Zephaniah Handout #1

Does Zephaniah 1:1 provide any clue to the date of the book?

Date: (     -     B.C.)

Zephaniah is a prophet of the _________ century B.C.

Is he before or after Isaiah? Ezekiel? Hosea? Haggai?

Prophetic Context

Any other _______ century B.C. prophets?

Analyze briefly these prophetic books:

Message

Negative:

Positive:

Message of Zephaniah

Negative: *dies irae* (1:15) = ____________________

Positive: *dies gratiae* (3:16-17) = ____________________
National (Judah) Context

Josiah’s character

Positive: _______________ (2 K 22:4-6; 2 Chr 34:8) _______________ (2 K 22:8; 23:2; 2 Chr 34:14, 30) _______________ (2 K 23:4-7; 2 Chr 34:3-4)

Negative: _______________ (2 K 23:29; 2 Chr 35:20-23)

Amon’s character ( - B.C.) (2 K 21:19-26; 2 Chr 33:21-25)

Negative:

Positive:

?Amon’s father: _______________

Dates: 697-642 B.C.

His character:

Negative: (2 K 21:2, 3, 6, 16; cf. 24:3-4; 2 Chr 33:2, 3, 5)

Positive: (2 Chr 33:11-13, 18-19)

?His father: _______________

Dates: 728-686 B.C.

His character:

Positive: (2 K 18:3, 6-7; 2 Chr 29:2, 5; 30:1; 31:1)

Negative: (2 K 20:12-18; 2 Chr 32:31)
International Context

World Power:

Era: **Pax Assyriaca** (722/21-612 B.C.)

Kings: (cf. *Carta Bible Atlas*, 5th ed. 2011; Maps # 172 and # 173)

- Esarhaddon (681/80-669 B.C.) (cf. 2 K 19:37 = Isa 37:38; Ezra 4:2)
- Ashurbanipal II (668-627/26 B.C.; alternative, 668-631 B.C.)
- Ashur-etel-ilani (627/26-623 B.C.; alternative, 631-627 B.C.)
- Sin-shar-iskun (627/26-612 B.C.; alternative, 623-612 B.C.)
- Assur-uballit II (612-?610/09 B.C.)

Events:

African Power:

Era: **26th Saite Dynasty** (664-525 B.C.)

Kings: (cf. *Carta Bible Atlas*, 5th ed. 2011; Maps # 173 and # 176)

- Psammetichus I (Psamtik I) (664-610 B.C.)
- Necho II (610-595 B.C.) (cf. Jer 46:2)
- Psammetichus II (Psamtik II) (595-589 B.C.)
- Hophra/Apries (589-570 B.C.) (cf. Jer 44:30; 37:3-11)

Events:

Emerging World Power:

Era: **Bellum Babylonicum** (626-539 B.C.)

Kings: (cf. *Carta Bible Atlas*, 5th ed. 2011; Maps # 177, #178, #179)

- Nabopolassar (627/26-605 B.C.)
- Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 B.C.)

Events: