

I will take away all things from the face of the earth;

He will also judge the idolatry of Judah

CHAPTER 1

1 The word of Jehovah which was to Zephaniah,¹ the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hizkiah, in the days of Josiah, the son of Amon, king of Judah.

2 Taking away, I will take away all *things* from the face of the earth - An oracle of Jehovah

3 I will take away man and animal; I will take away the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, and the stumbling-blocks with the wicked, and I will cut off man from the face of the earth - An oracle of Jehovah.

4 I will also 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 ascetic idolatrous priests with the priests,

5 And them who prostrate themselves upon the housetops to the host of the heavens, and them who prostrate themselves swearing by Jehovah, and swearing by Malcham; Note Lev 18:21

6 And them who flinch back from Jehovah, and those who have not sought Jehovah, and have not treaded seeking him.

7 Be silent before the face of the Lord Jehovah, because the day of Jehovah *is* near, because Jehovah has set up a sacrifice; he

¹ 1:1 **Zephaniah**, Jehovah Has Hidden (to give protection).

has made clean those called.

8 And it shall be in the day of Jehovah's sacrifice that I will visit upon the chief rulers, and upon the king's children, and upon all such as are clothed with strange clothing.⁸

9 And I will visit upon all who leap over the threshold⁹ in the same day, who fill their lord's houses with violence and deceit.

10 And it shall be in that day - An oracle of Jehovah - the noise of a scream from the fish gate, and a howling from the second, and a great breaking from the hills.

11 Howl, you inhabitants of Maktesh, because all the people of Canaan are unable to speak; all they who bear silver are cut down.

12 And it shall be, at that time that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and visit upon the men who are settled on their dregs, who say in their heart, Jehovah will not do good, and he will not do evil.

13 And their resources shall become a plunder, and their houses a stunned desolation, and they shall build houses, and they shall not inhabit *them*, and they shall plant vineyards, and shall not drink the wine.

⁸ 1:8 **strange clothing** refers to those who adopted foreign and religious dress that displayed them as followers of other religions other than Jehovah God.

⁹ 1:9 **leap over the threshold**, refers to leaping over the threshold to commit burglary.

ZEPHANIAH 2 *The day of Jehovah will bring distress; Jehovah will turn back the captivity of Judah*

14 The great day of Jehovah is near, near, and the noise of the day of Jehovah hurries exceedingly; there the mighty man shall cry bitterly.

15 That day *is* a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of tempest and ruin, 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 pinnacles.

17 And I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like the blind because they have sinned against Jehovah, and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.

18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to snatch them out in the day of Jehovah's wrath, and the whole earth shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy, because surely he shall make a completion in trembling of all them who dwell in the earth.

CHAPTER 2

1 Gather yourselves together, even gather together, Oh people not longed for;

2 Before the birth of the enactment, the day will cross on away as chaff, yet not before the burning nostrils of Jehovah come upon you, yet not before the day of the nostrils of Jehovah come upon you.

3 Seek Jehovah, all you meek of the earth, who have done his judgment; seek righteousness; seek meekness; it may be you

shall be hid in the day of the *burning* nostrils of Jehovah,

4 Because Azaah shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a stunned desolation; they shall drive out Ashdod at the noonday, and Ekron shall be plucked up by the roots.

5 Woe to the inhabitants of the sea coast, the people of the executioners! The word of Jehovah *is* against you, Oh Canaan, the land of the Palestinians, and I will cause you to be lost, that there shall be no inhabitant.

6 And the sea coast shall be homes of meadows for shepherds and enclosures for flocks.

7 And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; there they shall be shepherded; they shall lie down in the dusk in the houses of Ashkelon, because Jehovah their God shall visit them, and turn back their captivity.

8 I have attentively heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, by which they have defamed my people, and made themselves great against their border.

9 Therefore as I live - An oracle of Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel - Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, a possession of nettles, and salt pits, and a stunned desolation forever; the remainder of my people shall plunder them, and those left of my people shall inherit them.

10 This shall be to them for their *assumed* majesty, because they have reproached and made themselves great against the people of Jehovah of hosts.

11 Jehovah *will be* fear to them, because he will emaciate all the gods of the earth, and they shall prostrate themselves to him, every man from his place, all the habitable places of the peoples.

12 Also you Ethiopians, they shall be polluted by my sword.

13 And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and cause Assyria to be lost, and will put Nineveh a stunned desolation, parched like a desert.

14 And flocks shall fold their legs under them in her midst, all the living creatures of the people; both the pelican and the bittern shall lodge in its upper lintels; *their* voice shall sing in the windows; desolation *shall be* in the vestibules, because he shall make the cedar work bare.

15 This *is* the city which jumped for joy, who dwelt in confidence, that said in her heart, I am, and *there is* none other; how she has become a stunned desolation, a place for living creatures to recline! All who cross over by her shall hiss, wagging his hand.

CHAPTER 3

1 Woe to her who is rebellious and polluted to the oppressing city!

2 She has not attentively heard the voice; she has not taken corrective discipline; she has not trusted in Jehovah; she has not

drawn near to her God.

3 Her chief rulers within her *are* roaring lions; her judges *are* wolves of the dusk; they do not gnaw the bones in the dawn.³

4 Her prophets *are* froth, mortal men of treachery; her priests have profaned the sanctuary; they have done violence to the law.

5 Jehovah *is* righteous in her midst; he will not do moral distortion; dawn by dawn he gives his judgment in the light; he is not lacking, and the morally distorted do not know shame.

6 I have cut off the peoples; their pinnacles are stunned desolations; I made their outdoors parched, so that none crosses over *it*; their cities are chased to destruction, so that there is no man, that there is no inhabitant.

7 I said, Surely you will fear me; you will take corrective discipline so their home should not be cut off by all that I *planned* to visit upon them, but they loaded up early, corrupting all their doings.

8 Therefore wait⁸ upon me - An oracle of Jehovah - *until* the day that I rise up to the prey, because my pronounced judgment *is* to gather the peoples, that I may lay hold of the kingdoms, to pour upon them my rage, all my burning nostrils, because all the

³ 3:3 they do not gnaw the bones in the dawn, means that they are so greedy that they eat the entire animal all at once, and there are no bones to gnaw the next morning. They are already out looking for more prey to devour.

⁸ 3:8 wait, *chakah*, See Note Isa 64:4.

ZEPHANIAH 3 *I will turn about to the people a pure lip; a remnant of Israel will turn to Jehovah*

earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy,

9 Because then I will turn about to the people a pure⁹ lip, that they may all call upon the name of Jehovah, to serve him as one neck *under God's yoke*.

10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia *will be* those who increase incense to me; the daughter of my dispersed shall cause my food offering to flow to me.

11 In that day you shall not pale in shame for all your doings in which you have broken away against me, because then I will take away out of your midst them who jump for joy in your arrogance, and you shall not increase being haughty any more in my holy mountain.

12 And I will leave a people in your midst looked down on with harshness and dangling in need, and they shall trust in the name of Jehovah.

13 The remnant of Israel shall not do moral distortion, and shall not speak lies, and there shall not be found a deceitful tongue in their mouth, because they shall be shepherded and lie down, and none shall cause them to tremble.

14 Shout, O daughter of Zion; shout, Oh Israel; rejoice and jump for joy with all the heart, Oh daughter of Jerusalem.

15 Jehovah has taken away your judgments; he has faced him about who hates you; the king of

Israel, Jehovah, is in your midst; you shall not fear evil any more.

16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Do not fear; to Zion, Do not let your hands be slack.

17 Jehovah your God is mighty in your midst; he will save; he will rejoice over you with joy; he will fabricate in his love; he will spin around in emotion over you with singing.

18 I will gather out of you them who are grieving for the appointed meeting, them raising their hands over the disgrace.

19 Behold, I will deal with all them who look down on you with harshness at that time, and I will save her who limps, and gather her who was driven out, and I will put praise and a name in all the earth for them where they have been put to shame.

20 At that time I will bring you, even in the time that I gather you, because I will give you a name and a praise among all people of the earth when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, says Jehovah.

⁹ 3:9 **pure**, *barar*, separated, chosen, distinct, cleansed and chosen.