

Zephaniah 1:4~ 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,¹ the name of the foreign-god priests,² along with the priests.

Footnote: The Baal Hebrew, *hab·Ba`al*, the name of the false god; Greek and Latin, *Ba'allow*

Footnote: The foreign-god priests Hebrew, *hak·kema·rim'*; Vulgate, temple keepers

1· Then also, he will stretch out his hand against Judah, and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and there he will cut off all the remaining ones who worship Baal, along with the very name of the foreign god priests, along with the priests themselves, for his work is against all false religion.

[Question] Where would Yehowah God then stretch out his hand, and what would he cut off from it completely?

2· You stretched **out your right **hand**, the earth proceeded to swallow them up. (**Exodus 15:12**)**

[Question] What happened to the locusts, when Yehowah stretched out his hand of power against Egypt?

3· For Yehowah of armies himself has counseled, and who can break it up? And his **hand is the one stretched **out**, and who can turn it back? (**Isaiah 14:27**)**

[Question] Can any man turn back the powerful counsel of Yehowah God, or thwart his purpose for the earth?

4· For the sons of **Judah have done what is bad in my eyes, is the utterance of Yehowah. They have set their disgusting things in the house, upon which my **name** has been called, in order to defile it. (**Jeremiah 7:30**)**

[Question] What did the sons of Israel do, that was bad in Yehowah God's eyes?

5· So Israel attached itself to the **Baal of Peor, and the anger of Yehowah began to blaze **against** Israel. (**Numbers 25:3**)**

[Question] How did Yehowah God feel when Israel attached themselves to the Baal of Peor, and what did he do then?

- 6· Thus they abandoned Yehowah and took up serving **Baal** and the Ashtoreth images. (**Judges 2:13**)

[Question] Who did his people abandon, upon entering the Promised Land, and who did they then serve?

- 7· But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and even molten statues he made of the **Baals**. (**2 Chronicles 28:2**)

[Question] Whose wicked ways did King Ahaz choose to walk in?

- 8· And Yehowah of armies himself, the Planter of you, has spoken **against** you a calamity, on account of the badness of the house of Israel, and the house of **Judah**, that they have committed on their own part, to offend me, in making sacrificial smoke to Baal. (**Jeremiah 11:17**)

[Question] Though Yehowah God planted his people within the Promised Land, what did he later do, and why?

- 9· And he put **out** of business the **foreign-god priests**, whom the kings of **Judah** had put in, that they might make sacrificial smoke on the high **places**, in the cities of **Judah** and the surroundings of **Jerusalem**, and also those making sacrificial smoke to **Baal**, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the constellations of the zodiac, and to all the army of the heavens. (**2 Kings 23:5**)

[Question] What did Josiah do, to rid the land of idol worship?

- 10· For the calf idol of Beth-aven, the residents of Samaria **will** get frightened, for over it, its people **will** certainly mourn, as well as its **foreign-god priests**, who used to be joyful over it, on account of its glory, because it **will** have gone into exile away from it. (**Hosea 10:5**)

[Question] What would come upon those who worshiped a calf idol in Yehowah God's name within Israel, and what would they come to feel over this false worship?

- 11· You yourself have deserted me, is the utterance of Yehowah. **Backwards** is the way you keep walking. And I shall **stretch out** my **hand against** you, and bring you to ruin. I have got tired of feeling regret. (**Jeremiah 15:6**)

[Question] What way did Israel choose to walk, and what was their spiritual progress, after many years of serving him?

[Question] How did Yehowah God come to feel about such a wayward people, and what did he promise to do to them, because of their failure to make spiritual progress?

12· Therefore here I am; I have stretched **out** my **hand against** you, and I **will** give you as something to plunder to the nations, and I **will cut** you off from the peoples and destroy you from the lands. I shall annihilate you, and you **will** have to know, that I am Yehowah. (**Ezekiel 25:7**)

[Question] What did Yehowah God say he would give his people to the nations, and why?

13· And it must occur in that day, is the utterance of Yehowah of armies, that I shall **cut** off the **names** of the idols **out** of the land, and they **will** no more be remembered, and also the prophets and the spirit of uncleanness, I shall cause to pass **out** of the land. (**Zechariah 13:2**)

[Question] What did Yehowah God promise to cut off completely from the land, and what then would pass out of his land completely?