

Zephaniah

1:2 The LORD's Day of Wrath coming upon Judah. 2:4 Judah's Enemies to be punished. 3:9 Israel to be restored and safe.

1 *The* word of Jehovah which came unto Zephaniah *the* son of Cushi, *the* son of Gedaliah, *the* son of Amariah, *the* son of Hezekiah, in *the* days of Josiah *the* son of Amon, king of Judah.

2 I will utterly consume all *things* from off *the* face of the ground, saith Jehovah. 3 I will consume man and beast; I will consume *the* birds of the heavens, and *the* fishes of the sea, and the stumbling blocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off *the* face of the ground, saith Jehovah. 4 And I will stretch out my hand upon Judah, and upon all *the* inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, *and* the name of the ¹black *priests* with the *other* priests; 5 and them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship, that swear to Jehovah and swear by ²Malcam; 6 and them that are turned back from following Jehovah; and those that have not sought Jehovah, nor inquired after him.

7 Hold thy peace before *the* face of *the* Lord Jehovah; for *the* day of Jehovah *is* at hand: for Jehovah hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath sanctified his guests. 8 And it shall come to pass in *the* day of Jehovah's sacrifice, that I will ³punish the princes, and the king's sons, and all such as are clothed with foreign apparel. 9 And in that day I will punish all those that leap over the threshold, that fill their master's house with violence and deceit. 10 And in that day, saith Jehovah, *there shall be the* noise of a cry from the fish gate, and a wailing from the ⁴second quarter, and a great crashing from the hills. 11 Wail, ye inhabitants of ⁵Maktesh; for all ⁶*the* people of Canaan are undone; all they that were laden with silver are cut off. 12 And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with lamps; and I will ⁷punish the men that are ⁸settled on their lees, that say in their heart, Jehovah will not do good, neither will he do evil. 13 And their wealth shall become a spoil, and their houses a desolation; yes, they shall build houses, but shall not inhabit *them*; and they shall plant vineyards, but shall not drink the wine thereof.

14 The great day of Jehovah *is* near, *it is* near and hasteth greatly, *even the* voice of *the* day of Jehovah; *the* mighty man crieth there bitterly. 15 That day *is* a

day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of *the* trumpet and alarm, against the fortified cities, and against the high ⁹battlements. 17 And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against Jehovah; and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in *the* day of Jehovah's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by *the* fire of his jealousy: for he will make an end, yes, a ¹⁰terrible end, of all them that dwell in the land.

2 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O nation that hath no ¹¹shame; 2 before *the* decree bring forth, ¹²*before the* day pass as *the* chaff, before *the* fierce anger of Jehovah come upon you, before *the* day of Jehovah's anger come upon you. 3 Seek ye Jehovah, all ye meek of *the* earth, that have kept his ordinances; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye will be hid in *the* day of Jehovah's anger.

4 For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation; they shall drive out Ashdod at noonday, and Ekron shall be rooted up. 5 Woe unto *the* inhabitants of ¹³*the* sea-coast, *the* nation of *the* Cherethites! *The* word of Jehovah *is* against you, O Canaan, *the* land of *the* Philistines; I will destroy thee, that there should be no inhabitant. 6 And the sea-coast shall be pastures, with ¹⁴cottages for shepherds and folds for flocks. 7 And *the* coast shall be for *the* remnant of *the* house of Judah; they shall feed *their* flocks thereupon; in *the* houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening; for Jehovah their God will visit them, and ¹⁵bring back their captivity.

8 I have heard *the* reproach of Moab, and *the* revilings of *the* children of Ammon, wherewith they have reproached my people, and magnified *themselves* against their border. 9 Therefore *as* I live, saith Jehovah of hosts, *the* God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and *the* children of Ammon as Gomorrah, a possession of ¹⁶nettles, and saltpits, and perpetual desolation: *the* residue of my people shall make a prey of them, and *the* remnant of my nation

¹ *Hb.* Kemarim See 2Ki 23:5; Hos 10:5.

² *Or,* their king; *But see* Jr 49:1; 1Ki 11:5, 33.

³ *Hb.* visit upon *And in* vs. 9.

⁴ *Hb.* Mishneh

⁵ *Or,* The mortar;

⁶ *Or,* *the* merchant people are undone;

⁷ *Hb.* visit upon

⁸ *Or,* thickened

⁹ *Or,* corner towers.

¹⁰ *Or,* speedy

¹¹ *Or,* longing;

¹² *Or,* (*the* day passeth as *the* chaff),

¹³ *Or,* *the* region of the sea,

¹⁴ *Or,* caves

¹⁵ *Or,* return to their captivity.

¹⁶ *Or,* wild vetches,

shall inherit them. 10 This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified *themselves* against *the* people of Jehovah of hosts. 11 Jehovah *will be* terrible unto them; for he will famish all *the* gods of the earth; and *men* shall worship him, every one from his place, *even* all *the* ¹⁷isles of the nations.

12 Ye Ethiopians also, ye *shall be* slain by my sword. 13 And he will stretch out his hand against *the* north, and destroy Assyria, and will make Nineveh a desolation, *and* dry like the wilderness. 14 And herds shall lie down in *the* midst of her, ¹⁸*all the* beasts of *the* nations: both *the* pelican and *the* porcupine shall lodge in *the* capitals thereof; *their* voice shall sing in the windows; ¹⁹*desolation shall be* in the thresholds: for he hath laid bare *the* cedar-work. 15 This *is* the joyous city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I *am*, and *there is* none besides me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, *and* wag his hand.

3 Woe to her that is rebellious and polluted! To the oppressing city! 2 She obeyed not *the* voice; she received not ²⁰correction; she trusted not in Jehovah; she drew not near to her God. 3 Her princes in *the* midst of her *are* roaring lions; her judges *are* evening wolves; they ²¹leave nothing till the morrow. 4 Her prophets *are* light and treacherous persons; her priests have profaned *the* Holy, they have done violence to *the* law. 5 Jehovah in *the* midst of her *is* righteous; he will not do iniquity; ²²every morning doth he bring his justice to light, he faileth not; but *the* unjust knoweth no shame. 6 I have cut off nations; their ²³battlements are desolate; I have made their streets waste, so that none passeth by; their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, so that there is no inhabitant. 7 I said, Only fear thou me; receive ²⁴correction; so her dwelling shall not be cut off, ²⁵*according to* all that I have appointed concerning her: but they rose early *and* corrupted all their doings.

8 Therefore wait ye for me, saith Jehovah, until *the* day that I rise up to *the* prey; for my ²⁶determination *is* to gather *the* nations, that I may assemble *the* kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, *even* all my fierce anger; for all the earth shall be devoured with *the* fire of my jealousy.

¹⁷ Or, coast-lands

¹⁸ Or, all beasts of every kind:

¹⁹ Or, drought

²⁰ Or, instruction;

²¹ Or, gnaw not the bones on the morrow.

²² Hb. morning by morning

²³ Or, corner towers

²⁴ Or, instruction;

²⁵ Or, howsoever I have punished her:

²⁶ Hb. judgment

9 For then I will turn to *the* peoples a pure ²⁷language, that they may all call upon *the* name of Jehovah, to serve him with one ²⁸consent. 10 From beyond *the* rivers of Ethiopia ²⁹my suppliants, *even the* daughters of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering. 11 In that day shalt thou not be put to shame for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me; for then I will take away out of *the* midst of thee ³⁰thy proudly exulting ones, and thou shalt no more be haughty in my holy mountain. 12 But I will leave in *the* midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall take refuge in *the* name of Jehovah. 13 *The* remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make *them* afraid.

14 Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all *the* heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. 15 Jehovah hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy; *the* King of Israel, *even* Jehovah, *is* in *the* midst of thee; thou shalt not ³¹see evil any more. 16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not; ³²O Zion, let not thy hands be slack. 17 Jehovah thy God *is* in *the* midst of thee, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will ³³rest in his love; he will joy over thee with singing. 18 ³⁴I will gather *them* that sorrow for *the* solemn assembly, *who* were of thee; *to whom the* burden upon ³⁵her *was* a reproach. 19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all them that afflict thee; and I will save that which is lame, and gather that which was driven away; and I will make them a praise and a name, whose shame hath been in all the earth. 20 At that time will I bring you in, and at *that* time will I gather you; for I will make you a name and a praise among all *the* peoples of the earth, when I ³⁶bring back your captivity before your eyes, saith Jehovah.

End of the Book of Zephaniah

²⁷ Hb. lip,

²⁸ Hb, shoulder.

²⁹ Or, shall they bring my suppliants, *even the* daughter of my dispersed, for an offering unto me.

³⁰ Or, *them* that exult in thy majesty,

³¹ So Mur XII Lamsa. Some Hb. mss., Vg. *read*, fear

³² Or, *and to* Zion,

³³ Hb. be silent

³⁴ Or, They have been sorrowful for *the* solemn assembly *which* I took away from thee, *for the* lifting up of reproach against her.

³⁵ So Mur XII. Some Hb. mss., Aram., Vg. *read*, thee

³⁶ Or, return to your captivity