

Zephaniah 2:1~ **Gather yourselves together, yes, do the gathering, O nation not paling in shame.¹**

Footnote: Or, not yearning intensely

1· So Zephaniah calls for the people of the land to be called together, yes, do the gathering together, for Israel is a nation not paling in shame, as she should be, before her God, and that is why, Yehowah will bring such a destruction.

[Question] What kind of a nation has Israel become, but what should she be doing, and why?

2· Sanctify a time of fasting. Call together a solemn assembly. Gather together the older men, all the inhabitants of the land, to the house of Yehowah YOUR God, and cry to Yehowah for aid. (Joel 1:14)

[Question] What should Israel do to ward off this calamity from Yehowah God?

3· Gather the people together. Sanctify a congregation. Collect the old men together. Gather children and those sucking the breasts together. Let the bridegroom go forth from his interior room, and the bride from her nuptial chamber. (Joel 2:16)

[Question] Who should be gathered together, and what normal activities should cease, while all seek Yehowah God in repentance?

4· Woe to the sinful nation, the people heavy with error, an evildoing seed, ruinous sons! They have left Yehowah, they have treated the Holy One of Israel with disrespect, they have turned backwards. (Isaiah 1:4)

[Question] How did Isaiah show, how Yehowah God felt about his people then?

[Question] How had they continually treated their God, and what was the direction of their spiritual progress as a people?

5· Did they feel shame because it was something detestable that they had done? For one thing, they positively do not feel any shame, for another thing, they have not come to know even how to feel humiliated. Therefore they will fall among those who are falling, in the time that I must hold

an accounting with them, they will stumble, Yehowah has said. (Jeremiah 6:15)

[Question] What had his people long since forgotten to feel, when doing wrong?

[Question] What then, would happen to them, because they failed to come to repentance before their God?

6· 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)

[Question] What has Yehowah God always been toward and among his people?

[Question] What things did he give continually through his prophets and visionaries?

[Question] What though, did his people refuse to become?