

# Zephaniah One

Transcribed from tape of Jeremiah using *The Authorized Version* of the Holy Bible.

Verses 1, 2, and 3:

**1** The word of the LORD which came unto Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hizkiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

**2** I will utterly consume all [things] from off the land, saith the LORD.

**3** I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumblingblocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD.

Now here HE is actually referring to making a complete end. Now when He mentions everything, what HE is referring to is a complete end of all wickedness, because HE says "and the stumbling block with the wicked." Then HE goes on and makes HIMSELF even clearer.

Verse 4:

**I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, [and] the name of the Chemarims with the priests;**

The direction of HIS anger now turns to Judah and their evil ways. HIS hand was stretched out upon Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; this is where HIS anger was at the time. And HIS anger was directed at them primarily because they had HIS Word, they had HIS understanding, and HE held them responsible to obey HIM. Now if this was the heathen it wouldn't have been as bad, but here these people understood. HE says "I will cut off the remnant of baal from this place." Now this is heathen worship. In other words, HE was going to get rid of heathen worship. "...and the name of the Chemarims with the priests." The chemarims were the idolatrous priests. So this is everything that had to do with idolatry and false worship.

Verse 5:

**And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship [and] that swear by the LORD, and that swear by Malcham;**

Now malcham was the god of the ammonites. You see how involved Jerusalem became. Here was a people that had been set apart and given the Law of YAHWEH, and had been blessed by the Almighty GOD, and had seen miracle after miracle, had seen blessings and prosperity, so much that the whole world was talking about this people. The heathen said "they have a God that fights for them." The heathen world took notice of this. And yet we see the wiles of the devil working right in the LORD'S People and getting the weak members to fall out, and the weak members would influence the strong members and pretty soon he had practically all of them. The only thing that was left was a few prophets who were able to stand alone. But this is the way the devil works; he works through the weaker members, and the weaker ones influence the others. And the end result is that only True Israel will stand. Now if YAHWEH permits such trials to occur, then it is a fair trial. In other words, if you can't stand up to the opposition of someone in the family, or a friend, or something, you are just not Israel.

Verse 6:

**And them that are turned back from the LORD; and [those] that have not sought the LORD, nor inquired for him.**

Or those who gave up. So you see there is a class of people who give up. This is very obnoxious to YAHWEH. We know that YAHWEH'S People will have trials. HE says "they shall fall. But when they fall they will be helped with a little help." (Dan. 11:34) Meaning that they will not be permitted to go all the way down. But those that do go all the way down, go down because they want to go down. So YAHWEH will allow HIS People to be chastized and corrected, they will have their ups and downs. But they should come out of it, "they will be helped with a little help." HE says indicating that HE will not allow them to collapse completely altogether. So there are those who give up, and there are those who never "inquired" about HIM. Now this is another "stench in YAHWEH'S nostrils," you might say, intelligent people who never even look for HIM. Now we know that a lot of the blame for this is religion because they teach such ridiculous doctrines that intelligent people really steer away from it; really thinking people say 'if that is GOD, then there is no GOD.' This is a fact. But nevertheless, because someone is wrong that doesn't mean to say that there is no GOD, so they actually should keep on searching, because any person whose heart is right does realize that there is someone. Even myself, when I thought I gave up, I will still praying every night, so I must have been looking up to someone-- even though I couldn't accept the religious doctrines.

Verse 7:

**Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD [is] at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.**

Now a sacrifice naturally is a slaughter, and HE is going to identify the ones who will be slaughtered.

Verse 8:

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

Now the princes; these are the chief ones of the earth. The kings children; these are also the upper class, the ruling class. "...and all who are clothed with strange apparel." Apparel identifies a person. Yahshua in one of His parables taught us that "someone who was in the wedding feast did not have a wedding garment on them. And he was thrown into outer darkness." So the clothing here identifies the people. The one who didn't have the wedding garment on was actually not one of the heavenly class, and he had wormed his way in some way. He did not belong there. So those with this strange apparel are actually those who are not clothed with YAHWEH'S Blessing, they are not YAHWEH'S People. The strangeness refers to those who are different. Those who are not truly HIS People. And they are identified here in a symbolic way with their clothing, clothing identifies the people.

Verse 9:

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

Or "over the threshold." Now these are all the unruly. Yahshua says "the one who does not come in by the straight gate, the same is a thief and a robber." In other words, if he doesn't come in the door, he is not kosher, he is not honest. So we have people here, the unruly ones, "leaping over the threshold." These are the unruly ones who "fill their masters' house with violence and deceit." These are the ones who do not come into the truth with love, and the desire to understand. These do not truly want to serve YAHWEH. These are the ones that will come into the organization and cause trouble. The way to come into YAHWEH'S organization naturally is by understanding, we must accept Yahshua the Messiah, and we come in because we have a True GOD; a GOD of love, justice, wisdom

and power. And we are obedient to HIM, and submissive to HIM. Anyone who comes in for any other reason is not coming in through the right way. These will be the trouble makers, and we shall have these people. But with the intelligence, or with the wisdom that YAHWEH gives HIS People, we will be able to identify them. We find that they will be trying to cause trouble and cause disorder and dissension amongst YAHWEH'S People. And if you are not careful they can actually rile your blood up and the first thing you know, you will be turning on YAHWEH'S People, or turning against yourself, turning against YAHWEH. This is the tricks of the devil; he can easily get you angry. You are going to have to fight and try to shun all of this and stick to the truth. Keep your wits about you and continue to reason. Because he is going to do this continuously.

Verse 10:

And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, [that there shall be] the noise of a cry from the fish gate, and an howling from the second, and a great crashing from the hills.

Well, the israelites were great fishers, and by the sea they had a market or so, which they called the fish gate. The beginning of the city was towards the sea. And in the middle of somewhere, and all the way on the other side of the hills. In other words, there would be a cry all over. This would be a noise, or an outcry; this is the beginning of the trouble.

Verse 11:

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

Now the word maktesh means mortar. Now mortar is not cement; this is a bowl-shaped object, where grain and different things are put in and pounded and beaten. So it is like a valley shaped thing. Now HE is actually bringing out what will happen to these people, the merchant people. These are the ones who will be cut down. All they that bear silver are cut off. In other words, this pounding brings out the punishment or the destruction that will come about and they will be like grain that is actually beaten into submission and pulverized.

Verse 12:

And it shall come to pass at that time, [that] I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.

The people that are settled on their lees, HE is referring to people here. I don't know if any of you old timers know anything about sediment in wine or vinegar; when you make home-made wine you notice there is a film at the bottom, and if it is undisturbed the wine on top is very clear, and underneath the sediment rests undisturbed. But the minute you disturb it, we find that the whole bottle becomes polluted or discolored. But HE is referring to the rich as "being at ease, and never disturbed." As though, like sediment is never disturbed at all, it lays there quietly, never mixing throughout the entire bottle, you might say. These are people who are at ease, who say, "the LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil." *Moffatt's* translation brings it out even better:

For I am searching Jerusalem with a lamp to punish careless men living at ease, who think the Eternal never does anything.

In other words, they actually are like "the wicked say in their heart, there is no God." The reason they say, naturally, is because their desires are selfish and they want to pursue a selfish course, and they don't want to have anyone interfere with them. Now YAHWEH will interfere with a selfish course,

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when HE begins to denounce 'riches', when HE starts to denounce a selfish course, when HE says HE expects HIS People to study and preach unselfishly. This is something that a selfish individual who wants to make money doesn't look favorably towards, this is a disturbance to him.

Verse 13:

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

Their goods shall become a booty, indicating that these are the ones who will go down, these are the ones who will be conquered. And YAHWEH'S People are the ones that are going to inherit all things. HE says to Israel that they would "inherit the wealth of the gentiles." Indicating that Israel will inherit all things, who will be here, will actually take over everything that the gentiles leave. They strive for wealthy possessions, they ignore YAHWEH, and they don't know what is going to come upon the earth they ignore HIS message, HIS warning. And when the destruction comes, they are taken away and they have to leave everything they have gathered. And they leave it for Israel. But Israel isn't trying to take anything off them, Israel is sticking their neck out and trying to warn them all the time. Israel doesn't go to sleep, Israel is preaching and Israel will continue to preach for the 1,260 days so they can't come back at us and say 'you never warned us' because Israel is certainly going to do a lot of talking.

Verse 14:

**The great day of the LORD [is] near, [it is] near, and hasteth greatly, [even] the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly.**

Now the day of YAHWEH begins with the publicity, and it continues rapidly. And we find that one thing follows the other, first it is the publicity, and then YAHWEH permits them to show their true colors by fighting those who bring a loving message to them, and then comes their real woes when they begin to turn on each other and this is a terrible time for them.

Verse 15:

**That day [is] a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,**

Now it is a day of wrath because YAHWEH will pronounce HIS Judgements through Israel, "the land of Judah shall be a terror to Egypt." (Is. 19:17) YAHWEH says. So the LORD'S People will be a terror; not that they are afraid of us because we are not armed. But they are afraid of who is backing us, they are afraid of the wisdom and the understanding and the pronouncement of judgement that comes through the lips of Israel. So the wrath of YAHWEH will be pronounced on the world, and it will bring "trouble and distress" to the nations. HE says at that time "all the tribes of the earth shall mourn." (Matt. 24:30) Because they will begin to realize that there is another power that is beginning to influence the earth, and that this power, who is the Almighty GOD, is about to take over what they thought they could possibly hang onto all the time. Now it is a "day of darkness and gloominess." Darkness entirely for those who don't listen because before the message comes out, they apparently are successful as though they were in the light, as though they were succeeding. But with the opposing message from YAHWEH it curtails their desires and their efforts, and it shows them for what they are. And we find that business will actually be ashamed to raise its head when Israel is through with them. "A day of clouds and thick darkness." Clouds indicate trouble, and naturally darkness for the world.

Verse 16:

**A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.**

Or their embattlements. Well, the trumpet and alarm is sounded in a time of war, and the world is actually going to experience a time of great gloominess, a time when they know that war is imminent. And they will experience a time of great gloominess, a time when people feel when they now they are being invaded, and that their lives, and the lives of their loved ones are endangered. This is a most agonizing feeling. I have never actually experienced that where I had anyone shooting at me, but I have dreamt about it and it was terrible. It was really an unusual experience.

Verse 17:

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

Now the distress that HE brings upon them, and the walking like blind men comes about because they have actually sinned against YAHWEH, they have opposed HIM. In other words, the world comes to an end and YAHWEH explains a new program. HE explains that HIS Kingdom is taking over, and the world, as it is, will no longer function in this manner. Because of this knowledge, the world will not be able to go on; they will not be able to cope with it, they will not be able to continue uninterrupted and those who try will be walking like blind men because they will actually have no solution for it. They will not be able to oppose YAHWEH'S Servants. And these are the ones who opposed YAHWEH, these are the ones who sinned against the LORD. The end result will be that "their blood shall be poured out as the dust, and their flesh as the dung." Indicating that they will be destroyed.

Verse 18:

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

Now we find that men with money are able to buy their way out of practically everything today. They buy justice, they are able to sway politicians, and get contracts through graft, they can do practically anything with money. But when the time comes when the wrath of the nations is really turned on one another, "neither gold nor silver will be able to save any of them." They are flesh and blood, and they will go down like all men, they will be slaughtered. So YAHWEH says "the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy." Now this is not a jealousy where someone feels inferior to someone else, this is righteous indignation, this is a jealousy because a wicked organization has taken over what properly belongs to YAHWEH, a planet that HE has created, a people that HE has created, a purpose for this people. And the whole thing has been usurped by the devil and his wicked organization, and has made a mockery of the Living GOD and caused people to suffer. So YAHWEH is truly indignant because this rightfully belongs to HIM. And YAHWEH is going to make a tremendous and speedy riddance of the whole thing and never again will this wicked system rise up to plague us again.

(study continues to Zechariah Two)

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1:(Verse 17) What does HE mean that "their blood will be poured out as dust and their flesh as dung."

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**A: Dung, or manure, this means they will just lay all over the place. Not gathered of anything. In other words, they will go down in a disgraceful manner, no honorable burial, no consideration, or anything. They will just lay there like manure.**

**2:(Verse 6) "Them that are turned back from the LORD."**

**A: Now this Old English is confusing, but this means those who give up, those who first make progress, and then back up. HIS anger is against them. So these are included among those who receive HIS anger, just like the ones who worshipped the heathen gods. These are marked for punishment, and also those that give up, and also those that don't even inquire for HIM.**

Zephaniah 1:3:

אָכַף	וּבְהֵמָה	אָדָם	אָכַף
consume	,beasts and	man	Consume
הַיָּם	וּדְגָיָהּ		עוֹף-הַשָּׁמַיִם
,sea the	fishes and		heavens fowls
אֶת-הַרְשָׁעִים			וְהַמַּכְשָׁלוֹת
wicked the even		transgressions of	cause the and
פָּנָי	מֵעַל	אֶת-הָאָדָם	וְהַכְרַתִּי
face	off from	man the even	off cutting and
		נֹאמַם-יְהוָה	הָאֲדָמָה
		.YAHWEH declares	,earth the

Clarification:

I will consume man and beast, I will consume the fowls of the heavens and the fishes of the sea and the cause of transgressions, even the wicked. And I will cut off even man from off the face of the earth, declares YAHWEH.

In chapter one, verse three of Zephaniah, YAHWEH is speaking as a man enraged. Enraged at all living things because the intelligent life who have been given HIS attributes have plotted their own course and in so doing have openly rebelled.

Israel has been taught that YAHWEH moves forward and does all things in harmony with HIS four attributes, which are love, justice, wisdom and power. And the understanding of this scripture will prove as always that HIS four attributes are herein employed. Mankind and all other forms of life on this planet are facing total annihilation. This is the natural destructive course that will claim all peoples whose survival depends entirely on their obedience to their CREATOR, and who yet choose to go astray.

This death sentence would certainly be carried out in its entirety, with no creature in heaven or on earth that could raise any effective opposition to YAHWEH, for HE is almighty. YAHWEH, however, has other attributes which HE also employs before any final judgment is passed; they are love, justice and wisdom. And aside from owning the universe, it is the employment of these four attributes which bring HIM glory and honor, and which causes the rulers in HIS heavenly and earthly organization—yea, all of creation to fall down and worship HIM (Revelation 4:6-11).

Man who has been created in YAHWEH'S image also possesses these four attributes. However, he cannot readily understand the mind of YAHWEH because of the infinite depth of HIS decisions—decisions that must include and affect all of mankind from the time he was first created and onward throughout eternity. The only way that these judgements can be understood by man is through Yahshua who has been made the Head of Zion, YAHWEH'S Capital Organization. It is He who hands it down through YAHWEH'S appointed channel of authority from the heavens down to the earth.

Will YAHWEH allow the righteous indignation within HIS breast and His anger against the willful disobedience of man to destroy all forms of life on this earth? Would HIS attributes of love and justice honor HIM if these words were literally carried out? The clue is in the portion of verse three as translated from the Hebrew, "and the cause of transgression, even the wicked." This means that the wicked are the cause of

transgression, and they shall be consumed.

Silently then this voices another facet to be considered in this scriptures verse, and it is that there are those who *are not the direct cause of transgression*. The righteous-hearted, or the innocent, over which the wicked bear rule. Psalm 9:17 states:

The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Psalm 37:11:

But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

The attributes of love and justice are always present in all of YAHWEH'S judgments. These attributes would never permit HIM to pass any sentence that would be merciless and unfair. HE would never judge the wicked and the righteous alike and hand them equal sentences and punish both with the same severity. *Never!* Listen to YAHWEH speaking through Jeremiah. Jeremiah 31:8,9:

8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, and with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.

9 They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born.

Zephaniah 1:3 therefore could only means that all of the wicked would most certainly be destroyed with all of the animals over which they either have control and benefit from directly, or otherwise receive remuneration in some form or another, or if they simply remain in the confines of the wicked, outside the camp of Israel. For in the coming final war YAHWEH will destroy all who are not seeking to submit to HIM by hearkening to HIS Chosen Israel of Promise who alone possess the understanding of HIS determination for the next one thousand years, and who alone receive and will receive HIS guidance now and throughout eternity.

Will a Loving and Just GOD, cut off all men from off the earth forever? The mature in Israel, those who know their FATHER intimately will answer, *Yes*. All wicked men will be cut off throughout eternity; but to the righteous, the gift of our All-loving and totally Just GOD is everlasting life, life in complete ecstasy throughout eternity.