveh fell to the Babylonians in 612. Second, Zephaniah’s severe condemnation of Judah suggests that the great religious awakening for which Josiah was known had not yet occurred. Zephaniah helps us to learn at least five truths about God for which we should be most thankful.