

~ZEPHANIAH, BOOK OF (861)

.. Authenticity

.. Highlights Of Zephaniah

- This book of the Hebrew Scriptures contains the word of Yehowah by means of his prophet Zephaniah. It was in the days of Judean King Josiah, 659-629 B.C.E, that Zephaniah carried on his prophetic work.
- The word of Yehowah that occurred 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 the king of Judah. (**Zephaniah 1:1**)
- In the 12th year of Josiah's reign, he being about 20 years of age, the king began an extensive campaign against idolatry, and from the 18th year of his rule until its conclusion, his subjects did not turn aside from following Yehowah.
- And in the eighth year of his reigning, while he was still a boy, he started to search for the God of David his forefather, and in the twelfth year he started to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem from the high places and the sacred poles and the graven images and the molten statues. (**2 Chronicles 34:3**)
- Further, they pulled down before him the altars of the Baals, and the incense stands that were up above he cut down from off them, and the sacred poles and the graven images and the molten statues he broke in pieces and reduced to powder, and then sprinkled it upon the surface of the burial places of those that used to sacrifice to them. (**2 Chronicles 34:4**)
- And the bones of priests he burned upon their altars. Thus he cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 34:5**)
- Also, in the cities of Manasseh and Ephraim and Simeon and clear to Naphtali, in their devastated places all around. (**2 Chronicles 34:6**)
- he even went pulling down the altars and the sacred poles, and the graven images he crushed and reduced to powder, and all the incense stands he cut down in all the land of Israel, after which

he returned to Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 34:7)

- And in the eighteenth year of his reigning, when he had cleansed the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah and Maaseiah the chief of the city and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder to repair the house of Yehowah his God. (2 Chronicles 34:8)
- After that Josiah removed all the detestable things out of all the lands that belonged to the sons of Israel, and he had all who were found in Israel take up service, to serve Yehowah their God. All his days they did not turn aside from following Yehowah the God of their forefathers. (2 Chronicles 34:33)
- Therefore, since the book of Zephaniah mentions the presence of foreign-god priests and the worship of Baal and heavenly bodies in Judah, the time for its composition may reasonably be placed before the start of Josiah's reforms about 648 B.C.E.
- And I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and I will cut off from this place the remaining ones of the Baal, the name of the foreign-god priests along with the priests. (Zephaniah 1:4)
- And those who are bowing down upon the roofs to the army of the heavens, and those who are bowing down, making sworn oaths to Yehowah and making sworn oaths by Malcam. (Zephaniah 1:5)
- Idolatry, violence, and deception abounded in Judah when Zephaniah began prophesying. Many were saying in their heart; Yehowah will not do good, and he will not do bad.
- And it must occur at that time that I shall carefully search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will give attention to the men who are congealing upon their dregs and who are saying in their heart, Yehowah will not do good, and he will not do bad. (Zephaniah 1:12)
- But Zephaniah's prophesying made it clear that Yehowah would execute vengeance upon unrepentant wrongdoers. (Zephaniah 1:3–(Zephaniah 2:3)
- Woe to her that is rebelling and polluting herself, the oppressive

city! (**Zephaniah 3:1**)

- She did not listen to a voice. She did not accept discipline. In Yehowah she did not trust. To her God she did not draw near. (**Zephaniah 3:2**)
- Her princes in the midst of her were roaring lions. Her judges were evening wolves that did not gnaw bones till the morning. (**Zephaniah 3:3**)
- Her prophets were insolent, were men of treachery. Her priests themselves profaned what was holy, they did violence to the Law. (**Zephaniah 3:4**)
- Yehowah was righteous in the midst of her. He would do no unrighteousness. Morning by morning he kept giving his own judicial decision. At daylight it did not prove lacking. But the unrighteous one was knowing no shame. (**Zephaniah 3:5**)
- His adverse judgments would be visited not only upon Judah and Jerusalem but also upon other peoples the Philistines, Ammonites, Moabites, Ethiopians, and Assyrians.
- For, as regards Gaza, an abandoned city is what she will become, and Ashkelon is to be a desolate waste. As regards Ashdod, at high noon they will drive her out, and as regards Ekron, she will be uprooted. (**Zephaniah 2:4**)
- Woe to those inhabiting the region of the sea, the nation of Cherethites! The word of Yehowah is against you people. O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will also destroy you, so that there will be no inhabitant. (**Zephaniah 2:5**)
- And the region of the sea must become pasture grounds, with wells for shepherds and stone pens for sheep. (**Zephaniah 2:6**)
- And it must become a region for the remaining ones of the house of Judah. Upon them they will feed. In the houses of Ashkelon, in the evening, they will lie stretched out. For Yehowah their God will turn his attention to them and certainly gather back the captive ones of them. (**Zephaniah 2:7**)
- I have heard the reproach by Moab and the abusive words of the sons of Ammon, with which they have reproached my people and

kept putting on great airs against their territory. (**Zephaniah 2:8**)

- Therefore, as I am alive, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, Moab herself will become just like Sodom, and the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah, a place possessed by nettles, and a salt pit, and a desolate waste, even to time indefinite. The remaining ones of my people will plunder them, and the remnant of my own nation will take possession of them. (**Zephaniah 2:9**)
- This is what they will have instead of their pride, because they reproached and kept putting on great airs against the people of Yehowah of armies. (**Zephaniah 2:10**)
- Yehowah will be fear-inspiring against them, for he will certainly emaciate all the gods of the earth, and people will bow down to him, each one from his place, all the islands of the nations. (**Zephaniah 2:11**)
- You also, you Ethiopians, you yourselves will be people slain by my sword. (**Zephaniah 2:12**)
- And he will stretch out his hand toward the north, and he will destroy Assyria. And he will make Nineveh a desolate waste, a waterless region like the wilderness. (**Zephaniah 2:13**)
- And in the midst of her, droves will certainly lie stretched out, all the wild animals of a nation. Both pelican and porcupine will spend the night right among her pillar capitals. A voice will keep singing in the window. There will be devastation at the threshold, for he will certainly lay bare the very wainscoting. (**Zephaniah 2:14**)
- This is the exultant city that was sitting in security, that was saying in her heart, I am, and there is nobody else. O how she has become an object of astonishment, a place for the wild animals to lie stretched out! Everyone passing along by her will whistle, he will wag his hand. (**Zephaniah 2:15**)
- The prophecy of **Zephaniah** would have been especially comforting to those who were endeavoring to serve Yehowah and who must have been greatly distressed about the detestable practices of Jerusalem's inhabitants, including her corrupt princes, judges, and priests.

- **Woe to her that is rebelling and polluting herself, the oppressive city! (Zephaniah 3:1)**
- **She did not listen to a voice. She did not accept discipline. In Yehowah she did not trust. To her God she did not draw near. (Zephaniah 3:2)**
- **Her princes in the midst of her were roaring lions. Her judges were evening wolves that did not gnaw bones till the morning. (Zephaniah 3:3)**
- **Her prophets were insolent, were men of treachery. Her priests themselves profaned what was holy. They did violence to the Law. (Zephaniah 3:4)**
- **Yehowah was righteous in the midst of her. He would do no unrighteousness. Morning by morning he kept giving his own judicial decision. At daylight it did not prove lacking. But the unrighteous one was knowing no shame. (Zephaniah 3:5)**
- **I cut off nations, their corner towers were desolated. I devastated their streets, so that there was no one passing through. Their cities were laid waste, so that there was no man, so that there was no inhabitant. (Zephaniah 3:6)**
- **I said; Surely you will fear me; You will accept discipline, so that her dwelling might not be cut off, all that I must call to account against her. Truly they acted promptly in making all their dealings ruinous. (Zephaniah 3:7)**
- **As rightly disposed persons would have looked forward to the execution of divine judgment upon the wicked, they are evidently addressed with the words.**
- **Therefore keep yourselves in expectation of me, is the utterance of Yehowah, till the day of my rising up to the booty, for my judicial decision is to gather nations, for me to collect together kingdoms, in order to pour out upon them my denunciation, all my burning anger, for by the fire of my zeal all the earth will be devoured. (Zephaniah 3:8)**
- **Eventually, Yehowah would turn favorable attention to the remnant of his people Israel, restoring them from captivity and making them a name and a praise among all other peoples.**

- From the region of the rivers of Ethiopia the ones entreating me, namely, the daughter of my scattered ones, will bring a gift to me. (**Zephaniah 3:10**)
- In that day you will not be ashamed because of all your dealings with which you transgressed against me, for then I shall remove from the midst of you your haughtily exultant ones, and you will never again be haughty in my holy mountain. (**Zephaniah 3:11**)
- And I shall certainly let remain in the midst of you a people humble and lowly, and they will actually take refuge in the name of Yehowah. (**Zephaniah 3:12**)
- As regards the remaining ones of Israel, they will do no unrighteousness, nor speak a lie, nor will there be found in their mouths a tricky tongue, for they themselves will feed and actually lie stretched out, and there will be no one making them tremble. (**Zephaniah 3:13**)
- Joyfully cry out, O daughter of Zion! Break out in cheers, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! (**Zephaniah 3:14**)
- Yehowah has removed the judgments upon you. He has turned away your enemy. The king of Israel, Yehowah, is in the midst of you. You will fear calamity no more. (**Zephaniah 3:15**)
- In that day it will be said to Jerusalem; Do not be afraid, O Zion. May your hands not drop down. (**Zephaniah 3:16**)
- Yehowah your God is in the midst of you. As a mighty One, he will save. He will exult over you with rejoicing. He will become silent in his love. He will be joyful over you with happy cries. (**Zephaniah 3:17**)
- The ones grief-stricken in absence from your festal season I shall certainly gather together, absent from you they happened to be, because of bearing reproach on her account. (**Zephaniah 3:18**)
- Here I am acting against all those afflicting you, at that time, and I will save her that is limping, and her that is dispersed I shall collect together. And I will set them as a praise and as a name in all the land of their shame. (**Zephaniah 3:19**)

- At that time I shall bring you people in, even in the time of my collecting you together. For I shall make you people to be a name and a praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I gather back your captive ones before your eyes, Yehowah has said. (**Zephaniah 3:20**)

• Authenticity

- The authenticity of the book of **Zephaniah** is well established. Often the thoughts expressed in this book find a parallel in other parts of the Bible.
- At that time I shall bring you people in, even in the time of my collecting you together. For I shall make you people to be a name and a praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I gather back your captive ones before your eyes, Yehowah has said. (**Zephaniah 3:20**)
- That is why the land will mourn and every inhabitant in it will have to fade away with the wild beast of the field and with the flying creature of the heavens, and even the fishes of the sea themselves will be gathered in death. (**Hosea 4:3**)
- Keep silence before the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, for the day of Yehowah is near, for Yehowah has prepared a sacrifice, he has sanctified his invited ones. (**Zephaniah 1:7**)
- But Yehowah is in his holy temple. Keep silence before him, all the earth! (**Habakkuk 2:20**)
- Keep silence, all flesh, before Yehowah, for he has aroused himself from his holy dwelling. (**Zechariah 2:13**)
- And their wealth must come to be for pillage and their houses for a desolate waste. And they will build houses, but they will not have occupancy, and they will plant vineyards, but they will not drink the wine of them. (**Zephaniah 1:13**)
- You will become engaged to a woman, but another man will rape her. You will build a house, but you will not dwell in it. You will plant a vineyard, but you will not begin to use it. (**Deuteronomy 28:30**)

- Vineyards you will plant and certainly cultivate, but you will drink no wine and gather nothing in, because the worm will eat it up. (**Deuteronomy 28:39**)
- Therefore, for the reason that you are extracting farm rent from someone lowly, and the tribute of grain you keep taking from him, houses of hewn stone you have built, but you will not keep dwelling in them, and desirable vineyards you have planted, but you will not keep drinking the wine of them. (**Amos 5:11**)
- The great day of Yehowah is near. It is near, and there is a hurrying of it very much. The sound of the day of Yehowah is bitter. There a mighty man is letting out a cry. (**Zephaniah 1:14**)
- Alas for the day, because the day of Yehowah is near, and like a despoiling from the Almighty One it will come! (**Joel 1:15**)
- In that day, is the utterance of Yehowah, I will gather her that was limping, and her that was dispersed I will collect together, even her whom I have treated badly. (**Micah 4:6**)
- And I shall certainly make her that was limping a remnant, and her that was removed far off a mighty nation, and Yehowah will actually rule as king over them in Mount Zion, from now on and into time indefinite. (**Micah 4:7**)
- It harmonizes completely with the rest of the Scriptures in emphasizing vital truths. For example. Yehowah is a God of righteousness.
- Yehowah was righteous in the midst of her, he would do no unrighteousness. Morning by morning he kept giving his own judicial decision. At daylight it did not prove lacking. But the unrighteous one was knowing no shame. (**Zephaniah 3:5**)
- The Rock, perfect is his activity, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness, with whom there is no injustice. Righteous and upright is he. (**Deuteronomy 32:4**)
- Although providing opportunity for repentance, he does not indefinitely allow transgression to go unpunished.
- Gather yourselves together, yes, do the gathering, O nation not paling in shame. (**Zephaniah 2:1**)

- **Before the statute gives birth to anything, before the day has passed by just like chaff, before there comes upon you people the burning anger of Yehowah, before there comes upon you the day of Yehowah's anger. (Zephaniah 2:2)**
- **Seek Yehowah, all you meek ones of the earth, who have practiced His own judicial decision. Seek righteousness, seek meekness. Probably you may be concealed in the day of Yehowah's anger. (Zephaniah 2:3)**
- **At any moment that I may speak against a nation and against a kingdom to uproot it and to pull it down and to destroy it. (Jeremiah 18:7)**
- **And that nation actually turns back from its badness against which I spoke, I will also feel regret over the calamity that I had thought to execute upon it. (Jeremiah 18:8)**
- **But at any moment that I may speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom to build it up and to plant it. (Jeremiah 18:9)**
- **And it actually does what is bad in my eyes by not obeying my voice, I will also feel regret over the good that I said to myself to do for its good. (Jeremiah 18:10)**
- **And now say; please, to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am forming against you a calamity and thinking against you a thought. Turn back, please, each one from his bad way, and make your ways and your dealings good. (Jeremiah 18:11)**
- **Yehowah is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)**
- **Yet Yehowah's day will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a hissing noise, but the elements being intensely hot will be dissolved, and earth and the works in it will be discovered. (2 Peter 3:10)**

- **Neither silver nor gold can deliver wicked persons in the day of Yehowah's fury.**
- **Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of Yehowah's fury, but by the fire of his zeal the whole earth will be devoured, because he will make an extermination, indeed a terrible one, of all the inhabitants of the earth. (Zephaniah 1:18)**
- **Valuable things will be of no benefit on the day of fury, but righteousness itself will deliver from death. (Proverbs 11:4)**
- **Into the streets they will throw their very silver, and an abhorrent thing their own gold will become. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of Yehowah's fury. Their souls they will not satisfy, and their intestines they will not fill, for it has become a stumbling block causing their error. (Ezekiel 7:19)**
- **To be favored with divine protection, a person must conduct himself in harmony with God's righteous judgments.**
- **Seek Yehowah, all you meek ones of the earth, who have practiced His own judicial decision. Seek righteousness, seek meekness. Probably you may be concealed in the day of Yehowah's anger. (Zephaniah 2:3)**
- **Hate what is bad, and love what is good, and give justice a place in the gate. It may be that Yehowah the God of armies will show favor to the remaining ones of Joseph. (Amos 5:15)**
- **Another outstanding evidence of the books canonicity is the fulfillment of prophecy. The foretold destruction came upon the Assyrian capital Nineveh in 632 B.C.E.**
- **And he will stretch out his hand toward the north, and he will destroy Assyria. And he will make Nineveh a desolate waste, a waterless region like the wilderness. (Zephaniah 2:13)**
- **And in the midst of her, droves will certainly lie stretched out, all the wild animals of a nation. Both pelican and porcupine will spend the night right among her pillar capitals. A voice will keep singing in the window. There will be devastation at the threshold, for he will certainly lay bare the very wainscoting.**

(Zephaniah 2:14)

- **This is the exultant city that was sitting in security, that was saying in her heart, I am, and there is nobody else. O how she has become an object of astonishment, a place for the wild animals to lie stretched out! Everyone passing along by her will whistle, he will wag his hand. (Zephaniah 2:15)**
- **And upon Judah and Jerusalem in 607 B.C.E.**
- **And I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and I will cut off from this place the remaining ones of the Baal, the name of the foreign-god priests along with the priests. (Zephaniah 1:4)**
- **And those who are bowing down upon the roofs to the army of the heavens, and those who are bowing down, making sworn oaths to Yehowah and making sworn oaths by Malcam. (Zephaniah 1:5)**
- **And those who are drawing back from following Yehowah and who have not sought Yehowah and have not inquired of him. (Zephaniah 1:6)**
- **Keep silence before the Sovereign Lord Yehowah, for the day of Yehowah is near, for Yehowah has prepared a sacrifice, he has sanctified his invited ones. (Zephaniah 1:7)**
- **And it must occur on the day of Yehowah's sacrifice that I will give attention to the princes, and to the sons of the king, and to all those wearing foreign attire. (Zephaniah 1:8)**
- **And I will give attention to everyone that is climbing upon the platform in that day, those who are filling the house of their masters with violence and deception. (Zephaniah 1:9)**
- **And there must occur on that day, is the utterance of Yehowah, the sound of an outcry from the Fish Gate, and a howling from the second quarter, and a great crashing from the hills. (Zephaniah 1:10)**
- **Howl, you inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the people who are tradesmen have been silenced, all those weighing out silver have been cut off. (Zephaniah 1:11)**

- **And it must occur at that time that I shall carefully search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will give attention to the men who are congealing upon their dregs and who are saying in their heart, Yehowah will not do good, and he will not do bad. (Zephaniah 1:12)**
- **And their wealth must come to be for pillage and their houses for a desolate waste. And they will build houses, but they will not have occupancy, and they will plant vineyards, but they will not drink the wine of them. (Zephaniah 1:13)**
- **The great day of Yehowah is near. It is near, and there is a hurrying of it very much. The sound of the day of Yehowah is bitter. There a mighty man is letting out a cry. (Zephaniah 1:14)**
- **That day is a day of fury, a day of distress and of anguish, a day of storm and of desolation, a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick gloom. (Zephaniah 1:15)**
- **A day of horn and of alarm signal, against the fortified cities and against the high corner towers. (Zephaniah 1:16)**
- **And I will cause distress to mankind, and they will certainly walk like blind men, because it is against Yehowah that they have sinned. And their blood will actually be poured out like dust, and their bowels like the dung. (Zephaniah 1:17)**
- **Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of Yehowah's fury, but by the fire of his zeal the whole earth will be devoured, because he will make an extermination, indeed a terrible one, of all the inhabitants of the earth. (Zephaniah 1:18)**
- **And it came about in the ninth year of his being king, in the tenth month on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came, yes, he and all his military force, against Jerusalem and began camping against it and building against it a siege wall all around. (2 Kings 25:1)**
- **And the city came to be under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. (2 Kings 25:2)**
- **On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was severe in**

- the city, and there proved to be no bread for the people of the land. (**2 Kings 25:3**)
- And the city got to be breached, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between the double wall that is by the king's garden, while the Chaldeans were all around against the city, and the king began to go in the direction of the Arabah. (**2 Kings 25:4**)
 - And a military force of Chaldeans went chasing after the king, and they got to overtake him in the desert plains of Jericho, and all his own military force was scattered from his side. (**2 Kings 25:5**)
 - Then they seized the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, that they might pronounce a judicial decision upon him. (**2 Kings 25:6**)
 - And Zedekiah's sons they slaughtered before his eyes, and Zedekiah's eyes he blinded, after which he bound him with copper fetters and brought him to Babylon. (**2 Kings 25:7**)
 - And in the fifth month on the seventh day of the month, that is to say; the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the chief of the bodyguard, the servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. (**2 Kings 25:8**)
 - And he proceeded to burn the house of Yehowah and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem, and the house of every great man he burned with fire. (**2 Kings 25:9**)
 - And the walls of Jerusalem, all around, the entire military force of Chaldeans that were with the chief of the bodyguard pulled down. (**2 Kings 25:10**)
 - As allies of the Egyptians, the Ethiopians evidently experienced calamity at the time Nebuchadnezzar conquered Egypt.
 - You also, you Ethiopians, you yourselves will be people slain by my sword. (**Zephaniah 2:12**)
 - And a sword will certainly come into Egypt, and severe pains must occur in Ethiopia when one falls slain in Egypt and they actually take its wealth and its foundations are actually torn

down. ([Ezekiel 30:4](#))

- Ethiopia and Put and Lud and all the mixed company and Chub and the sons of the land of the covenant, with them they will fall by the very sword. ([Ezekiel 30:5](#))
- And the Ammonites, Moabites, and Philistines eventually ceased to exist as a people.
- For, as regards Gaza, an abandoned city is what she will become, and Ashkelon is to be a desolate waste. As regards Ashdod, at high noon they will drive her out, and as regards Ekron, she will be uprooted. ([Zephaniah 2:4](#))
- Woe to those inhabiting the region of the sea, the nation of Cherethites! The word of Yehowah is against you people. O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will also destroy you, so that there will be no inhabitant. ([Zephaniah 2:5](#))
- And the region of the sea must become pasture grounds, with wells for shepherds and stone pens for sheep. ([Zephaniah 2:6](#))
- And it must become a region for the remaining ones of the house of Judah. Upon them they will feed. In the houses of Ashkelon, in the evening, they will lie stretched out. For Yehowah their God will turn his attention to them and certainly gather back the captive ones of them. ([Zephaniah 2:7](#))
- I have heard the reproach by Moab and the abusive words of the sons of Ammon, with which they have reproached my people and kept putting on great airs against their territory. ([Zephaniah 2:8](#))
- Therefore, as I am alive, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, Moab herself will become just like Sodom, and the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah, a place possessed by nettles, and a salt pit, and a desolate waste, even to time indefinite. The remaining ones of my people will plunder them, and the remnant of my own nation will take possession of them. ([Zephaniah 2:9](#))
- This is what they will have instead of their pride, because they reproached and kept putting on great airs against the people of Yehowah of armies. ([Zephaniah 2:10](#))
- Yehowah will be fear-inspiring against them, for he will certainly

**emaciate all the gods of the earth, and people will bow down to him, each one from his place, all the islands of the nations.
(Zephaniah 2:11)**

· Highlights Of Zephaniah

- **Messages of divine judgment against Judah and Jerusalem, as well as against other nations, also an announcement of restoration for Jerusalem**
- **Written by Zephaniah early in Josiah's reign, before the reforms that he began in about 648 B.C.E.**
- **Yehowah's day of judgment is near. (Zephaniah 1:1)–(Zephaniah 2:3)**
- **Yehowah will finish everything off the surface of the ground.**
- **All in Judah and Jerusalem who practice idolatry, who swear to Yehowah as well as by a false god, who draw back from serving Yehowah, or who have not sought him will be cut off.**
- **Princes, violent ones, deceivers, will be among those sought out for attention, all who feel that Yehowah will not act for good or for bad will see their wealth and property come to nothing**
- **Yehowah's day is coming, a day of fury, neither silver nor gold to provide escape.**
- **Meek ones of the earth should seek Yehowah as well as meekness and righteousness, then, probably, they will be concealed in the day of his anger.**
- **Punishment for Judah's neighbors and more distant Ethiopia and Assyria.**
- **For, as regards Gaza, an abandoned city is what she will become, and Ashkelon is to be a desolate waste. As regards Ashdod, at high noon they will drive her out, and as regards Ekron, she will be uprooted. (Zephaniah 2:4)**
- **Woe to those inhabiting the region of the sea, the nation of Cherethites! The word of Yehowah is against you people. O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will also destroy you, so that**

there will be no inhabitant. ([Zephaniah 2:5](#))

- And the region of the sea must become pasture grounds, with wells for shepherds and stone pens for sheep. ([Zephaniah 2:6](#))
- And it must become a region for the remaining ones of the house of Judah. Upon them they will feed. In the houses of Ashkelon, in the evening, they will lie stretched out. For Yehowah their God will turn his attention to them and certainly gather back the captive ones of them. ([Zephaniah 2:7](#))
- I have heard the reproach by Moab and the abusive words of the sons of Ammon, with which they have reproached my people and kept putting on great airs against their territory. ([Zephaniah 2:8](#))
- Therefore, as I am alive, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, Moab herself will become just like Sodom, and the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah, a place possessed by nettles, and a salt pit, and a desolate waste, even to time indefinite. The remaining ones of my people will plunder them, and the remnant of my own nation will take possession of them. ([Zephaniah 2:9](#))
- This is what they will have instead of their pride, because they reproached and kept putting on great airs against the people of Yehowah of armies. ([Zephaniah 2:10](#))
- Yehowah will be fear-inspiring against them, for he will certainly emaciate all the gods of the earth, and people will bow down to him, each one from his place, all the islands of the nations. ([Zephaniah 2:11](#))
- You also, you Ethiopians, you yourselves will be people slain by my sword. ([Zephaniah 2:12](#))
- And he will stretch out his hand toward the north, and he will destroy Assyria. And he will make Nineveh a desolate waste, a waterless region like the wilderness. ([Zephaniah 2:13](#))
- And in the midst of her, droves will certainly lie stretched out, all the wild animals of a nation. Both pelican and porcupine will spend the night right among her pillar capitals. A voice will keep singing in the window. There will be devastation at the threshold, for he will certainly lay bare the very wainscoting. ([Zephaniah 2:14](#))

- **This is the exultant city that was sitting in security, that was saying in her heart, I am, and there is nobody else. O how she has become an object of astonishment, a place for the wild animals to lie stretched out! Everyone passing along by her will whistle, he will wag his hand. (Zephaniah 2:15)**
- **The Philistines will be destroyed, Moab will become desolate like Sodom, and Ammon will be like Gomorrah for reproaching Yehowah's people**
- **Ethiopians will fall by the sword. Assyria will be destroyed. Nineveh will be devastated, with wild animals taking possession of its ruins.**
- **Jerusalem's rebellion and corruption.**
- **Woe to her that is rebelling and polluting herself, the oppressive city! (Zephaniah 3:1)**
- **She did not listen to a voice, she did not accept discipline. In Yehowah she did not trust. To her God she did not draw near. (Zephaniah 3:2)**
- **Her princes in the midst of her were roaring lions. Her judges were evening wolves that did not gnaw bones till the morning. (Zephaniah 3:3)**
- **Her prophets were insolent, were men of treachery. Her priests themselves profaned what was holy. They did violence to the Law. (Zephaniah 3:4)**
- **Yehowah was righteous in the midst of her. He would do no unrighteousness. Morning by morning he kept giving his own judicial decision. At daylight it did not prove lacking. But the unrighteous one was knowing no shame. (Zephaniah 3:5)**
- **I cut off nations, their corner towers were desolated. I devastated their streets, so that there was no one passing through. Their cities were laid waste, so that there was no man, so that there was no inhabitant. (Zephaniah 3:6)**
- **I said; Surely you will fear me; You will accept discipline, so that her dwelling might not be cut off, all that I must call to account**

against her. Truly they acted promptly in making all their dealings ruinous. ([Zephaniah 3:7](#))

- The oppressive city, Jerusalem, is also marked for judgment, she did not trust Yehowah and draw near to him, her princes, judges, prophets, and priests all acted corruptly instead of using their influence for good.
- The people did not fear Yehowah and change their ways even after witnessing his judgment on other nations.
- The outpouring of Yehowah's anger and the restoration of a remnant.
- Therefore keep yourselves in expectation of me, is the utterance of Yehowah, till the day of my rising up to the booty, for my judicial decision is to gather nations, for me to collect together kingdoms, in order to pour out upon them my denunciation, all my burning anger, for by the fire of my zeal all the earth will be devoured. ([Zephaniah 3:8](#))
- For then I shall give to peoples the change to a pure language, in order for them all to call upon the name of Yehowah, in order to serve him shoulder to shoulder. ([Zephaniah 3:9](#))
- From the region of the rivers of Ethiopia the ones entreating me, namely, the daughter of my scattered ones, will bring a gift to me. ([Zephaniah 3:10](#))
- In that day you will not be ashamed because of all your dealings with which you transgressed against me, for then I shall remove from the midst of you your haughtily exultant ones, and you will never again be haughty in my holy mountain. ([Zephaniah 3:11](#))
- And I shall certainly let remain in the midst of you a people humble and lowly, and they will actually take refuge in the name of Yehowah. ([Zephaniah 3:12](#))
- As regards the remaining ones of Israel, they will do no unrighteousness, nor speak a lie, nor will there be found in their mouths a tricky tongue, for they themselves will feed and actually lie stretched out, and there will be no one making them tremble. ([Zephaniah 3:13](#))

- Joyfully cry out, O daughter of Zion! Break out in cheers, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! (**Zephaniah 3:14**)
- Yehowah has removed the judgments upon you. He has turned away your enemy. The king of Israel, Yehowah, is in the midst of you. You will fear calamity no more. (**Zephaniah 3:15**)
- In that day it will be said to Jerusalem; Do not be afraid, O Zion. May your hands not drop down. (**Zephaniah 3:16**)
- Yehowah your God is in the midst of you. As a mighty One, he will save. He will exult over you with rejoicing. He will become silent in his love. He will be joyful over you with happy cries. (**Zephaniah 3:17**)
- The ones grief-stricken in absence from your festal season I shall certainly gather together, absent from you they happened to be, because of bearing reproach on her account. (**Zephaniah 3:18**)
- Here I am acting against all those afflicting you, at that time, and I will save her that is limping, and her that is dispersed I shall collect together. And I will set them as a praise and as a name in all the land of their shame. (**Zephaniah 3:19**)
- At that time I shall bring you people in, even in the time of my collecting you together. For I shall make you people to be a name and a praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I gather back your captive ones before your eyes, Yehowah has said. (**Zephaniah 3:20**)
- Yehowah's anger will be poured out on nations and kingdoms.
- Peoples will be given a pure language so as to call on Yehowah's name and serve him shoulder to shoulder.
- Only the humble and lowly will remain among God's people Israel and enjoy security under His protection.
- All those responsible for afflicting Israel will be punished, the regathered remnant will be made a praise among all the peoples of the earth.