

Zephaniah

The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi son of Gedaliah son of Amariah son of Hezekiah, in the days of King Josiah son of Amon of Judah. I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth, says the LORD. I will sweep away humans and animals; I will sweep
5 away the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. I will make the wicked stumble. I will cut off humanity from the face of the earth, says the LORD. I will stretch out my hand against Judah, and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off from this place every remnant of Baal and the name of the idolatrous priests; those who bow down on the roofs to the host
10 of the heavens; those who bow down and swear to the LORD, but also swear by Milcom; those who have turned back from following the LORD, who have not sought the LORD or inquired of him. Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. And on the day of the Lord's
15 sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who dress themselves in foreign attire. On that day I will punish all who leap over the threshold, who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. On that day, says the LORD, a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. The inhabitants of the Mortar
20 wail, for all the traders have perished; all who weigh out silver are cut off.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The
LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be
plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall
5 not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from
them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound
of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day
will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and
devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick
10 darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and
against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they
shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their
blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their
silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's
15 wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a
full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth. Gather
together, gather, O shameless nation, before you are driven away like the
drifting chaff, before there comes upon you the fierce anger of the LORD,
before there comes upon you the day of the Lord's wrath. Seek the LORD,
20 all you humble of the land, who do his commands; seek righteousness, seek

humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the Lord's wrath. For
Gaza shall be deserted, and Ashkelon shall become a desolation; Ashdod's
people shall be driven out at noon, and Ekron shall be uprooted. Ah,
inhabitants of the seacoast, you nation of the Cherethites! The word of the
5 LORD is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines; and I will destroy
you until no inhabitant is left. And you, O seacoast, shall be pastures,
meadows for shepherds and folds for flocks. The seacoast shall become the
possession of the remnant of the house of Judah, on which they shall
pasture, and in the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening. For
10 the LORD their God will be mindful of them and restore their fortunes. I
have heard the taunts of Moab and the revilings of the Ammonites, how they
have taunted my people and made boasts against their territory. Therefore, as
I live, says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Moab shall become like
Sodom and the Ammonites like Gomorrah, a land possessed by nettles and
15 salt pits, and a waste forever. The remnant of my people shall plunder them,
and the survivors of my nation shall possess them. This shall be their lot in
return for their pride, because they scoffed and boasted against the people of
the LORD of hosts. The LORD will be terrible against them; he will shrivel
all the gods of the earth, and to him shall bow down, each in its place, all
20 the coasts and islands of the nations. You also, O Ethiopians, shall be killed

by my sword. And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and
destroy Assyria; and he will make Nineveh a desolation, a dry waste like the
desert. Herds shall lie down in it, every wild animal; the desert owl and the
screech owl shall lodge on its capitals; the owl shall hoot at the window, the
5 raven croak on the threshold; for its cedar work will be laid bare. Is this the
exultant city that lived secure, that said to itself, "I am, and there is no one
else"? What a desolation it has become, a lair for wild animals! Everyone
who passes by it hisses and shakes the fist. Ah, soiled, defiled, oppressing
city! It has listened to no voice; it has accepted no correction. It has not
10 trusted in the LORD; it has not drawn near to its God. The officials within
it are roaring lions; its judges are evening wolves that leave nothing until the
morning. Its prophets are reckless, faithless persons; its priests have profaned
what is sacred, they have done violence to the law. The LORD within it is
righteous; he does no wrong. Every morning he renders his judgment, each
15 dawn without fail; but the unjust knows no shame. I have cut off nations;
their battlements are in ruins; I have laid waste their streets so that no one
walks in them; their cities have been made desolate, without people, without
inhabitants. I said, "Surely the city will fear me, it will accept correction; it
will not lose sight of all that I have brought upon it." But they were the
20 more eager to make all their deeds corrupt. Therefore wait for me, says the

LORD, for the day when I arise as a witness. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all the heat of my anger; for in the fire of my passion all the earth shall be consumed. At that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure
5 speech, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, my scattered ones, shall bring my offering. On that day you shall not be put to shame because of all the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you
10 shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. For I will leave in the midst of you a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD-- the remnant of Israel; they shall do no wrong and utter no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths. Then they will pasture and lie down, and no one shall make them afraid. Sing aloud, O
15 daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The
20 LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will

rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and

5 I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD. *

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