Zephaniah

1 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 Josiah
son of Amon, king of Judah.

2 “I will utterly sweep away everything from the
face of the earth,” declares the LORD.

3 “I will sweep away people and animals;
I will sweep away the birds of the heavens
and the fish of the sea, the stumbling
blocks together with the wicked.
I will cut off mankind from the face of the
earth,” declares the LORD.

4 “I will stretch out my hand against Judah and
all who live in Jerusalem.
I will cut off from this place the remnant of
Baal, the name of the idolatrous priests
along with the priests,

5 those who bow down on the rooftops to the
host of heaven, those who bow down and
swear allegiance to the LORD but also
swear by Malcam,

6 and those who turn back from following the
LORD, who have not sought the LORD or
inquired of him.”

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD, for the day of
the LORD is near.
The LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his invited guests.

8 “On the day of the LORD’s sacrifice I will
punish the princes, the king’s sons, and all
who dress in foreign clothing.
9 On that day I will punish all who leap over the
threshold, who fill their masters’ house
with violence and deceit.

10 On that day,” declares the LORD, “there will be
a cry from the Fish Gate, a wail from the
Second Quarter, and a great crashing from
the hills.
11 Wail, inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the
merchant people have been destroyed;
all who carry silver have been cut off.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with
lamps and punish the men who are settled
on their dregs, who say in their hearts,
‘The LORD will do neither good nor harm.’
13 Their wealth will become plunder and their
houses a desolation.
They will build houses but not live in them;
they will plant vineyards but not drink their
wine.”
14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and
coming very quickly!
Bitter is the sound of the day of the LORD;
the warrior cries out there.
15 That day is 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 darkness,
16 a day of horn blast and battle cry against
fortified cities and high corner towers.

17 “I will bring distress upon mankind, and they
will walk like the blind because they have
sinned against the LORD.
Their blood will be poured out like dust, and
their flesh like dung.”
18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able
to deliver them on the day of the LORD’s
wrath.
All the earth will be consumed by the fire of
his jealousy, for he will make a complete
and sudden end of all who live on the
earth.

2

1 Gather yourselves, yes, gather, you shameless
nation,
2 before the decree gives birth—the day passes
like chaff—before the fierce anger of the
LORD comes upon you, before the day of
the LORD’s anger comes upon you.
3 Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land who
carry out his judgments.
Seek righteousness;
seek humility.
Perhaps you will be hidden on the day of
the LORD’s anger.
4 For Gaza will be abandoned and Ashkelon a
desolation.
Ashdod will be driven out at noon, and
Ekron will be uprooted.

5 Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, the
nation of the Cherethites!

The word of the LORD is against you,
Canaan, land of the Philistines: “I will
destroy you until no inhabitant remains.”
6 The seacoast will become pastures, shelters for
shepherds, and folds for sheep.
7 The coast will belong to the remnant of the
house of Judah.
They will graze there and lie down in the
houses of Ashkelon in the evening, for the
LORD their God will attend to them and
restore their fortunes.
8 “I have heard the taunts of Moab and the
insults of the Ammonites, with which they
taunted my people and boasted against
their territory.
9 Therefore, as I live,” declares the LORD of
hosts, the God of Israel, “Moab will be like
Sodom, and the Ammonites like
Gomorrah—a place of nettles and salt pits,
a desolation forever.
The remnant of my people will plunder
them, and the survivors of my nation will
possess them.”
10 This will be their lot for their pride, because
they taunted the people of the LORD of
hosts and boasted against them.
11 The LORD will be dreadful to them, for he will
starve all the gods of the earth.
All the coastlands of the nations will bow
down to him, each from his own place.
12 “You too, Cushites—they are slain by my
sword.”
13 He will stretch out his hand against the north
and destroy Assyria.

He will make Nineveh a desolation, dry as
the wilderness.
14 Herds will lie down in her midst, animals of
every kind.
Both the pelican and the porcupine will
lodge on her capitals.
A voice will sing in the window;
desolation will be on the threshold, for he
has laid bare her cedarwork.
15 This is the exultant city that lived securely,
that said in her heart, “I am, and there is
none besides me.”
How she has become a desolation, a resting
place for wild animals!
Everyone who passes by her hisses and
waves his hand.

3

1 Woe to the rebellious and defiled one, the
oppressing city!
2 She did not obey the voice or accept correction.
She did not trust in the LORD or draw near
to her God.
3 Her princes within her are roaring lions;
her judges are evening wolves that leave no
bones for morning.
4 Her prophets are reckless, treacherous men.
Her priests profane what is holy and do
violence to the law.
5 The LORD within her is righteous;
he does no injustice.
Morning after morning he brings his justice
to light without fail, but the unjust know
no shame.

6 “I have cut off nations;
their corner towers are desolate.
I laid waste their streets, with no one
passing through.
Their cities are ruined, without a person,
without an inhabitant.
7 I said, ‘Surely you will fear me;
you will accept correction.’ Then her
dwelling would not be cut off, despite all I
had appointed against her.
But they rose early to corrupt all their deeds.
8 Therefore wait for me,” declares the LORD, “for
the day I rise for plunder.
For my decision is to gather nations, to
assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them
my indignation, all my fierce anger.
For all the earth will be consumed by the
fire of my jealousy.
9 For then I will give the peoples purified lips, so
that all of them may call on the name of
the LORD and serve him shoulder to
shoulder.
10 From beyond the rivers of Cush my
suppliants, the daughter of my scattered
ones, will bring my offering.
11 On that day you will not be ashamed of all the
deeds by which you rebelled against me,
for then I will remove from your midst
those who exult in your pride.
You will no longer be haughty on my holy
mountain.
12 I will leave in your midst a humble and poor
people, and they will take refuge in the
name of the LORD.

13 The remnant of Israel will do no injustice and
speak no lies.
No deceitful tongue will be found in their
mouths, for they will graze and lie down,
with no one to make them afraid."

14 Sing for joy, daughter Zion!
Shout, Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart,
daughter Jerusalem!
15 The LORD has removed the judgments against
you;
he has turned away your enemy.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your
midst;
you will no longer fear harm.
16 On that day it will be said to Jerusalem, "Do
not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands fall limp.
17 The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty
warrior who saves.
He will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will be silent in his love.
He will exult over you with singing."
18 "I will gather those who grieve over the
appointed feast;
they were from you.
Reproach was a burden upon her.
19 Look, at that time I will deal with all who
afflict you.
I will save the one who limps and gather the
outcast.
I will make them a praise and a name in
every land where they were put to shame.

20 At that time I will bring you in, at the time I
gather you.
For I will give you a name and praise among
all the peoples of the earth, when I restore
your fortunes before your eyes," says the
LORD.

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