

ZEPHANIAH

¹ The word of the Lord, that was made to Zephaniah, son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah, the son of Amon, king of Judah.

² I gathering shall gather all things from the face of earth, saith the Lord;

³ I gathering man and beast, I gathering volatiles of heaven, and fishes of the sea; and fallings of unpious men shall be, and I shall lose men from the face of *[the]* earth, saith the Lord.

⁴ And I shall stretch out mine hand on Judah, and on all the dwellers of Jerusalem; and I shall lose from this place the remnants of Baal, and the names of keepers of *[the]* houses, with *[the]* priests;

⁵ and them that worship on roofs the knight-hood of heaven, and worship, and swear in the Lord, and swear in Malcham;

⁶ and which be turned away behind the back of the Lord, and which sought not the Lord, neither ensearched him.

⁷ Be ye still from the face of the Lord God, for nigh is the day of the Lord; for the Lord made ready a sacrifice, he hallowed his called *men*.

⁸ And it shall be, in the day of sacrifice of the Lord, I shall visit on princes, and on sons of the king, and on all that be clothed with pilgrims', *either strange, clothing*.

⁹ And I shall visit on each that proudly entereth on the threshold in that day, which fill the house of their Lord God with wickedness and guile.

¹⁰ And there shall be in that day, saith the Lord, a voice of cry from the gate of fishes, and yelling from the second *gate*, and great defouling from little hills.

¹¹ Yell ye, dwellers of Pila; all the people of Canaan was still altogether, all men wrapped in silver perished.

¹² And it shall be, in that time, I shall seek *throughout* Jerusalem with lanterns, and I shall visit on all men pitched in their dregs, which say in their hearts, The Lord shall not do well, and he shall not do evil.

¹³ And the strength of them shall be into ravishing, and the houses of them into desert; and they shall build houses, and shall not inhabit; and they shall plant vineyards, and they shall not drink the wine of them.

¹⁴ Nigh is the great day of the Lord, nigh and swift full much; the voice of the day of the Lord is bitter, a strong man shall be in tribulation there.

¹⁵ That day is a day of wrath, day of tribulation and anguish, day of neediness and wretchedness, day of darknesses and mist, day of cloud and whirlwind,

¹⁶ day of trump and of noise on strong cities and on high corners.

¹⁷ And I shall trouble men, and they shall walk as blind, for they have sinned against the Lord; and the blood of them shall be shed out as earth, and the bodies of them *shall be* as turds.

¹⁸ But the silver of them, and [*the*] gold of them, shall not be able to deliver them in the day of wrath of the Lord; in fire of his fervor all earth shall be devoured, for he shall make end with hasting to all men inhabiting the earth.

CHAPTER 2

¹ Come ye together, be [*ye*] gathered, ye folk not worthy to be loved,

² before that *his* commanding bring forth as dust *the* passing day; before that wrath of strong vengeance of the Lord come [*up*] on you, before that the day of his indignation come [*up*] on you.

³ All mild, *either patient*, men of earth, seek ye the Lord, which have wrought the doom of him; seek ye the just, seek ye the mild, if any manner ye be hid in the day of strong vengeance of the Lord.

⁴ For Gaza shall be destroyed, and Ashkelon *shall be* into desert; they shall cast out Ashdod in midday, and Ekron shall be drawn out by the root.

⁵ Woe to you that dwell in the little part of the sea, a folk of lost men. The word of the Lord on you, Canaan, the land of Philistines, and I shall destroy thee, so that a dweller be not;

⁶ and the little part of the sea shall be rest of shepherds, and folds of sheep.

⁷ And it shall be a little part of him, that shall be left of the house of Judah, there they shall be fed in the houses of Ashkelon; at eventide they shall rest, for the Lord God of them shall visit them, and shall turn away the captivity of them.

⁸ I heard the shame of Moab, and blasphemies of the sons of Ammon, which they said shamefully to my people, and they were magnified on the terms of them.

⁹ Therefore I live, saith the Lord of hosts, God of Israel, for Moab shall be as Sodom, and the sons of Ammon as Gomorrah; dryness of thorns, and heaps of salt, and desert till into without end. The remnants of my people shall ravish them, the residues of my folk shall wield them.

¹⁰ Soothly this thing shall come to them for their pride, for they blas-phemed, and were magnified [*up*] on the people of the Lord of hosts.

¹¹ The Lord *shall be* horrible on them, and he shall make feeble all gods of earth; and men of their place shall worship him, all the isles of heathen men.

¹² But and ye, Ethiopians, shall be slain by my sword.

¹³ And he shall stretch forth his hand on the north, and shall lose Assur; and he shall put the fair city *Nineveh* into wilderness, and into without way, and as desert.

¹⁴ And flocks, and all the beasts of folks, shall lie, *or rest*, in the middle thereof; and onocrotalus, and urchin shall dwell in [*the*] thresholds thereof; voice of the singing in the window, and a crow in the lintel, for I shall make thine the strength thereof.

¹⁵ This is the glorious city dwelling in trust, which said in her heart, I am, and there is none other more without me. How is it made unto desert, a couch of beasts; each man that shall pass by it, shall hiss, and shall move his hand.

CHAPTER 3

¹ Woe! thou city, stirrer to wrath, and bought again a culver.

² It heard not the voice *of the Lord*, and received not teaching, *either chastising*; it trusted not in the Lord, it nighed not to her God.

³ Princes thereof in middle thereof *were* as lions roaring; judges thereof *were* wolves, in the eventide they left not into morrow.

⁴ [*The*] Prophets thereof *were* wild, and unfaithful men; [*the*] priests thereof defouled holy thing, they did unjustly against the law.

⁵ The Lord is just in the middle thereof, and shall not do wickedness; early, early he shall give his doom in light, and it shall not be hid; forsooth the wicked *people* knew not confusion.

⁶ I lost folks, and the corners of them be destroyed; I made the ways of them desert, while there is not that shall pass. The cities of them be desolate, for a man is not left, neither any dweller.

⁷ I said, Nevertheless thou shalt dread me, thou shalt receive teaching; and the dwelling place thereof shall not perish, for all things in which I visited it; nevertheless full early they rising, have corrupted all their thoughts.

⁸ Wherefore abide thou me, saith the Lord, in the day of my rising again into coming. For my doom is, that I gather folks, and I shall gather realms; and I shall shed out on them mine indignation, and all the wrath of my strong vengeance; for in fire of my fervour all earth shall be devoured.

⁹ For then I shall yield to peoples a chosen lip, that all call inwardly in the name of the Lord, and serve to him with one shoulder.

¹⁰ Over the floods of Ethiopia, from thence my beseechers, the sons of my scattered men, shall bring gift to me.

¹¹ In that day thou shalt not be confounded on all thy findings, in which thou trespassedest against me; for then I shall take away from the middle of thee great speakers of thy pride, and thou shalt no more put to, for to be enhanced in mine holy hill.

¹² And I shall leave in the middle of thee a poor people and needy; and they shall hope in the name of the Lord.

¹³ The remnants of Israel shall not do wickedness, neither shall speak leasing, and a guileful tongue shall not be found in the mouth of them; for they shall be fed, and shall rest, and there shall not be that shall make afeared.

¹⁴ These things saith the Lord, Daughter of Zion, praise thou heartily, sing thou, Israel; be thou glad, and make thou joy withoutforth in all thine heart, thou daughter of Jerusalem.

¹⁵ The Lord hath taken away thy doom, [*he*] hath turned away thine enemies; the king of Israel, the Lord, *is* in the middle of thee, thou shalt no more dread evil.

¹⁶ In that day it shall be said, Jerusalem, do not thou dread; Zion, thine hands be not benumbed.

¹⁷ Thy Lord God *is* strong in the middle of thee, he shall save [*thee*]; he shall make joy on thee in gladness, he shall be still in thy loving, he shall make joy withoutforth on thee in praising.

¹⁸ I shall gather the fools, *either vain men*, that went away from the law, for they were of thee, that thou have no more shame on them.

¹⁹ Lo! I shall slay all men that tormented thee in that time, and I shall save him that halteth, and I shall gather her that was cast out; and I shall put them into praising, and into name in each land of confusion of them,

²⁰ in that time in which I shall bring you, and in the time in which I shall gather you. For I shall give you into name, and into praising to all peoples of earth, when I shall convert your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord.

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Wycliffe's Bible with Modern Spelling, was made in response to requests from readers who wanted my Wycliffe's Old and New Testaments and Apocrypha in one volume. Printing limitations dictated the number of pages available to me and the letter size. In my previous books, Wycliffe's Bible, Wycliffe's Old Testament, Vols. 1 amp 2, Wycliffe's New Testament, and Wycliffe's Apocrypha, I have tens of thousands of rewritten verses, presented in parentheses "()", to provide help in comprehending the 14th century Middle English vocabulary and grammar. In this present volume, with space at a premium, those "helps" had to be eliminated, to make room for the text of the Apocrypha.

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