

Zephaniah 1

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD which came to 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.

**The Great Day of the LORD**

<sup>2</sup> "I will utterly consume everything  
From the face of the land,"  
Says the LORD;  
<sup>3</sup> "I will consume man and beast;  
I will consume the birds of the heavens,  
The fish of the sea,  
And the stumbling blocks along with the wicked.  
I will cut off man from the face of the land,"  
Says the LORD.  
<sup>4</sup> "I will stretch out My hand against Judah,  
And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.  
I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place,  
The names of the idolatrous priests with the *pagan* priests—  
<sup>5</sup> Those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops;  
Those who worship and swear *oaths* by the LORD,  
But who *also* swear by Milcom;  
<sup>6</sup> Those who have turned back from *following* the LORD,  
And have not sought the LORD, nor inquired of Him."  
<sup>7</sup> Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD;  
For the day of the LORD *is* at hand,  
For the LORD has prepared a sacrifice;  
He has invited His guests.  
<sup>8</sup> "And it shall be,  
In the day of the LORD's sacrifice,  
That I will punish the princes and the king's children,  
And all such as are clothed with foreign apparel.  
<sup>9</sup> In the same day I will punish  
All those who leap over the threshold,  
Who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.  
<sup>10</sup> "And there shall be on that day," says the LORD,  
  
"The sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate,  
A wailing from the Second Quarter,  
And a loud crashing from the hills.

- 1:1 635-625 B.C. Contemporary of Jeremiah. In 622 Book of the Law found and sweeping returns made by Josiah.
- 1:4 Baal is the Canaanite god of fertility. People would both worship Baal and the Lord. This mix of worship caused judgment to come upon the Land.
- 1:5 Housetops would have clear view of the sky. 628 B.C. Josiah tore down all altars to Baal, burned the bones of false prophets and broke the carved idols.

Worship of the host of heaven— the stars, sun and moon. Astrology prominent in this worship, which was strictly forbidden by God. These false gods had worship by humans, which involved child sacrifice, astrology and sacred prostitution (especially Molech worship).

## ZEPHANIAH

<sup>11</sup> Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh!  
For all the merchant people are cut down;  
All those who handle money are cut off.

<sup>12</sup> “And it shall come to pass at that time  
*That* I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
And punish the men  
Who are settled in complacency,  
Who say in their heart,

‘The LORD will not do good,  
Nor will He do evil.’

<sup>13</sup> Therefore their goods shall become booty,  
And their houses a desolation;  
They shall build houses, but not inhabit *them*;  
They shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine.”

<sup>14</sup> The great day of the LORD *is* near;  
*It is* near and hastens quickly.  
The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter;  
There the mighty men shall cry out.

Day ★ ★

<sup>15</sup> That day is a day of wrath,  
A day of trouble and distress,  
A day of devastation and desolation,  
A day of darkness and gloominess,  
A day of clouds and thick darkness,

<sup>16</sup> A day of trumpet and alarm  
Against the fortified cities  
And against the high towers.

<sup>17</sup> “I will bring distress upon men,  
And they shall walk like blind men,  
Because they have sinned against the LORD;  
Their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
And their flesh like refuse.”

<sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold  
Shall be able to deliver them  
In the day of the LORD’s wrath;  
But the whole land shall be devoured  
By the fire of His jealousy,  
For He will make speedy riddance  
Of all those who dwell in the land.

### Zephaniah 2

#### R ★ A Call to Repentance

<sup>1</sup> Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together,  
O undesirable nation,  
<sup>2</sup> Before the decree is issued,  
Or the day passes like chaff,

1:12 “say in their heart”  
Complacent lukewarm men who incorrectly believe the LORD will not do good, nor will He do evil.

## ZEPHANIAH

Before the LORD's fierce anger comes upon you,  
Before the day of the LORD's anger comes upon you!  
R ★ <sup>3</sup> Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth,  
Who have upheld His justice.  
Seek righteousness, seek humility.  
It may be that you will be hidden  
Day In the day of the LORD's anger.

### Judgment on Nations

<sup>4</sup> For Gaza shall be forsaken,  
And Ashkelon desolate;  
They shall drive out Ashdod at noonday,  
And Ekron shall be uprooted.  
<sup>5</sup> Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast,  
The nation of the Cherethites!  
The word of the LORD is against you,  
O Canaan, land of the Philistines:  
  
"I will destroy you;  
So there shall be no inhabitant."  
<sup>6</sup> The seacoast shall be pastures,  
With shelters for shepherds and folds for flocks.  
<sup>7</sup> The coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah;  
They shall feed *their* flocks there;  
In the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening.  
For the LORD their God will intervene for them,  
And return their captives.  
<sup>8</sup> "I have heard the reproach of Moab,  
And the insults of the people of Ammon,  
With which they have reproached My people,  
And made arrogant threats against their borders.  
★ <sup>9</sup> Therefore, as I live."  
Says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel,  
  
"Surely Moab shall be like Sodom,  
And the people of Ammon like Gomorrah—  
Overrun with weeds and saltpits,  
★★ And a perpetual desolation.  
The residue of My people shall plunder them,  
And the remnant of My people shall possess them."  
<sup>10</sup> This they shall have for their pride,  
Because they have reproached and made arrogant threats  
Against the people of the LORD of hosts.  
K <sup>11</sup> The LORD will be awesome to them,  
For He will reduce to nothing all the gods of the earth;  
People shall worship Him,  
Each one from his place,  
★★ Indeed all the shores of the nations.

2:3 Seek the LORD (turn to the LORD) and seek righteousness (turn away from sin).  
2:9 Perpetual desolation— Destroyed forever— Never to arise again.  
2:11 All the peoples of all the earth shall worship Jesus during the Kingdom.

## ZEPHANIAH

<sup>12</sup> “You Ethiopians also,  
You shall be slain by My sword.”

<sup>13</sup> And He will stretch out His hand against the north,  
Destroy Assyria,  
And make Nineveh a desolation,

As dry as the wilderness.

<sup>14</sup> The herds shall lie down in her midst,  
Every beast of the nation.

Both the pelican and the bittern  
Shall lodge on the capitals *of her pillars*;  
Their voice shall sing in the windows;  
Desolation *shall be* at the threshold;  
For He will lay bare the cedar work.

<sup>15</sup> This is the rejoicing city  
That dwelt securely,  
That said in her heart,

“I am it, and there is none besides me.”  
How has she become a desolation,

A place for beasts to lie down!  
Everyone who passes by her  
Shall hiss and shake his fist.

### Zephaniah 3

#### The Wickedness of Jerusalem

★★ <sup>1</sup> Woe to her who is rebellious and polluted,  
To the oppressing city!

<sup>2</sup> She has not obeyed His voice,  
She has not received correction;  
She has not trusted in the LORD,  
She has not drawn near to her God.

<sup>3</sup> Her princes in her midst *are* roaring lions;  
Her judges *are* evening wolves  
That leave not a bone till morning.

<sup>4</sup> Her prophets are insolent, treacherous people;  
Her priests have polluted the sanctuary,  
They have done violence to the law.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD *is* righteous in her midst,  
He will do no unrighteousness.  
Every morning He brings His justice to light;  
He never fails,  
But the unjust knows no shame.

<sup>6</sup> “ I have cut off nations,  
Their fortresses are devastated;  
I have made their streets desolate,  
With none passing by.  
Their cities are destroyed;  
*There is* no one, no inhabitant.

★★ <sup>7</sup> I said, 'Surely you will fear Me,  
You will receive instruction'—  
So that her dwelling would not be cut off,  
*Despite* everything for which I punished her.  
But they rose early and corrupted all their deeds.

★ **A Faithful Remnant**

<sup>8</sup> "Therefore wait for Me," says the LORD,

"Until the day I rise up for plunder;  
My determination is to gather the nations  
To My assembly of kingdoms,  
To pour on them My indignation,  
All My fierce anger;  
All the earth shall be devoured  
With the fire of My jealousy.

K <sup>9</sup> "For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language,  
That they all may call on the name of the LORD,  
To serve Him with one accord.

★★ <sup>10</sup> From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia  
My worshipers,  
The daughter of My dispersed ones,  
Shall bring My offering.

<sup>11</sup> In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds  
In which you transgress against Me;  
For then I will take away from your midst  
Those who rejoice in your pride,  
And you shall no longer be haughty  
In My holy mountain.

<sup>12</sup> I will leave in your midst  
A meek and humble people,

★ And they shall trust in the name of the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness  
And speak no lies,  
Nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth;  
For they shall feed *their* flocks and lie down,  
And no one shall make *them* afraid."

**Joy in God's Faithfulness**

<sup>14</sup> Sing, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout, O Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all *your* heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

K <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your judgments,  
He has cast out your enemy.

† ★ The King of Israel, the LORD, *is* in your midst:  
You shall see disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Do not fear;  
Zion, let not your hands be weak.

ZEPHANIAH

† ★

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God in your midst,  
The Mighty One, will save;  
He will rejoice over you with gladness,  
He will quiet you with His love,  
He will rejoice over you with singing.”

L

<sup>18</sup> “I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly,  
Who are among you,  
To whom its reproach is a burden.

<sup>19</sup> Behold, at that time  
I will deal with all who afflict you;  
I will save the lame,  
And gather those who were driven out;  
I will appoint them for praise and fame  
In every land where they were put to shame.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you back,  
Even at the time I gather you;  
For I will give you fame and praise  
Among all the peoples of the earth,  
When I return your captives before your eyes,”  
Says the LORD.

3:15-17 Jesus, the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst = The LORD, your God, in your midst.