

*Analysis of*

# ZEPHANIAH

## THE DAY OF THE LORD

### "Yahweh's Wrath and Reign over the Nations"

"Near is the great day of the LORD, Near and coming very quickly; Listen, the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. {15} A day of wrath is that day, 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, {16} A day of trumpet and battle cry Against the fortified cities And the high corner towers. {17} I will bring distress on men So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the LORD; And their blood will be poured out like dust And their flesh like dung. (Zephaniah 1:14-17)

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Prepared by James T. Bartsch

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#### **A1 YAHWEH'S ANGRY, JUDGMENTAL DESTRUCTION OF ALL NATIONS 1:1 - 3:8**

##### **B1 The Destructive Day of the Lord <sup>1</sup> 1**

- C1 Introduction 1:1
- C2 The totality of Yahweh's destruction 1:2-3
- C3 The objects of Yahweh's destruction 1:4-13
  - D1 The inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem 1:4-6
  - D2 The consecrated guests of sacrifice on the near "Day of the Lord" 1:7-13
    - E1 The king's sons 1:8
    - E2 The violent and deceitful 1:9
    - E3 All Jerusalem 1:10-11
    - E4 Merchants 1:11
    - E5 Those who insist God is apathetic 1:12-13
- C4 The characterization of Yahweh's destruction 1:14-18
  - D1 "The near, great Day of the Lord" 1:14

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<sup>1</sup> The near fulfillment of the "Day of the Lord" was the judgment of Judah by Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar. The ultimate reference is to the Tribulation.

- D2 A day of wrath, trouble, destruction, clouds and darkness 1:15
- D3 A day of battle 1:16
- D4 A day of bloodshed as punishment for sin 1:17
- D5 A day of Yahweh's wrath and jealous devouring of all earth's inhabitants 1:18

**B2 The Plea to Repent to Escape Judgment 2:1-3**

- C1 The plea to Judah to assemble before the day of Yahweh's anger 2:1-2
- C2 The plea to the earth's humble to seek righteousness to escape the day of Yahweh's anger 2:3

**B3 The Destruction of Nations 2:4-15**

- C1 The destruction of Philistia 2:4-7
  - D1 The destruction of the inhabitants of Philistia 2:4-5
  - D2 Judah to inhabit Philistia 2:6-7
- C2 The destruction of Moab and Ammon 2:8-11
  - D1 The prompting of judgment: Yahweh's hearing of the taunting of Moab and Ammon against His people 2:8
  - D2 The nature of judgment 2:9
    - E1 Yahweh's desolation of Moab and Ammon
    - E2 The occupation of Moab and Ammon by the remnant of Israel
  - D3 The cause of judgment: the arrogance of Moab and Ammon against Yahweh's people 2:10
  - D4 The long-term result of judgment: future universal submission to Yahweh 2:11
- C3 The destruction of Ethiopia 2:12
- C4 The destruction of Assyria 2:13-15
  - D1 The announcement of destruction and desolation of Assyria and Nineveh 2:13

D2 The itemization of animals that will inhabit her 2:14

D3 The desolate humiliation of the once proud, self-secure Nineveh 2:15

**B4 Woe upon Jerusalem 3:1-7**

C1 The statement of the woe upon the rebellious city 3:1

C2 Her failure to trust in and obey Yahweh 3:2

C3 The bankruptcy of her leaders 3:3-4

D1 Self-serving princes 3:3

D2 Devouring, unjust judges

D3 Treacherous prophets 3:4

D4 Profane, Law-breaking priests

C4 The contrasting justice and righteousness of Yahweh 3:5

C5 Yahweh's reflection on His desolation of nations and streets 3:6

C6 His amazement that Jerusalem would not learn a lesson, but pursue her own destruction through corruption 3:7

**B5 Yahweh's Angry Devouring of Israel and All Nations 3:8**

**A2 YAHWEH'S JOYFUL MILLENNIAL REIGN OVER PURIFIED NATIONS 3:9-20**

**B1 The Nations' (Gentiles') Predicted Worship and Service of Yahweh 3:9-10**

C1 Yahweh's intention to give purified lips to peoples so they call on His name to serve Him together 3:9

C2 The prediction of (Gentile) worshipers bringing offerings from Ethiopia 3:10

**B2 Yahweh's Refinement of Israel 3:11-13**

C1 Yahweh's removal of proud Israeli rebels 3:11

C2 Yahweh's humble remnant 3:12

C3 Israel's righteous, honest remnant 3:13

**B3 The Causes for Millennial Rejoicing 3:14-20**

C1 The removal of judgment 3:14-16

- D1 The urging of Zion to rejoice 3:14
- D2 The reason for rejoicing: Yahweh has removed His judgments (and is in Israel's midst) 3:15
- D3 The urging of Zion not to fear 3:16
- C2 Yahweh's dwelling in the midst of Israel as a loving, joyfully protective warrior 3:17
- C3 Yahweh's world-wide gathering of the downtrodden for worship of Himself 3:18-19
  - D1 Yahweh's gathering of the disappointed to worship 3:18
  - D2 Yahweh's gathering of the lame and outcast to turn their shame into praise in all the earth 3:19
- C4 Yahweh's giving Israel praise among all the earth's peoples 3:20

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