

## Zephaniah

The word of the LORD which came to Zephani'ah the son of Cushi, son of Gedali'ah, son of Amari'ah, son of Hezeki'ah, in the days of Josi'ah the son of Amon, king of Judah. "I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth," says the LORD. "I will sweep away man and beast; I will

5 sweep away the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. I will overthrow the wicked; I will cut off mankind 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 the remnant of Ba'al 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 and yet swear by Milcom; those who have turned back from following the LORD, who do not seek the LORD or inquire of him." Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. And on the day of the LORD'S Sacrifice--"i will

15 punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. On that day I will punish every one who leaps over the threshold, and those 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. Wail, O

20 inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out

silver are cut off. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are thickening upon their lees, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, 5 they shall 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 mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and 10 thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring distress on men, so 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 shall be able to deliver them on the day of the 15 wrath of the LORD. In the fire of his jealous wrath, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full, yea, sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth. Come together and hold assembly, 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 20 wrath of the LORD. Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do

his commands; seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden  
on the day of the wrath of the LORD. For Gaza shall be deserted, and  
Ash'kelon shall become a desolation; Ashdod's people shall be driven out at  
noon, and Ekron shall be uprooted. Woe to you inhabitants of the seacoast,  
5 you nation of the Cher'ethites! The word of the LORD is against you, O  
Canaan, land of the Philistines; and I will destroy you till 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  
10 Ash'kelon they shall lie down at evening. For 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  
15 Ammonites like Gomor'rah, a land possessed by nettles and salt pits, and a  
waste for ever. 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; yea, he will famish  
20 all the gods of the earth, and to him shall bow down, each in its place, all

the lands of the nations. You also, O Ethiopians, shall be slain by my sword. And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and destroy Assyria; and he will make Nin'evah a desolation, a dry waste like the desert. Herds shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the field; the

5 vulture and the hedgehog shall lodge in her capitals; the owl shall hoot in the window, the raven croak on the threshold; for her cedar work will be laid bare. This is the exultant city that dwelt secure, that said to herself, "I am and there is none else." What a desolation she has become, a lair for wild beasts! Every one who passes by her hisses and shakes his fist. Woe to

10 her that is rebellious and defiled, the oppressing city! She listens to no voice, she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD, she does not draw near to her God. Her officials within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave nothing till the morning. Her prophets are wanton, faithless men; her priests profane what is sacred, they do violence to

15 the law. The LORD within her is righteous, he does no wrong; every morning he shows forth his justice, each dawn he does not 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 none walks in them; their cities have been made desolate, without a man, without an inhabitant. I said,

20 'Surely she will fear me, she will accept correction; she will not lose sight of

all that I have enjoined upon her.' But all the more they were 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  
5 my anger; for in the fire of my jealous wrath all the earth shall be  
consumed. "Yea, at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a  
pure 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, the  
daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering. "On that day you  
10 shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled  
against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant  
ones, and you 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, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no  
15 wrong and utter no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful  
tongue. For they shall pasture and lie down, and none shall make them  
afraid." Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult  
with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the  
judgments against you, he has cast out your enemies. The King of Israel, the  
20 LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear evil no more. On that day it shall

be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

The 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

5 from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and 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 together; yea, I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples  
10 of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

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