



ZEPHANIAH

Chapter 1

1 ¶ The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, in the days of ^aJosiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

Warning of Destruction

2 ¶ “I will utterly consume all *things* from off the land,” says the LORD.

3 “I will ^bconsume man and beast. I will consume the birds of the heaven and the fish of the sea, and the ruins along with the wicked. And I will cut off man from the face of the earth,” says the LORD.

Judgment Against Judah

4 “I will also stretch out My hand on Judah and on all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place *and* the name of the ^cChemarims with the priests,

5 “and those ^dwho worship the host of heaven on the housetops, and those who worship *and* swear by the LORD, and who swear by ^eMolech,

6 ^f“and those who have turned back from following the LORD, and *those* who ^ghave not sought the LORD, nor inquired from Him.

7 ¶ ^h“Hold your peace at the presence of the Lord GOD, for the ⁱday

of the LORD *is* at hand. For the ^jLORD has prepared a sacrifice. He has consecrated His guests.

8 “And it will come to pass in the day of the LORD’S sacrifice that I will punish ^kthe princes and the king’s children, and all who clothe themselves with foreign garments.

9 “In the same day also I will punish all those who ^lleap on the threshold, who fill their masters’ houses with violence and deceit.

10 ¶ “And it will come to pass in that day,” says the LORD, “*that there will be* the sound of a cry from the ^mFish Gate, and a wail from the Second Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills.

11 ⁿ“Wail you inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down. All those who bear silver are cut off.

12 “And it will come to pass at that time *that* I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men who are ^ostagnant in spirit, ^pwho say in their heart, “The LORD will not do good, nor will He do evil.”

13 “Therefore, their goods will become a booty and their houses a desolation. They will also build houses, but not inhabit *them*. And they will plant vineyards, but ^qnot drink their wine.”

Chapter 1: a 2 Kg 22:1,2 b Hs 4:3 c Hs 10:5 d 2 Kg 23:12 e Ja 23:7 f Is 1:4 g Hs 7:7 h Zc 2:13 i Is 13:6 j Jr 46:10 k Jr 39:6 l 1 Sm 5:5 m 2 Ch 33:14 n Js 5:1 o Jr 48:11 p Ps 94:7 q Dt 28:39

The Great Day of the Lord

14 ¶^r “The great day of the LORD is near! *It is near*, and coming very quickly. Listen! The cry of the day of the LORD. In it the mighty men will cry out bitterly.

15 ^s “That day *is* a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of destruction 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 towers.

17 “And I will bring distress on men so that they will ^uwalk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD. And their blood will be poured out as dust and their flesh as the dung.

18 ^v “Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD’S wrath. But the whole land will be devoured by the fire of His jealousy. For He will make a sudden end of all those who dwell in the land.”

Chapter 2

1 ¶^a Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation,

2 before the decree is issued, *before* the day passes as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD comes on you, before the day of the LORD’S anger comes on you.

3 ^b Seek the LORD ^call you meek of the earth who have upheld His jus-

tice, *who seek righteousness and meekness.* ^dIt may be that you will be hidden in the day of the LORD’S anger.

Judgment Against Philistia

4 ¶ For ^eGaza will be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation. They will drive out Ashdod at the ^fnoonday, and Ekron will be rooted up.

5 Woe to the inhabitants of the ^gseacoast, the nation of the Cherethites! The word of the LORD *is* against you, O ^hCanaan, the land of the Philistines. “I will even destroy you so that there will be no inhabitant.”

6 And the seacoast will be dwellings *and* caves for shepherds and ⁱfolds for flocks.

7 And the coast will be for ^jthe remnant of the house of Judah. They will feed upon it. In the houses of Ashkelon they will lie down in the evening, for the LORD their God will ^kvisit them and ^lturn away their captivity.

Judgment Against Moab and Ammon

8 ¶ “I have ^mheard the reproach of Moab and the ⁿrevilings of the children of Ammon, by which they have taunted My people and become ^oarrogant against their territory.

9 “Therefore, *as I live*,” says the LORD of armies, the God of Israel, “Surely ^pMoab will be as Sodom and the ^qpeople of Ammon as Gomorrah, *even* a place ^rpossessed by nettles and salt pits, and a perpetual desolation.

r JI 2:1,11 s Is 22:5 t Jr 4:19 u Dt 28:29 v Ez 7:19 **Chapter 2:** a JI 1:14; 2:16 b Am 5:6 c Ps 76:9 d Am 5:14,15 e Zc 9:5 f Jr 6:4 g Ez 25:15-17 h Ja 13:3 i Is 17:2 j Mc 5:7,8 k Lk 1:68 l Jr 29:14 m Jr 48:27 n Ez 25:3 o Jr 49:1 p Is 15:1-9 q Am 1:13 r Dt 29:23

The remainder of My people will plunder them, and the remnant of My people will possess them.”

10 This they will have ^sfor their pride, because they have taunted and magnified *themselves* against the people of the LORD of armies.

11 The LORD *will be* terrifying to them. For He will starve all the gods of the land. And the nations on every shore ^lwill worship Him, ^ueveryone in its own land.

Judgment Against Ethiopia

12 ¶ “You ^vEthiopians also, you *will be* slain by ^wMy sword.”

Judgment Against Assyria

13 ¶ And He will stretch out His hand against the north and ^xdestroy Assyria. And He will make Nineveh a desolation *and* dry like a wilderness.

14 And flocks will lie down in the midst of her *and* ^yall the beasts of the nations. Both the ^zdesert owl and the bittern will lodge on her columns. *Their* voice will sing in the windows. Desolation *will be* in the thresholds, for He will expose the ^acedar work.

15 This *is* the rejoicing city that ^bdwelt securely, ^cthat said in her heart, “*I am* and *there is* no one besides me.” How she has become a desolation, a place in which beasts lie down! Everyone who passes by her ^dwill hiss *and* ^eshake their fist.

Chapter 3

Future of Jerusalem

1 ¶ Woe to her who is filthy and polluted. *Woe* to the oppressing city!

2 She does not obey the voice. She does not receive correction. She does not trust in the LORD. She does not draw near to her God.

3 ^aHer princes within her *are* roaring lions. Her judges *are* ^bevening wolves. They leave nothing for the morning.

4 Her ^cprophets *are* reckless *and* treacherous persons. Her priests have defiled the sanctuary. They have done ^dviolence to the law.

5 The LORD *is* righteous within her. He will not do injustice. Every morning He brings His justice to light. He does not fail. But the ^eunjust knows no shame.

6 “I have cut off the nations. Their towers are desolate. I made their streets waste so that no one passes by. Their cities are destroyed so that there is no man, so that there is not one inhabitant.

7 ^f“I said, ‘Surely you will fear Me. You will receive instruction.’ So her dwelling will not be cut off *according to* all that I have appointed concerning her. But they rose early *and* ^gcorrupted all their deeds.

8 ¶ “Therefore, ^hwait on Me,” says the LORD, “until the day that I rise up to the prey. For My determination *is* to ⁱgather the nations so that I may assemble the kingdoms to pour on them My indignation, *even* all My fierce anger. For all the earth ^jwill be devoured with the fire of My jeal-

s Is 16:6 t Mt 1:11 u Gn 10:5 v Is 18:1-7 w Ps 17:13 x Is 10:5-27; 14:24-27 y Is 13:21 z Is 14:23; 34:11 a Jr 22:14 b Is 47:8 c Rv 18:7 d Lm 2:15 e Nh 3:19 Chapter 3: a Ez 22:27 b Hk 1:8 c Hs 9:7 d Ez 22:26 e Jr 3:3 f Jr 8:6 g Gn 6:12 h Hk 2:3 i Jl 3:2 j Zp 1:18

ousy.

9 “For then I will turn to the people a^kpurified language so that they may all call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord.

10 “From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, *even* the daughter of My dispersed, will bring My offering.

11 “In that day you will not be ashamed of all your deeds wherein you have transgressed against Me. For then I will take away out of the midst of you those who ^mrejoice in your pride, and you will no longer be arrogant on My holy mountain.

12 “I will also leave in the midst of you a ⁿhumble and lowly people, and they will trust in the name of the LORD.

13 ^o“The remnant of Israel ^pwill do no wrong, ^qnor speak lies. Neither will a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth. For ^rthey will feed and lie down and no one will make *them* afraid.”

14 ¶ ^sSing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

15 The LORD has taken away your judgments. He has cast out your enemy. ^tThe king of Israel, *even* the LORD, *is* ^uin the midst of you. You will not see evil anymore.

16 In that day ^vit will be said to Jerusalem, “Do not fear,” *and* to Zion, ^w“Do not let your hands be weak.”

17 “The LORD your God ^xin the midst of you *is* mighty. He will save. ^yHe will rejoice over you with joy. He will be quiet in His love. He will rejoice over you with singing.

18 “I will gather those who ^zsorrow over the appointed assembly, *who* are of you, *to whom* its reproach *was* a burden.

19 “Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you. And I will save the ^alame and gather the outcast. And I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame.

20 “At that time ^bI will bring you *again*, even in the time that I gather you. For I will give you fame and praise among all people of the earth when I return your captives before your eyes,” says the LORD.

k Is 19:18; 57:19 l Ps 68:31 m Is 2:12; 5:15 n Is 14:32 o Mc 4:7 p Is 60:21 q Rv 14:5 r Ez 34:13-15,28 s Is 12:6 t Jn 1:49 u Ez 48:35 v Is 35:3,4 w Hb 12:12 x Zp 3:5,15 y Is 62:5; 65:19 z Lm 2:6 a Mc 4:6,7 b Is 11:12