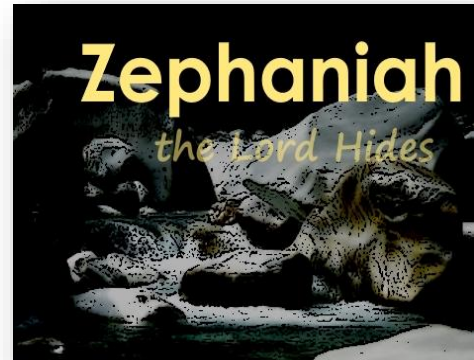


ZEPHANIAH 2 vs 1

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What 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 being 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 second chapter includes an exhortation for the people to reconsider their ways before the Chaldean invaders come. The sure doom of Judah's foes is clear: Philistines, Moab, Ammon, with their idols, and Cushites and Assyrian. This prophecy definitely serves **a dual purpose**; this chapter primarily speaks to the historic reality 2500 years ago; but includes much unfinished work; for 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.

¹ Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation;

² before the decree takes effect, before the day passes like the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD comes upon you, before the day of the anger of the LORD comes upon you.

³ Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth, who work His commands; seek rightness, seek humility: perhaps you will be hid on the day of the anger of the LORD.

⁴ Gaza will be abandoned, and Ashkelon a ruin: Ashdod will be driven out at noon, and Ekron will be rooted up / four southern cities still along the Mediterranean shoreline. According to Zephaniah one day they will all be moved.

⁵ Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, the nation of the Cherethites! / how terrible it will be for the Cretans, a name applied to those Philistines who originally came from Crete; **the word of the LORD is against you;**

O Canaan, land of the Philistines, I will even destroy you, that there will be no inhabitant.

⁶ And the coast will be pastures, with caves for shepherds, and folds for flocks;



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⁷ and the coast will be for the remnant of the house of **Judah**; they will pasture on it. In the houses of Ashkelon they will lie down at evening:

for the LORD their God will visit them, and turn away their captivity / so it sounds like the Lord has some very specific plans for that coastline, doesn't it? Anybody want to argue with the Lord?

⁸ **I have heard the smart ass taunting of Moab, and the insults of the children of Ammon, whereby they criticized My people, and exaggerated themselves and their territory.**

⁹ So, as I live, declares the LORD of hosts, **the God of Israel**, Surely Moab will be like Sodom, and the children of Ammon like Gomorrah – even a place breeding nettles and salt pits, and a perpetual desolation. The remnant of My people will plunder them, and the remainder of My people will dispossess them.

¹⁰ This is what they will have for their pride; **since they criticized and overstated themselves against the people of the LORD of hosts.**

¹¹ **The LORD will terrify them, when He starves all the gods of the earth**; then all the distant islands of the nations will bow down and worship Him, each from its place.

¹² You Cushites also will be slain by My sword.

¹³ **And He will stretch out His hand against the north, and destroy Assyria; and He will make Nineveh a desolation, and dry as a desert.**

¹⁴ And flocks will lie down in the midst of it, every kind of wild animal: both the desert owl and the screech owl will lodge in the capitals of its pillars; their voice will sing from the windows; but desolation will be on the threshold; for He has exposed their cedar work.

¹⁵ This is a self-assured city that dwells carelessly, who said in her heart / who thinks to itself, I am, and there is no one else like me: what a desolation she has become, a place for wild beasts to lie down! Everyone who passes by her jeers, and shakes his fist.

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