

THE PROPHECY OF ZEPHANIAH

Bible Marking Notes

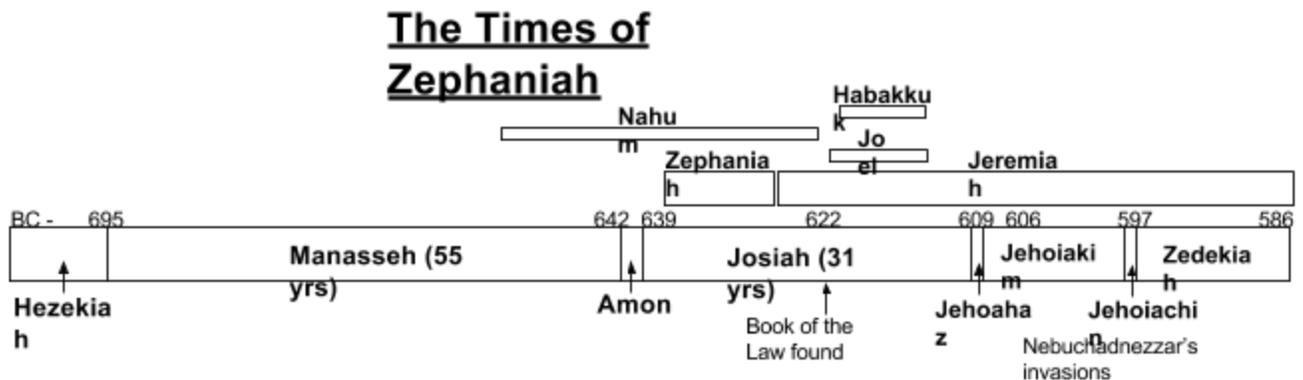
Synopsis

The prophet Zephaniah prophesied early in the reign of Josiah, Judah's greatest reformer. Josiah, doubtless encouraged by Zephaniah, commenced the cleansing of idolatry out of Judah, a work completed by Yahweh 40 years later through His servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. The Land, and particularly Jerusalem, was filled with every form of idolatry with an emphasis on the astral worship of Babylon. This was favoured by Manasseh who for 50 years presided over the worst apostasy in Judah's history – a deliberate and orchestrated campaign of corruption and murder. For this Yahweh eventually sent Manasseh into captivity to Babylon where he was cured of idolatry. In this he was a forerunner of his people who 40 years later were likewise sent to Babylon for the same purpose.

Manasseh endeavored on his return from captivity to undo the effect of 50 years concerted effort to corrupt the worship of Judah. The little progress he made before his death was quickly reversed by Amon his son, and when he was violently removed two years later, Josiah as an 8 year old king ruled a land filled with the relics and doctrines of Babylonian idolatry. Even the faithful prophet Zephaniah did not escape the taint of this deep corruption. His father's name was Cush! Who in Judah's royal line would ever call their son Cush? Only someone deeply affected by the ways of Babylon. Cush was the great original prophet of the Babylonian mysteries. His son Nimrod became by his prowess as a hunter the first god-king of the kingdom of men based in Babel (or Babylon) and then in Assyria. Nimrod and his wife Semiramis established a higher order of priests for the god Janus, god of doors and hinges, who wore red. From these ultimately developed the Roman Catholic cardinals (Latin - Cardo signifying hinge). The lower order of priests who tended the sacrificial fires wore black robes. These emerged later in Judah as the Chemarims (Zeph.1:4) and are duplicated in the black robed priests of the Catholic Church of today.

The name Cush appears three times in the book of Zephaniah (1:1; 2:12; 3:10 – the last two translated "Ethiopia"). As a land it is identified with the north and with Assyria (Zeph.2:12-13). The original Cush was the land of the rivers of Eden (Gen.2:10-14). This was the land of Nimrod and the beginning of the kingdom of men (Gen.10 & 11). Babylon had been effectively transferred to the land of Judah during the reign of Manasseh. Consequently, the prophecy of Zephaniah has both a short term and long range application. The prophet warns of the onset of the day of Yahweh to completely denude the land of its corrupt people and their false gods, and this happened with the Babylonian invasions. However, it is clear that Yahweh looked down the corridor of time to the day of judgement when He would completely reverse all that Nimrod accomplished so long ago in his defiance of Yahweh's truth. So while the name Nimrod does not occur in Zephaniah there are many allusions to him. As the founder of the Papal system which will soon rule the kingdom of men as "Babylon the great", Nimrod's shadow stands in the background of this far-reaching prophecy. Zephaniah is therefore a giant stepping stone between Genesis and Revelation.

Zephaniah warns of impending judgement on Judah, but his vision sweeps on to the return of Christ to judge the world in the great day of Yahweh. He speaks of the impending judgement on the nations, with emphasis on Cush (Babylon) and Assyria, in language redolent of the Apocalypse, and concludes his message with the turning of all peoples to a pure language and the worship of Yahweh in truth. At the head of these is Israel redeemed from their dispersion and brought into harmony with their God. Thus Nimrod's rebellion will be utterly reversed.



Zephaniah

Chapter 1

¹The 1^{word} of the LORD which came unto ²Zephaniah the son of ³Cushi, the son of ⁴Gedaliah, the son of ⁵Amariah, the son of ⁶Hizkiah, in the days of ⁷Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

Theme of Zephaniah revealed in his genealogy: The salvation of a remnant "whom Yahweh hid" among the "Cushites" and "made great" through the one "he spoke of" (promised to Abraham) and "strengthened for himself".

²I will 1^{utterly} consume all *things* from off the land, ²saith the LORD.

³I will consume 3^{man} and ⁴beast; I will consume 4^{the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea,} and the 5^{stumblingblocks} 6^{with the wicked}; and I will 7^{cut off} man 8^{from off the land}, saith the LORD.

The Character of the Ecclesia in Zephaniah's Times

- Judah steeped in idolatry and worldly practice
- Result of nearly 60 years apostasy – the most part a determined campaign of corruption by Manasseh - 2 Kings 21:1-11
- Irrevocable judgement on Judah passed by Yahweh - 2 Kings 21:10-15; 22:16-17; 24:3-4
- Only a remnant surrounding Josiah upholding truth - Jer. 5:1
- Judah's attitude to reform hypocritical in the extreme – Jer. 5:2-3; 7:2-7; 3:10-11

⁴I will also stretch out mine hand 1^{upon} Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the 2^{remnant} of Baal from this place, *and* the 3^{name} of the Chemarims 5^{with the priests};

⁵And them that worship 6^{the host of heaven} upon the 7^{housetops}; and them that worship *and* 8^{that swear by the LORD}, and that swear by 9^{Malcham};

⁶And them that are 10^{turned back} from the LORD; and *those* that have not 11^{sought} 12^{the LORD}, nor enquired for him.

⁷1^{Hold thy peace} at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD *is* at 2^{hand}:

The Prophet – His origins and times

¹dabar – occurs twice in Book. 1st occ. O.T. is Gen.11:1 (cp. context – influence of Babylon).

²"Whom Yahweh hid". Prophesied between 630-621 BC.

³Named after Cush the father of Nimrod. Descendent of Ham – dark races.

⁴"Whom Yah has made great".

⁵"Whom Yah spoke of (i.e. promised)".

⁶Same as Hezekiah = "Strengthened of Yah". It is unusual to give 5 generations. Traces royal origins and therefore association with Josiah and his party. (5 = grace for the remnant).

⁷"Founded of Yah". His reforms were triggered by Zephaniah his youthful contemporary with Jeremiah.

The consuming judgements of Yahweh

¹asaph – to gather. Occurs twice in text for emphasis. 1st occ. O.T. Gen.6:21. Roth. "I will take clean away everything from off the face (paneh) of the ground".

²neum – oracle. Roth. "declareth".

³adam & behemah – words used in Gen.6:7. This prophecy fulfilled over 40 years beginning with Josiah (2 Kings 23:5,8) ending with Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 24:3,20). Cp. day of Yahweh (40 years) and flood - 40 days (Gen. 7:4).

⁴Order of creation is reversed here (Gen.1:20-27). Destruction was to come because darkness covered the earth (Gen.1:2).

⁵makshelah – a stumblingblock; an incitement to sin; i.e. idols. Only other occ. Isa.3:6 (cp. Matt.13:41).

⁶Roth. "even them who are lawless". Int. Bib. "even the wicked".

⁷Karath – to cut off, destroy. 1st occ. Gen.9:11 (used of covenant).

⁸Int. Bib. "from the face (paneh) of the ground (adamah)". Used Gen. 6:7; 7:4,23; 8:8.

The titles of Cush – Bel = "the confounder". Symbol was a club – Chald. = "to break in pieces, scatter abroad". Cp. Gen. 11:9; Jer. 50:23; 50:1-2. **Mercury or Hermes** – Egyptian = "son of Ham". The great original prophet of idolatry (Acts 14:12). **Nebo** – identified with Cush. **Moloch** – "king". Same god as Bel.

Judgement on Judah and Jerusalem

¹Specifies the subject of judgements (Vv.2-3). Judah doomed.

²Roth. (Mgn.) "the name of Baal".

³Shem – appellation. 5 occs. in book. See use Gen. 11:4. Cp. Zeph. 3:19,20.

⁴Root word has idea of shriveling, and by a figure to be deeply affected by passion. Occs. Gen.43:30; 1 Kings 3:26; Lam.5:10; Hos.11:8. Has idea of an ascetic, monk or ecclesiastic; an "excited one" who led people in pagan rites. It is suggested their trademark was a black robe.

⁵i.e. Aaronic order. Cp. 2 Kings 23:5,8; 25:18.

⁶Astral worship (2 Kings 21:3,5; 23:4-5; Jer. 19:13; 32:29).

⁷Designed for prayer (Ex.30:3).

⁸They protested allegiance (Jer. 7:4).

⁹God of Ammonites – Cp. 2:8-11; 1 Kings 11:5-7; 2 Kings 23:10; Lev. 18:21. Title of Cush.

¹⁰cuwg – to flinch; go back, to retreat. Trans. "backslider" Prov. 14:14. Cp. Isa. 50:5; Jer. 38:22.

¹¹baqash – search out; strive after.

¹²Heb. includes eth – Lit. "Yahweh himself".

The day of Yahweh at hand

¹hacah – to hush; be silent. Cp. Hab.2:20; Zech. 2:13.

²qarob – near. Occs. v.14. Cp. Isa.13:6; Ezek.30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1;

for the LORD hath ³prepared a ⁴sacrifice, he hath ⁵bid his guests.

⁸And it shall come to pass in the day of the LORD'S sacrifice, that I will punish ⁶the princes, and ⁷the king's children, and all such as are clothed with ⁸strange apparel.

⁹In the same day also will I punish all those that ⁹leap on the threshold, which fill their masters' houses with violence and ¹⁰deceit.

¹⁰And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, *that there shall be* the ¹¹noise of a cry from ¹²the fish gate, and an howling from ¹³the second, and a ¹⁴great crashing from the hills.

¹¹¹⁵Howl, ye inhabitants of ¹⁶Maktesh, for all the ¹⁷merchant people are ¹⁸cut down; all they that bear silver are cut off.

¹²And it shall come to pass at that time, *that* I will ¹⁹search Jerusalem with ²⁰candles, and punish the ²¹men that are ²²settled on their ²³lees: ²⁴that say in their heart, ²⁵The LORD will not do good, neither will he do ²⁶evil.

Vv.4-6 – 6 Victims of Divine Judgement

- * The idols of Baal in Jerusalem and Judah
 - * Idolatrous priests and corrupt Levitical priests
 - * Worshipers of the stars on housetops
 - * Those with divided allegiance between Yahweh & Molech
 - * Those who had turned back from worshipping Yahweh
 - * The irreligious who had not sought Him at all.
- Note gradation of culpability in order of seriousness, from rank idolaters through to willingly ignorant.*

¹³Therefore their ¹goods shall become a ²booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit *them*; and they shall plant ³vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof.

¹⁴ ⁴The great day of the LORD is ⁵near, it is ⁵near, and ⁶hasteth greatly, *even* the ⁷voice of the day of the LORD: ⁸the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.

Heb. "day" yome occurs 21 times in book; 18 between 1:1-2:3. Judah's day of judgement projects to the future "day of Yahweh" Zech.14:1; Obad.15; Isa.34:8; Mal.4:5; Joel 2:1-2,11,31.

¹⁵That day *is* a day of ⁹wrath, a day of ¹⁰trouble and distress, a day of ¹¹wasteness and desolation, a day of ¹²darkness and ¹³gloominess, a day of ¹⁴clouds and thick ¹⁵darkness,

3:14.

³ Int. Bib. "appointed". Cp. Gen.15:9-12; Jer.34:18-22.

⁴ zebach – slaughter.

⁵ Int. Bib. "sanctified his called ones", e.g. 1 Sam.16:5. Cp. Isa.13:3; 34:6.

⁶ sar – "rulers" (Int. Bib.) Jer. 52:10,24-27. Responsibility James 3:1.

⁷ Josiah exempted – 2 Kings 22:15-20.

⁸ nokriy – foreign. Used Neh. 13:26-27; and malbush – vestment for ceremonial use, 1 Kings 10:5; 2 Kings 10:22. Cp. Ezek.23:12-16, v.4.

⁹ Roth. "leapeth over". Cp. 1 Sam.5:5. Either through superstition or for robbery.

¹⁰ mirmah – fraud. Temple of false gods filled with unrighteous gain of robbery and fraud.

¹¹ Roth. "the noise of an outcry".

¹² N.E. corner of lower city Neh. 3:3. See 2 Chron. 33:14.

¹³ Lower part of city – 2 Kings 22:14; 2 Chron. 34:22.

¹⁴ sheber – a fracture; root to burst. Ygs. Lit. "great destruction".

¹⁵ yalal – howl (with wailing tone).

¹⁶ "Depression". Roth. "of the lower city", i.e. market place.

¹⁷ Canaan – humiliated. Roth. "all the people of traffic". Cp. use Isa.23:8; Hos.12:7.

¹⁸ Int. Bib. "have perished".

¹⁹ chaphas – to seek. Used Amos 9:3 = inescapable judgement.

²⁰ nehr – to glisten; a lamp. Used of 7 branched lampstand. See Prov. 6:23.

²¹ enosh – weak mortal men.

²² qapha – to shrink; i.e. thicken.

²³ Shemer – something preserved, i.e. the settlings. Translated "dregs" Ps. 75:8; Isa. 25:6; Jer. 48:11. Caused by no movement or sifting (Jer. 48:11) = stagnation of undisturbed prosperity – Laodicean inactivity.

²⁴ Roth. "who are saying". A disaffected reforming class had supported Josiah's party, but little had changed, so settled into a Laodicean state (v.6).

²⁵ i.e. there will be no reformation and no judgement – cp.

Ps.73:1-17; Ecc.8:11. Cp. Yahweh's challenge to false gods Isa.41:23; Jer.10:5.

²⁶ ra'a – to spoil (lit. by breaking to pieces).

¹ chayil – force; hence wealth.

² mechicah – plunder. Int. Bib. "a prize".

³ Cp. Deut. 28:30,39.

"The day of Yahweh" occurs 7 times in context = completeness of Divine judgements leading to the Millennial Day. "Day" occurs another 9 times = finality. This is a prophecy with both short and long term objectives.

⁴ Lit. "Is near, day of Yahweh, the great, it is near and hurrying greatly".

⁵ qarob – used v.7.

⁶ Roth. "very speedy". It was 40 years away!

⁷ qol - cp. 7 occs. Ps.29. Joel 2:11; 3:16. Translated "thunderings" Ex. 9 and 19:16; 20:18; Deut.5:22-28.

⁸ Roth. "a strong man there! Bitterly crying out!"

⁹ ebrah – an outburst of passion.

¹⁰ tsarah – tightness; & metsubah – narrowness. Roth. "danger and distress".

¹¹ sho'ah – a tempest (cp. use Ezek.38:9); & me-sho'ah – ruin (i.e. the result).

¹² chosok. 1st occ. Gen.1:2. See use Joel 2:2; Amos 5:18,20.

¹³ aphelah – duskiess, Joel 2:2. Roth. "day of obscurity and deep gloom".

¹⁶A day of the ¹⁶trumpet and ¹⁷alarm against the fenced ¹⁸cities, and against ¹⁹the high towers.

¹⁷And I will bring ²⁰distress upon men, that ²¹they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as ²²dust, and their flesh as the ²³dung.

¹⁸Neither their ²⁴silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole ²⁵land shall be ²⁶devoured by the fire of his ²⁷jealousy: for he shall make even a ²⁸speedy ²⁹riddance ³⁰of all them that dwell in the land.

Chapter 2

¹ Gather yourselves together, yea, ¹gather together, O nation ²not desired;

² Before the decree bring forth, ⁴before the day pass as the chaff, before ⁵the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD'S anger come upon you.

³ Seek ye the LORD, all ye ⁷meek of the earth, which have ⁸wrought his judgment; seek ⁹righteousness, seek ¹⁰meekness: ¹¹it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.

⁴ For ²Gaza shall be ³forsaken, and ⁴Ashkelon a desolation: they shall ⁵drive out ⁶Ashdod ⁷at the noon day, and ⁸Ekron shall be ⁹rooted up.

⁵Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea ¹⁰coast, the nation of the ¹¹Cherethites! the word of the LORD *is* against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, ¹²I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant.

¹⁴ anan – thunder cloud, Joel 2:2.

¹⁵ araphel – gloom (lowering sky). Joel 2:2; Ezek.34:12; Jer.13:16; Ps. 97:2; Ex. 20:12.

¹⁶ shophar – cp. Joel 2:1,15. First 3 occs. in O.T. Ex.19:16,19; 20:18 (cp. context).

¹⁷ teruwah – clamor, battle cry.

¹⁸ First occs. of word is Gen.4:17; 10:11,12; 11:4,5,8. Cities not of God.

¹⁹ i.e. the corner towers.

²⁰ tsarar – cramp. Deut.28:52.

²¹ Cp. Deut. 28:28,29; Isa.59:9-10.

²² aphar – dust; clay, earth. 1st occ. Gen.2:7; 3:14,19. Used of Abraham's natural seed Gen.13:16; 28:14; Num.23:10. Speaks of national death.

²³ Cp. use Lev.4:7,11,12.

²⁴ Symbols of redemption and tried faith – absent in Judah. Their prosperity could not remedy situation – v.8,9,11.

²⁵ erets – earth (Roth.).

²⁶ akal – to eat. Roth. "consumed".

²⁷ qinah – rt. to be zealous. Key phrase 3:8; Ezek. 36:5-6; 38:19.

²⁸ kalah – a completion. Nah.1:8,9.

²⁹ kalah (root of above) – to end. Lit. for a full, yea a speedy end".

³⁰ Roth. "with all them who dwell in the earth".

An urgent call to repentance

¹ qashah – sapless through drought; to forage for wood – Num.15:32,33. Roth. "Collect your thoughts, aye collect them". Cp. Luke 23:31; Jude 12. Nation was 'dry' – drastic action required.

² kacaph – to be pale through shame. Ges. "a nation without shame".

³ Roth. "Ere yet the decree have given birth". "Bring forth" is yalad – to beget.

⁴ Lit. "like the chaff shall pass the day". Signifies ephemeral status.

⁵ Roth. "the glow of the anger".

⁶ baqash – to search out; to strive after (cp. v.6). 3 occs. in verse.

⁷ anayv – depressed. 1st occ. Num.12:3. Cp. Ps.76:9; Isa.11:4. Roth. "all ye lowly of the land".

⁸ Roth. "who have wrought what he appointed". 4 occs. 3:5,8,15. Cp. Jer.5:4-5.

⁹ tsedeq – the right.

¹⁰ anavah (cog. with anayv) – condescension. Occs. 2 Sam.22:36; Prov.15:33; 18:12; 22:4. Roth. "seek humility". Opposite attitude to 1:4-12. Cp. Josiah 2 Kings 22:19.

¹¹ sathar – to hide (by covering). Roth. "peradventure ye shall be concealed". Allusion to Zephaniah's name. Cp. Isa.26:20-21; 1:15. See root Ps.27:5; 31:19-20. Cp. Josiah 2 Kings 22:20.

Judgement on the nations

¹ Warning to Judah – act now!

² azzah - "strong". Note play on words in this section.

³ azab – to loosen; relinquish; desolated. Cp. Mic.1:10-16.

⁴ "Weighing place", i.e. a mart, becomes shimamah – devastation.

⁵ garash – to drive out from possession.

⁶ "Ravager". Ges. "a fortified place, a castle".

⁷ Roth. "Ashdod! At high noon shall they drive her forth". Noon was time of least danger from invaders.

⁸ "Eradication". Rt. aqar.

⁹ aqar – to pluck up (by the roots); to exterminate. A direct play on words.

¹⁰ chebel – measuring line. Roth. "the line of the sea" (west).

¹¹ "Executioner". A life guard. Cp. 1 Sam.30:14-16; Ezek.25:16.

¹² Roth. "therefore will I destroy thee to the last inhabitant". Harks

⁶And the sea coast shall be ¹³dwellings and ¹⁴cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks.

⁷And the coast shall be for the ¹⁵remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they ¹⁶lie down in the ¹⁷evening: for the LORD their God shall visit them, and turn away their ¹⁸captivity.

⁸I have heard the ¹⁹reproach of ²⁰Moab, and the ²¹revilings of the children of ²²Ammon, whereby they have ²³reproached my ²⁴people, and ²⁵magnified themselves against their ²⁶border.

⁹ ¹Therefore as I live, saith the ²LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as ³Sodom, and the children of Ammon as ⁴Gomorrah, *even* ⁵the breeding of nettles, and saltpits, and a perpetual desolation: the ⁶residue of my people shall ⁷spoil them, and the ⁸remnant of my people shall ⁹possess them.

¹⁰This shall they have for their ¹⁰pride, because they have ¹¹reproached and magnified themselves against the people of the LORD of hosts.

¹¹The LORD *will be* ¹²terrible unto them: for he will ¹³famish all the gods of the earth; and *men* shall ¹⁴worship him, every one from his place, *even* all the ¹⁵isles of the heathen.

¹²Ye ¹⁶Ethiopians also, ye *shall be* ¹⁷slain by my sword.

¹³And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and ¹⁸destroy Assyria; and will make ¹⁹Nineveh a desolation, *and* ²⁰dry like a wilderness.

¹⁴And ¹flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all ²the beasts of the nations: both the ³cormorant and the ⁴bittern ⁵shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; *their* voice shall ⁶sing in the windows; desolation *shall be* in the ⁷thresholds: for he shall ⁸uncover the ⁹cedar work.

¹⁵This *is* the ¹⁰rejoicing city that ¹¹dwelt ¹²carelessly, that said in her heart, ¹³I am, and there is none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall ¹⁴hiss, and

back to 1:2-3.

¹³ navah – at home. Roth. “shall become a meadow”.

¹⁴ karah – a meadow. Roth. “the wells of shepherds”.

¹⁵ she'eryth – a remainder. 3 occs. V.9; 3:13.

¹⁶ rabats – to crouch, repose. Occs. 2:14; 3:13. Cp. Gen.49:9,14,25.

¹⁷ Contrast v.4. – promised time of rest.

¹⁸ shebiyth – exile. Roth. “and bring their captives back”.

¹⁹ cherpah – blasphemous contempt.

²⁰ “From (her) father”, Gen.19:36-37. Play on words. Root idea of cherpah – pudenda (shame), i.e. Lot's shame.

²¹ gidduphah – vilification.

²² “Tribal” i.e. inbred (by incest).

²³ charaph – to pull off; expose, by fig. to defame. Ps.83.

²⁴ am – root of Ammon. Another play on words.

²⁵ gadal – to twist; to make large.

²⁶ gebul – a cord; a boundary.

¹ This had been called in question.

² Lit. “He will be armies the mighty ones of Israel”.

³ “To scorch, burnt”.

⁴ “A ruined heap”.

⁵ Roth. “a possession for the thorn”.

⁶ Translated “remnant” v.7; 3:13.

⁷ bazaz – plunder, Dan.11:41.

⁸ yether – residue (Roth.).

⁹ nachal – to inherit. Remnant of Judah to spoil – Israel to inherit.

¹⁰ gaown – arrogance. Roth. “This they shall have instead of their pride”.

¹¹ These words used in v.8.

¹² yare – to cause fear; frighten.

¹³ razah – emaciate; make thin. Only other occ. Isa.17:4 (wax lean).

¹⁴ shachah – to prostrate. See Isa.2:2-3; Mic.4:1-2; Zech.14:16.

¹⁵ iy – island. 1st occ. Gen.10:5. Significant uses Esther 10:1; Ps.72:10; Isa.42:4,10,12; 51:5; 60:9.

¹⁶ “Cushite”. 1st occ. Gen.2:13; 10:6,7,8. Refers to original Cush – source of idolatry and religious corruption. See reference to “north” v.13.

¹⁷ chalal – pierced.

¹⁸ Nimrod (first god of the earth = papacy) established Assyria (Gen.10:8-11). Origin of all idolatry in Judah.

¹⁹ “The place of habitation”. Enshrined all Nimrod stood for (Gen.10:11-12; Gen.11). Power to subdue men and beasts.

²⁰ Roth. “dry as the desert”.

¹ rabats v.7. Refers to the remnant of Israel (3:13) possess Nimrod's territory.

² chay – alive. Roth. “each living thing of a nation”, i.e. Israel. Cp. Mic.4:8.

³ qa'ath – the pelican.

⁴ qippod – the bittern, the long legged swamp bird. Cp. Isa.34:11. Type of nations, Rev.18:2.

⁵ Roth. “in her capitals! Shall roost”.

⁶ Roth. “resound”.

⁷ caph – a vestibule. Int. Bib. “doorsill”.

⁸ arah – to be bare.

⁹ Lavish paneling stripped.

¹⁰ alliyz – exultant.

¹¹ yashab – to sit.

¹² betach – safety. Roth. “this is the city exultant, that sat secure”.

¹³ Cp. Yahweh's claim (Isa.45:5,6,18,22). Contrast Assyrian god-kings – cp. Nimrod.

wag his hand.

Chapter 3

¹Woe to her that is ¹filthy and polluted, to the ²oppressing city!

²She ³obeyed not the voice; she ⁴received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God.

³Her princes within her are ⁵roaring ⁶lions; her judges are ⁷evening wolves; ⁸they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.

⁴Her prophets are ⁹light and treacherous persons: her priests have ¹⁰polluted the sanctuary, they have done ¹¹violence to the law.

⁵The ¹²just LORD is in the ¹³midst thereof; ¹⁴he will not do iniquity: ¹⁵every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, ¹⁶he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

4 Elements Essential to Salvation

- Harkening to the Word
- Acceptance of correction
- Trusting in Yahweh

Drawing near to God

Four is the number of righteousness

⁶ ¹⁷I have cut off the nations: ¹⁸their towers are desolate; ¹⁹I made their streets waste, ²⁰that none passeth by: ²¹their cities are destroyed, ²²so that there is no man, ²³that there is none inhabitant.

⁷ ²⁴I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt ²receive instruction; so their ³dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I ⁴punished them: ⁵but they rose early, and ⁶corrupted all their doings.

⁸Therefore ¹wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the ²prey: for my ³determination is to gather the nations, that I may ⁴assemble the ⁵kingdoms, ⁶to pour upon them mine ⁷indignation, even all my ⁸fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

The finality of Zeph.3:8 – This verse contains every letter of the Hebrew alphabet including the five final letters – 27 (3x9) = total fullness and finality.

⁹For then will I ⁹turn to the ¹⁰people a ¹¹pure ¹²language, that they may all call upon ¹³the

¹⁴sharaq – to shrill; whistle in scorn. Cp. Job 27:23; Nah.3:19.

The sins of Judah and Jerusalem

¹mara – to rebel. Roth. “rebellious”.

²yana – to rage; be violent.

³shama – to hear intelligently. Roth. “she hath hearkened to no voice”. Jer.7:23,24; 22:21.

⁴muwcar – chastisement. Roth. “accepted no correction”.

⁵sha’ag – to rumble or moan.

⁶ariy – lion (because of its violence). Ps.10:8-10; Prov.28:15-16; Isa.1:23; Jer.22:17; Ezek.22:6,25,27; Mic.3:1-4,9-11.

⁷Symbol of pitiless ferocity – Ezek.22:27; Jer.5:6; Hab.1:8.

⁸Roth. “They have left nothing until morning”.

⁹pachaz – bubble up or froth. Only other occ. Jud.9:4. Roth. “reckless”.

¹⁰Roth. “profaned the holy”.

¹¹chamac – be violent; maltreat. Ygs. “they have violated law”.

¹²tsaddiyq – just.

¹³qereb – nearest part; centre. Cp. Isa.12:6; Hos.11:9. 6 occs. in book.

¹⁴Roth. “he dealeth not perversely”.

¹⁵Roth. “morning by morning His justice bringeth he forth to light”. Cp. Isa.33:2; 50:4; Jer.21:12; Ps.37:6.

¹⁶Roth. “He is not found lacking”.

¹⁷Roth. “I have cut off nations”. As example to Israel (Isa.37:26). Cp. Jer.25:17-33.

¹⁸Roth. “deserted are their towers”.

¹⁹Roth. “made desolate their streets”.

²⁰Roth. “that none passeth through”.

²¹Roth. “ruined are their cities”.

²²Roth. “for want of men of note”.

²³Roth. “from lack of any dweller”. Cp. 1:2-3,18; 2:13-15.

²⁴God’s judgement designed to warn Israel of consequences of idolatry and corruption.

¹Roth. “reverence”.

²Same words as v.2.

³ma’iyn – abode. Often used of Yahweh’s habitation (v.5).

⁴paqad – to visit; punish.

⁵shakam – to incline the shoulder to a burden; to load up, i.e. to start early in the morning.

⁶shachath – to decay; ruin.

A remnant restored and redeemed

¹chakah – to adhere to; wait – Hab.2:3; Isa.64:4; Dan.12:12; Isa.8:17.

²Nimrod became a god-king as a hunter (Gen.10:9). Yahweh now becomes the hunter. Cp. occs. “prey” Gen.49:27; Isa.33:23.

³mishpat – verdict, judgement.

⁴qabats – to grasp; collect, i.e. for Armageddon.

⁵mamlakah – dominions. 1st occ. of this word is in Gen.10:10 of the kingdom of men.

⁶shaphak – spill forth, gush out.

⁷zaam – fury, rage (Isa.26:20).

⁸charon – burning of anger.

⁹naphak – to turn about; return. Cp. Gen.11:1-9.

¹⁰am (plural) – peoples. 1st occ. Gen.11:6.

¹¹barar – to clarify (brighten).

name of the LORD, to serve him with one
¹⁴consent.

"nations" – goh'y (2:1,5,9,11,14; 3:6,8) and "people" – am both occur 7 times in Zephaniah = Covenant issues.

¹⁰From ¹⁵beyond the ¹⁶rivers of ¹⁷Ethiopia
¹⁸my supplants, *even* the daughter of my
¹⁹dispersed, shall bring ²⁰mine offering.

¹¹In that day ²shalt thou not be ashamed for
all thy doings, wherein thou hast
³transgressed against me: for then ⁴I will take
away out of the midst of thee them that
⁵rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more
be ⁶haughty ⁷because of my holy mountain.
¹² ⁸I will also leave in the midst of thee an
⁹afflicted and ¹⁰poor people, and they ¹¹shall
trust in the name of the LORD.

¹³The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity,
nor speak ¹²lies; neither shall a ¹³deceitful
tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall
¹⁴feed and lie down, and none shall make
them ¹⁵afraid.

¹⁴ ¹Sing, O daughter of Zion; ²shout, O Israel;
be glad and ³rejoice with all the heart, O
daughter of Jerusalem.

¹⁵ ⁴The LORD hath taken away thy
judgments, he hath ⁵cast out thine ⁶enemy:
⁷the king of Israel, *even* ⁸the LORD, *is* in the
midst of thee: ⁹thou shalt not see evil any
more.

¹⁶In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem,
¹⁰Fear thou not: and to Zion, ¹¹Let not thine
hands be slack.

¹⁷¹²The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is
mighty; ¹³he will save, ¹⁴he will rejoice over
thee with joy; ¹⁵he will rest in his ¹⁶love, ¹⁷he
will joy over thee with singing.

¹⁸I will gather *them that are* ¹⁸sorrowful for
the solemn assembly, ¹⁹who are of thee, ²⁰to
whom the reproach of it was a burden.

¹⁹ ¹Behold, at that time I will undo all that
afflict thee: and I will save her that ²halteth,
and gather her that was ³driven out; and I will

¹² sahphah – lip. The word used Gen.11:1; Mal.2:6,7. This refers to a
single tongue leading to pure religion.

¹³ Heb. shem. Cp. use Gen.12:8.

¹⁴ shechem – to shoulder a burden (last occ. in O.T.). Cp. Gen.12:6 –
Abraham's choice.

¹⁵ eber – root of the word Hebrew (cross over). Cp. Josh.24:2,3.

¹⁶ nahar. First 4 occs. of this word are Gen.2:10-14. Context is return
from Babylon.

¹⁷ Cush; i.e. Babylon.

¹⁸ Roth. "shall come my worshippers".

¹⁹ puwts – used Gen.11:4,8,9.

²⁰ minchah. Roth. "shall bear along a gift for me". Ezek.20:40-41;
Isa.66:20; Mal.3:3,4; 1:11.

Remnant of Israel Redeemed

¹ The day of Yahweh = 40 years – Second Exodus.

² Roth. "wilt thou not turn pale for all thy deeds" (cp. v.7).

³ pasha – break away, trespass.

⁴ See notes v.5. Ezek.20:38.

⁵ alliyz (2:15). Ga'avah – arrogance or majesty. Roth. "thy proudly
exulting ones".

⁶ gabahh – to soar, be lofty.

⁷ Roth. "in my holy mountain".

⁸ Cp. v.5,11. Always remnant saved in every era (2:3,7,9).

⁹ aniy – depressed, afflicted. Cp. use Isa.66:2; Zech.9:9; Prov.3:34.

¹⁰ dal – dangling; weak or thin.

¹¹ chacah – to flee for protection; confide. Ps.34:8; Isa.57:13;
Nah.1:7.

¹² Roth. "falsehood".

¹³ tarmiyth – fraud.

¹⁴ ra'ah – to tend or graze a flock. Cp. 2:7.

¹⁵ charad – to shudder with terror. Jer.30:10; 46:27; Ezek.34:28;
39:26; Mic.4:4; Isa.17:2.

Rejoicing of Redeemed Israel

¹ ranan – to shout for joy. Isa.12:6; 44:23; 49:13; 54:1; Jer.31:7;
Zech.2:10.

² ruwa – to split the ears with sound (shout for joy). Used Zech.9:9.

³ alaz – to jump for joy, exult.

⁴ Roth. Yahweh hath set aside thy judgements".

⁵ panah – to turn; to face. Ygs. "He hath faced thine enemy".

⁶ yeb – hating. Refers to Gog (Assyro-Babylonian Empire).

⁷ Yahweh displaces Nimrod/Papacy. Cp. Gen.10:8-14.

⁸ Christ (Yahweh in manifestation) – Zech.9:9-10; 14:9.

⁹ Roth. "not fear calamity".

¹⁰ Cp. context Isa.35:3-4; 41:10,13,14; 43:1-2; 44:2; 54:4.

¹¹ Roth. "let not thy hands hang down". Cp. Isa.35:3.

¹² Yahweh/Christ greater than Nimrod. "Mighty" is gibbor (Gen.10:8).

¹³ yasha. Close to Joshua – Yahweh's salvation.

¹⁴ An enthusiastic and full joy.

¹⁵ charash – to be silent; to let alone. Roth. "will be silent in his love",
i.e. will not recall to remembrance their sins.

¹⁶ ahabah – affection.

¹⁷ Roth. "will exult over thee with shouts of triumph".

¹⁸ yagah – to grieve. Unable to keep the solemn feasts.

¹⁹ i.e. truly of Zion (Ps.87).

²⁰ Lit. "the burden upon it was reproach". Ygs. "bearing for her sake
reproach".

¹ Roth. "Behold me dealing with all thine oppressors".

² tsala – to limp. Only other occs. Gen.32:31; Mic.4:6,7. Cp.

get them ⁴praise and ⁵fame ⁶in every land
where they have been put to shame.

²⁰At that time ⁷will I bring you *again*, even in
the time that I gather you: for I will make
you ⁸a name and a praise ⁹among all people
of the earth, when I turn back your ¹⁰captivity
¹¹before your eyes, ¹²saith the LORD.

Jer.31:1-14; 30:4-17; Isa.35.

³ nadach – to push off. Cp. Jacob.

⁴ tehillah – laudation.

⁵ shem – a name. Cp. v.12,20.

⁶ Roth. “in the whole earth that hath witnessed their shame”.

⁷ Jacob becomes Israel (Hos.12:3-6) – God’s work.

⁸ Same words as v.19 reversed.

⁹ Cp. Gen.11:6; Deut.32:8. All peoples to be incorporated into one
nation – Israel.

¹⁰ Plural = end of all dispersion.

¹¹ As in Ex.14:13-14.

¹² Yahweh occs. 34 times and is last word in book. Guarantee!