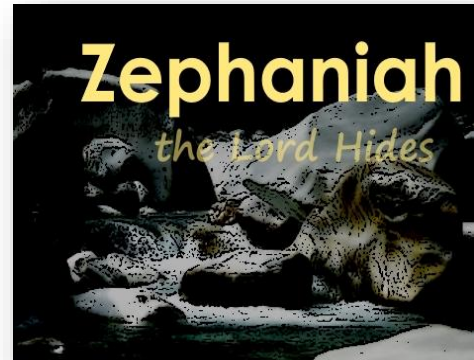


# ZEPHANIAH 1 vs 1

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Little is known about Zephaniah. His name means: **The Lord hides**; he lived in the days of Josiah, his first verse stipulates his noble birth, not only his father, but his grandfather, his great-grandfather, and his great-great grandfather: King Hezekiah. He echoes the doom of Nineveh. Jewish tradition says Zephaniah had for his colleagues Jeremiah, whose sphere of labor was the thoroughfares and market-places; and Huldah the prophetess, who labored in the college in Jerusalem.



The first chapter speaks to God's severe and rapid judgment on **Judah** for its idolatry; and its impossibility of escape. This prophecy serves **a dual purpose**; starting with its historic reality 2500 years ago; ending with the unfinished work of the world; when Messiah comes again in glory to rule; so these verses will illustrate what many people throughout the world will face in the last days. .

**<sup>1</sup> 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.**

**<sup>2</sup> I will completely sweep away everything off the land, declares the LORD.**

**<sup>3</sup> I will sweep away man and beast; I will sweep away the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, and the ruins along with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the land, declares the LORD.**

**<sup>4</sup> I will stretch out My hand against **Judah**, and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off every trace / every footprint of Baal from this place, and the names of pagan priests along with the priests;**

**<sup>5</sup> and those who bow down on the rooftops to worship the host of heaven; who zealously pledge to the LORD, and yet pledge to Molech / Solomon built a sanctuary for Molech to whom they gave human sacrifice, in particular children;**

**<sup>6</sup> and those guilty of desertion: who turn from following the LORD; or those who have not sought the LORD, nor enquired of Him.**

**<sup>7</sup> Be silent in the presence of the LORD God: for the Day of the LORD is near: for the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, He invited His guests / since His people did not offer their best to Him, He would offer the worst to them; the Chaldeans were on their way.**

**<sup>8</sup> **And it will happen on the Day of the sacrifice of the LORD**, I will punish the officials -- the children of the king, and all who dress in foreign apparel / The Lord said He would do to them, what they did to Him; the ringleaders, including those with weird fish hats; and scarlet robes; and any other goofy, hocus pocus attire.**

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<sup>9</sup> **On that same day I will also punish all those who skip on the threshold** / Jerome says: those who pridefully and arrogantly walk up the steps into the sanctuary with self-importance, **who fill the house of their masters with goods obtained by violence and deceit.**

<sup>10</sup> **And it will happen on that day**, says the LORD, that there will be an outcry from the Fish Gate, and a wailing from the Second District, and a loud crashing from the hills / Jerome says this verse describes the state of the city while besieged by Nebuchadnezzar; and that may be true, but is that all to the prophecy?

<sup>11</sup> **Wail, you inhabitants of the Hollow** / Jerome said this is the valley between Zion and the Mount of Olives, at the eastern extremity of Mount Moriah, where the wholesalers, suppliers, and dealers lived, **for all the merchants will be cut down; and all those who are loaded with silver will be cut off.**

<sup>12</sup> **And it will happen at that time, I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who stagnated in spirit: and say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, nor will He do evil** / they wrongly thought the patience of the Lord was evidence supporting them: the lamps indicate so as to leave no dark corner in the city able to escape its sentence; especially where the hardened, indifferent folk are left undisturbed and might hide.

<sup>13</sup> **So, their wealth will be plundered, and their houses will be desolate: yes, they will build houses, but not live in them; they will do all the work planting vineyards, but not drink their wine.**

<sup>14</sup> **Near is the great Day of the LORD;** near and rapidly approaching / and just imagine, if it was near then, how much closer it is for us. Listen, **the Day of the LORD** will roar with a revenge; the warrior will cry out bitterly.

<sup>15</sup> **That Day is a Day of wrath,**

**a Day of trouble and distress,** a Day of destruction and desolation,

**a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness** / Joel confirms this; he says [the sun, the moon and the stars will not shine](#),

<sup>16</sup> **A day** of the trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities, and against the high watch towers.



# ZEPHANIAH 1 vs 1

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<sup>17</sup> And I will bring distress on mankind, **and they will stumble like the blind, because they sinned against the LORD.**

Their blood will be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

<sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to rescue them **on the Day of the wrath of the LORD;**

but all the **earth** will be devoured in the fire of His fierce jealousy: for He will make a sudden, terrifying complete end of all... who dwell on the **earth.**



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