

23. Zephaniah - Zephanyah

(Version 4.2) 7-21-17

Chapter 1

1:1 The word of **YAHWEH**
which existed to Zephanyah,
son of Kushi, son of Gedalyah,
son of Amaryah, son of Hizkiyah,
in the days of Yoshiyah, son of Amon, king of Yahudah.

Zephanyah means YAHWEH has concealed.
Kushi means from Kush.
Gedalyah means YAHWEH is great.
Amaryah means YAHWEH has spoken.
Hizkiyah means strengthened by YAHWEH.
Yoshiyah means established by YAHWEH.
Amon means skilled.

1:2 "I will remove!
I will cause everything to come to an end
from upon the face of the soil!"
- An Utterance of **YAHWEH**. -

1:3 "I will cause to come to an end
human being and animal!
I will cause to come to an end
the birds of the skies,
and the fish of the sea,
and the stumbling blocks,
and the morally wrong themselves **nx**!
And I will cut off the human being itself **nx**
from upon the face of the soil!"
- An Utterance of **YAHWEH**. -

1:4 "And I will stretch out My hand over Yahudah,
and over all those dwelling in Yerushalaim!
And I will cut off from this place
the remnant of Ba'al itself **nx**
the names themselves **nx** of the idolatrous priests
along with the priests,
1:5 and those themselves **nx**
bowing themselves down on the housetops
to the assembly of the skies,
and those themselves **nx** bowing themselves,
swearing to **YAHWEH**,
but *also* swearing by Milcom,

Milcom was an Ammonite deity. There is disagreement concerning the meaning of the term used here. Some suggest an allegiance to the king. However, this makes no sense if YAHWEH is appointing the kings of the land.

1:6 and those themselves **nx** turning back
from following **YAHWEH**,
and who have not sought **YAHWEH Himself** **nx**
and have not inquired of Him!"

The concept here is apostasy. You can't turn back from following YAHWEH if you've never followed Him. To turn back is to reject His authority in your life. This is what's known as "blaspheming The Holy Spirit". It is the ONLY unforgiveable offense!

1:7 Be silent before the face
of my Sovereign, **YAHWEH!**
Indeed, The Day of **YAHWEH** is at hand!
Indeed, **YAHWEH** has prepared a sacrifice!
He has set apart those He has called!

1:8 And it will exist in the day
of the sacrifice of YAHWEH!
Then I will hold accountability
against the leaders,
and against the sons of the king,
and against all who are wearing foreign garments!

1:9 And I will hold accountable on that day
everyone leaping over the threshold,
who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit!

1:10 And on that day there will exist,"
- An Utterance of YAHWEH. -
"the sound of a shriek from The Fish Gate,
and a howling from The Second Quarter,
and of a great cracking from the hills!

1:11 Howl, you who are dwelling in The Maktesh!
Indeed, all the merchants will be cut off,
everyone carrying silver!

The Maktesh was apparently an open marketplace.

1:12 And at that time it will exist
that I will diligently search Yerushalaim *itself* **nx** with lamps!
And I will hold accountability against
those who are settling upon their dregs,
those saying in their heart,
'YAHWEH will not do good,
nor will He do bad.'

1:13 Then their wealth will be as plunder
and their houses as a desolation!
And they will build houses.
But they will not inhabit them!
And they will plant vineyards.
But they will not drink their wine *itself* **nx**!"

1:14 Near is The Great Day of YAHWEH!
Near and hurrying vehemently
is the sound of The Day of YAHWEH!
Bitterly crying there is the mighty man!

1:15 A day of wrath is that day,
a day of anguish and distress,
a day of devastation and waste,
a day of darkness and gloominess,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
1:16 a day of shofar and alarm
over the walled cities and over the corner towers!

1:17 And I will cause oppression to human beings!
And they will walk like the blind
because they have offended against YAHWEH!

And their blood will be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like excrement!

1:18 Even their silver and their gold
will be not able to deliver them
in the day of the wrath of YAHWEH!

And with the fire of His zeal
He will devour the whole earth!
Indeed, of a certainty,

He will make a rapid riddance
of all those *themselves* **nx**
who are dwelling on the earth!

Chapter 2

2:1 Gather yourselves together like stubble!
Even gather yourselves together like stubble,
nation not desired,
2:2 before the going forth of the decree!

The day is like chaff that has passed over
before the fierce anger of **YAHWEH**!

It will not come upon you
before the day of wrath of **YAHWEH** comes upon you,
before the day of **YAHWEH's** anger comes upon you!

2:3 Seek **YAHWEH Himself** **nx**,
all the humble of the earth
who have done His regulations!
Seek justice!
Seek humility!
Perhaps you will be hidden
in the day of the wrath of **YAHWEH**.

2:4 Indeed, Azzah is being abandoned.
And Ashkelon will exist as a devastation!
Ashdod will be driven out at noonday!
And Ekron will be uprooted!

2:5 Woe to those dwelling on the coast of the sea,
the nation of the Kerethites!
The word of **YAHWEH** is against you, Kena'an,
land of the Philistines,
and I will cause you to perish without inhabitant!

2:6 And the coast of the sea
will be homes of shepherds,
and sheepfolds of flocks.

2:7 And the coast will exist
for the sake of the remnant of the house of Yahudah.
Upon them they will feed.
In the houses of Ashkelon they will lie down at dusk."

Indeed, **YAHWEH**, their Elohim, will visit them!
And He will turn back their captivity!

2:8 "I have heard the reproach of Mo'ab
and the revilings of the children of Ammon
with which they have reproached
My people *themselves* **nx**!
And they have lifted themselves up
against their borders.

2:9 For this reason, by My life,"
- An Utterance of **YAHWEH** of Assemblies,
the Elohim of Yisra'el. -
"indeed, Mo'ab will exist like Sedom,
and the children of Ammon like Amorah,
a possession for nettles and salt pits,
even a desolation until eternity!

A remnant of My people will plunder them!
And the rest of My nation will occupy them."

2:10 This is what they will have
instead of their pride
because they have reproached
and lifted themselves up
against the people of **YAHWEH** of Assemblies!.

2:11 The fear of **YAHWEH** will be upon them!
Indeed, He will emaciate
all the gods *themselves* **nx** of the earth!

And each man will bow down to Him from his place,
all the coastlands of the nations

2:12 "And you *yourselves* **nx**, Kushites,
you will be slain by My sword!"

2:13 And He will stretch out His hand
over the north!
And He will cause *Ashshur itself* **nx** to perish!
And He will establish *Nineveh itself* **nx**
as a desolation,
as dry as a wilderness!

2:14 And herds will lie down in her midst
of every animal of the nation!
Even the pelican,
even bittern will lodge on the tops of her columns.
A sound will sing in the windows.
Desolation will be on the threshold.
Indeed, the cedar work will be exposed.

2:15 This is the jubilant city,
the one dwelling securely,
the one saying in her heart,
'I myself exist and there is none except me!'

How she has existed as a desolation,
a resting place for the sake of the animals!
Everyone passing over beside her
whistles and shakes his fist!

Chapter 3

3:1 Woe to her who is filthy and defiled,
the raging city!
3:2 She has not listened attentively to His voice!
She has not accepted His correction!
She has not trusted in **YAHWEH**!
She has not drawn near to her Elohim!

3:3 Her leaders in her midst are roaring lions.
Her judges are evening wolves.
They leave no bone by dawn.

3:4 Her prophets are unstable,
committing treachery.
Her priests have defiled The Sanctuary.
They have done violence to Instruction.

torah - a precept or statute, instruction, teaching.
Traditionally this is translated as 'the law'. However, the
central meaning of this word is to teach. Thus, it refers to
instruction. These are YAHWEH's instructions to His people.
To violate these instructions is to offend YAHWEH. This is
the essence of 'sin'.

3:5 **YAHWEH** is just in her midst!
He does no moral wrong!

Every day at dawn He gives His judgment
for the sake of illumination!
It has not been lacking!
Yet the morally wrong does not know shame!

3:6 "I have cut off nations!
I have devastated their chief ones!
I have caused their streets to be deserted,
with no one passing by!
Their cities have been destroyed,
with no man,
with no one dwelling there!

3:7 I have said,
'You are to revere only Me Myself **nx**!
You are to accept correction!
Then her dwelling place would not be cut off,
everything on account of which
I have held her accountable.

However, they rose up early!
They corrupted all their actions!

The concept of rising early is usually associated with starting on a journey, going somewhere. The implication here is that they journeyed away from YAHWEH.

3:8 For this reason,
wait for Me,
- An Utterance of **YAHWEH**. -
"for the sake of the day of My rising up on the prey!

Indeed, My judgment is to gather nations,
to assemble kingdoms,
for the sake of pouring out on them My indignation,
all my fierce anger!

Indeed, with the fire of My zeal
the whole earth will be devoured!

3:9 Indeed, then I will turn around
toward the peoples with an undefiled language
for the sake of calling all of them
by the name of **YAHWEH**,
for the sake of serving Him with one consent!

3:10 From beyond, toward the rivers of Kush,
my worshippers,
the daughters of My scattered ones,
will bring My voluntary offering.

3:11 In that day
you will not be put to shame by any of your actions
with which you have rebelled against Me!

Indeed, then I will cause to be removed from your midst
the rejoicing of your arrogance!
And no longer will you have cause to be arrogant
on My set apart mountain!

3:12 And I will cause to remain in your midst
an afflicted and poor people.
And they will take refuge in the name of **YAHWEH**.

3:13 The remnant of Yisra'el
will do no moral wrong!
And they will not speak a lie!

And there will not be found in their mouth
a tongue of deceit!

Indeed, they will tend their flocks.
And they will lie down
And no one will cause them to shudder with terror!

3:14 Shout for joy, daughter of Tzion!
Shout, Yisra'el!
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
daughter of Yerushalaim!
3:15 YAHWEH has caused to be turned aside
your judgments!
He has faced your adversary!

The King of Yisra'el, YAHWEH,
is in your midst!
You are not to fear what is bad any longer!

3:16 In that day it will be said to Yerushalaim,
'You are not to be afraid, Tzion!
Your hands are not to be weak!

3:17 YAHWEH, your Elohim,
is mighty in your midst!
He will cause deliverance!
He will rejoice over you with joy!
He will cause one to be still in His love!
He will rejoice over you with singing!

3:18 Those having suffered
because of the appointed time
I will gather from you.
They will be a burden of reproach against her.

3:19 Behold!
I will deal with all those themselves nx
who are afflicting you at that time!
And I will deliver the lame themselves nx!
And those cast out I will gather!
And I will establish them as a praise
and as a name *of renown*
among all the lands of their shame!

3:20 At that time
I will cause you yourselves nx to come,
even at the time of My gathering you yourselves nx,
when I give you yourselves nx
as a name *of renown* and as a praise
among all the peoples of the earth,
at My turning back of your captivity itself nx
for the sake of your eyes!"

YAHWEH has spoken!