

A painting of an elderly man with a long white beard, wearing a brown robe, sitting at a desk and writing on a scroll with a quill. The scene is dimly lit, with a small cup of ink on the desk. The background is dark and textured.

Listening to the Prophets-Part 2

Chapter 9

Zephaniah
635-625 B.C.

Mervin W. Tapsfield

<http://newjerusalemcommunity.blogspot.com/2011/05/old-testament-prophets.html>

Introduction (Ryrie)

- Zephaniah means “the Lord Hides.”
- Zephaniah’s long genealogy given in 1:1 shows his nobility. []

Kings of Judah	Bible	Good/Bad	Kings of Israel	Bible	All Bad	General Chronological Line-up of Prophets to Kings					
Rehoboam	1 Kings 11-14	BAD	Jeroboam I	1 Kings 12-14	BAD						
Abijam	1 Kings 14-15	BAD	Nadab	1 Kings 15	BAD						
Asa	1 Kings 15	Good	Baasha	1 Kings 15-16	BAD						
			Elah	1 Kings 16	BAD						
			Zimri	1 Kings 16	BAD						
			Omri	1 Kings 16	BAD						
			Ahab	1 Kings 16	BAD						
Jehoshaphat	1 Kings 22	Good	Ahaziah	1 Kings 22	BAD	Prophet	Est. Year BC	From/To	Period	Address	
Jehoram	2 Kings 8	BAD	Jehoram	2 Kings 1	BAD	Obadiah	848	841	Pre-Exile	Edom	
Ahaziah	2 Kings 8-9	BAD	Jehu	2 Kings 3-9	BAD	Joel	835	835	Pre-Exile	Judah	
Athaliah	2 Kings 11	BAD	Jehoahaz	2 Kings 9-10	BAD						
Joash	2 Kings 11-12	Good	Jehoash	2 Kings 13-14	BAD						
Amaziah	2 Kings 14	Good	Jeroboam II	2 Kings 14	BAD	Jonah	782	753	Pre-Exile	Assyria	
Azariah	2 Kings 15	Good	Zechariah	2 Kings 14-15	BAD	Amos	760	753	Pre-Exile	Israel	
Jotham	2 Kings 15	Good	Shallum	2 Kings 15	BAD	Hosea	755	715	Pre-Exile	Israel	
Jotham	2 Kings 15	Good	Menahem	2 Kings 15	BAD						
Ahaz	2 Kings 16	BAD	Pekahiah	2 Kings 15	BAD	Isaiah	740	680	Pre-Exile	Judah	
Hezekiah	2 Kings 18-20	Good	Pekah	2 Kings 15	BAD						
Manasseh	2 Kings 21	BAD	Hoshea	2 Kings 15-17	BAD	Micah	735	700	Pre-Exile Judah , Israel in Exile	Judah	
Amon	2 Kings 21	BAD	Assyrian Captivity - No return								
Josiah	2 Kings 21-23	Good									
Jehoahaz	2 Kings 23	BAD				Nahum	664	654	Pre-Exile Judah , Israel in Exile	Assyria	
Jehoiakim	2 Kings 23	BAD				Zephaniah	632	628	Pre-Exile Judah , Israel in Exile	Judah	
Jehoiachin	2 Kings 24	BAD				Jeremiah	627	580	Pre-Exile Judah , Israel in Exile	Judah	
Zedekiah	2 Kings 24-25	BAD				Habakkuk	609	605	Pre-Exile Judah , Israel in Exile	Judah	
Babylonian Captivity - 70 years											
Restored from Captivity											
						Daniel	605	535	Judah also in Exile	Judah	
						Ezekiel	593	571	Judah also in Exile	Judah	
						Haggai	520	520	Post-Exile	Returned Jews	
						Zechariah	520	480	Post-Exile	Returned Jews	
						Malachi	432	424	Post-Exile	Returned Jews	
Followed by 400 "Silent Years" between the OT & NT, then the life of Christ & Apostles, followed by the destruction of Jerusalem, the temple, and organized nation in 70 A.D.											

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/9499849198101764/>

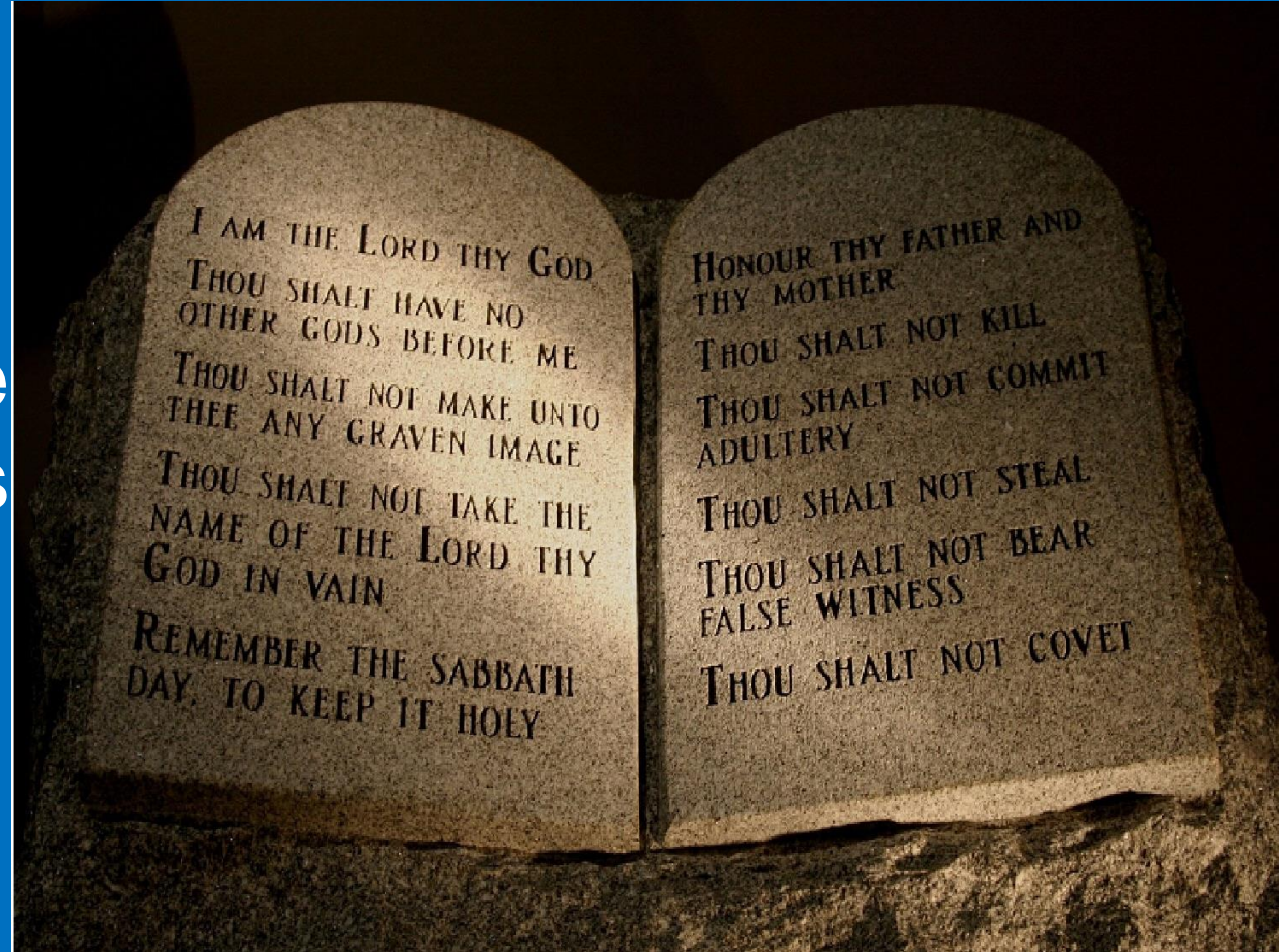
- Zephaniah prophesied prior to and during the time of “good” King Josiah in 621 B.C.
- Josiah ended the last of Godly kings in Judah (2 Chronicles 34:3).

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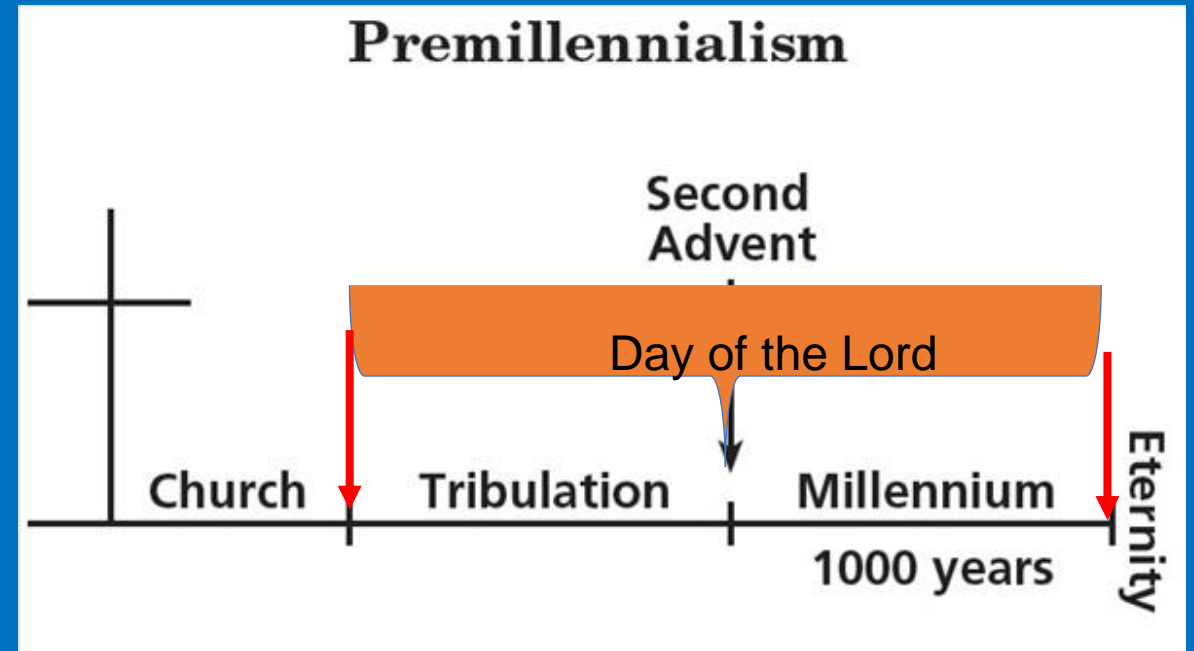
- Judah lost the Law of God prior to King Josiah.

After finding and reading the Law, King Josiah ordered the people to destroy all symbols and acts of idolatry (34:1-3,8,14,27-28). []

- Judgment and future blessings are the key themes in Zephaniah.



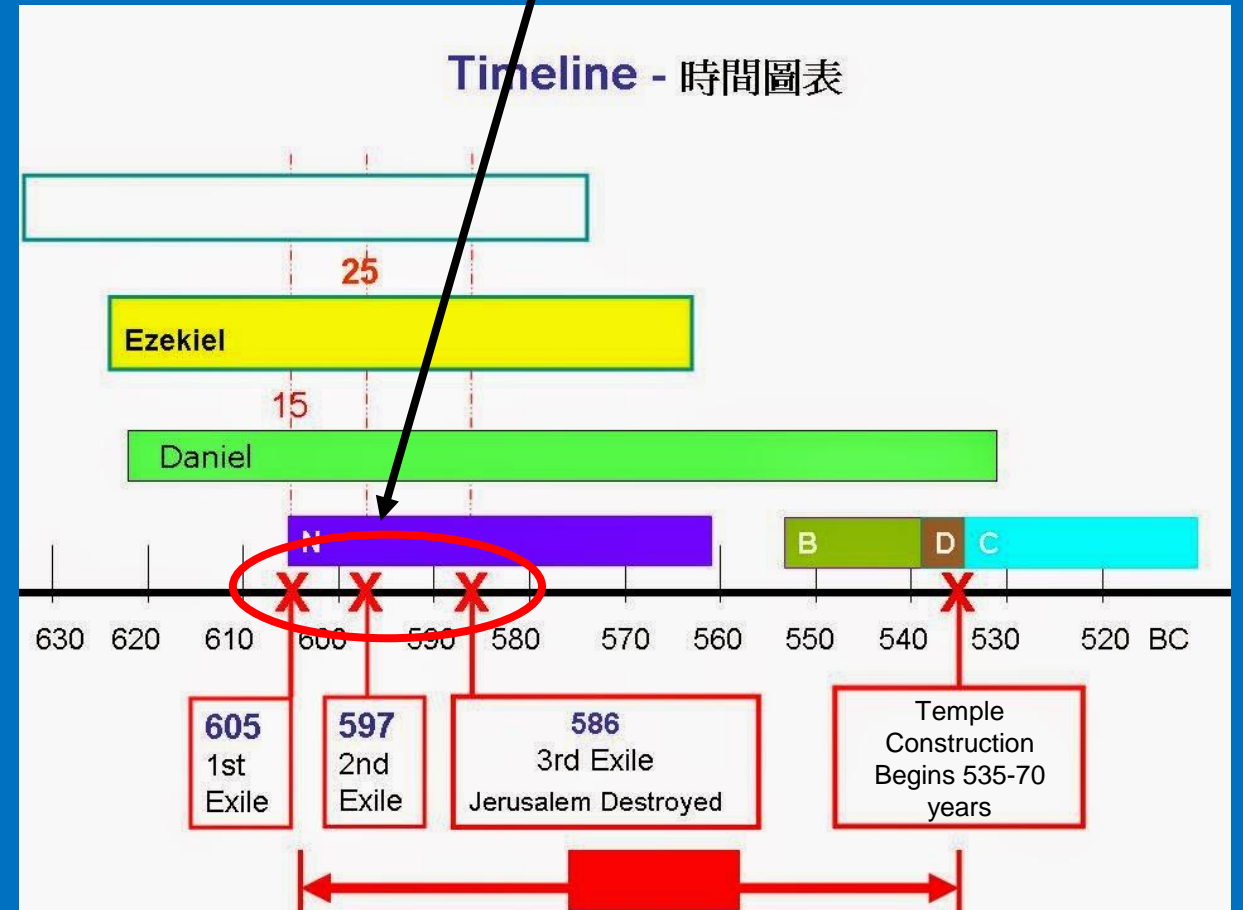
- Zephaniah refers to the “Day of the Lord,” which can mean:
 - Imminent judgment during a contemporary time
 - Imminent judgment during a near or distant future
 - Eschatological Judgment during the End Times.



<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-is-premillennialism.html>

- The immediate and final judgment that occurred was the destruction of Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar (586 B.C.). (70 years of captivity as predicted by Jeremiah-Jeremiah 25:11-12) []
- Zephaniah ends with a glorious description of the Millennium.

Jerusalem Destroyed



Chapters 1-3 Judgments

- Zephaniah prophesied during the time of Jeremiah and Habakkuk.

Chronology Of The Prophets

	To Israel	To Judah	To Foreign Nations
Assyrian Age	Amos (c. 763-750 B.C.) Hosea (c. 755-715 B.C.)	Isaiah (c. 740-770 B.C.) Micah (c. 737-690 B.C.)	Jonah (c. 770-750 B.C.)
Babylonian Age		Habakkuk (c. 630-605 B.C.) Zephaniah (c. 640-609 B.C.) Jeremiah (c. 627-580 B.C.) Daniel (c. 605-530 B.C.) Ezekiel (c. 593-570 B.C.)	Nahum (c. 663-615 B.C.)
Persian Age		Haggai (520 B.C.) Zechariah (c. 520-518 B.C.) Joel (c. 800-500 B.C.) Malachi (c. 433 B.C.)	Obadiah (c. 586-553 B.C.)

(c) Archeological Study Bible, p. 1483

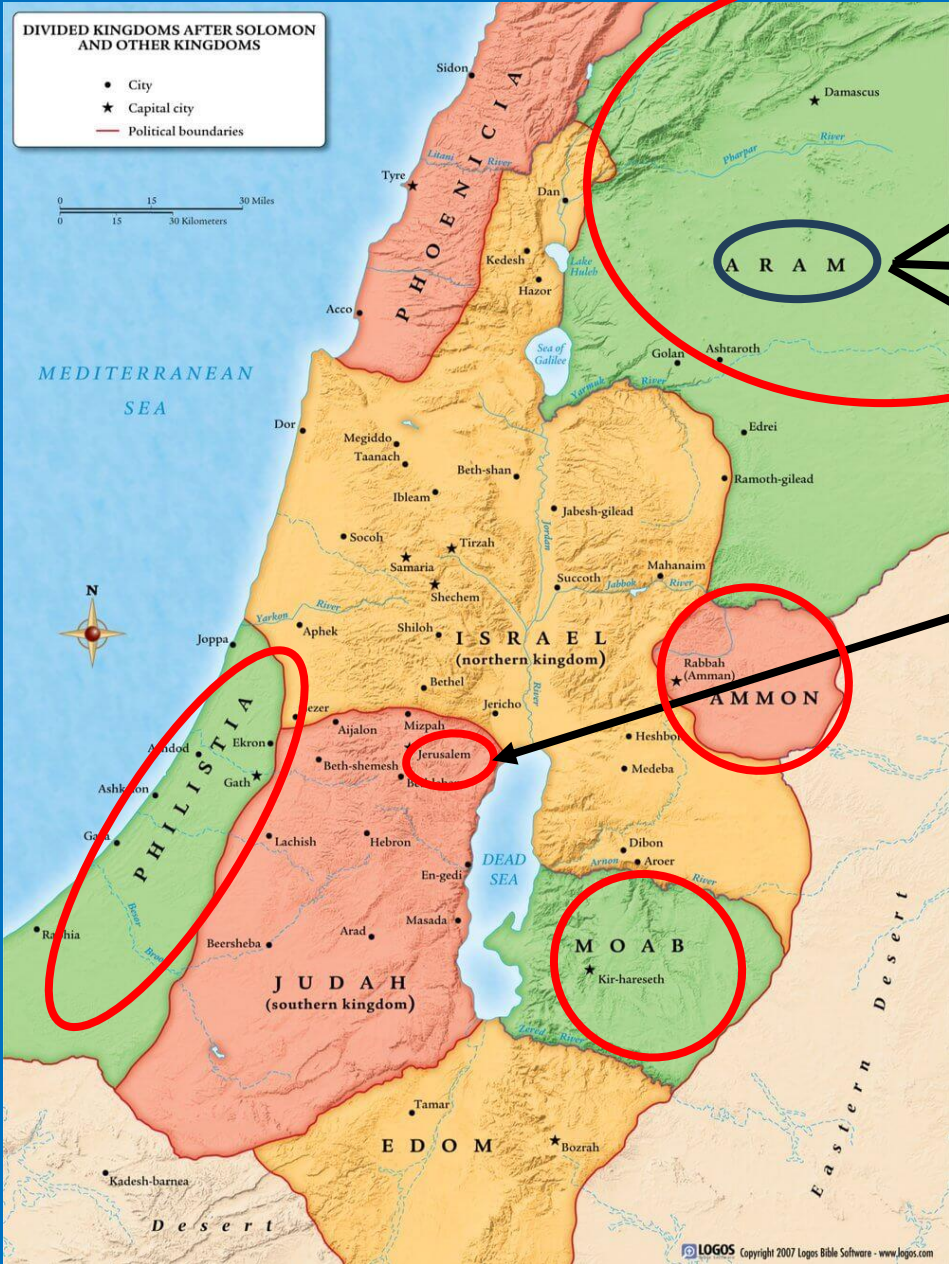
- These prophets told of Jerusalem's destruction (1:4, 7, 12, and 14). []
- Zephaniah 1:15-18 describes the “day of wrath”. []
- Compare this to 1st Thessalonians 5:1-9; Revelation 6:15-17 []
- Judah sinned without shame (2:1-3). []



<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/monkeymind/2017/07/nebuchadnezzar-ii-takes-jerusalem-sets-magical-stage.html>

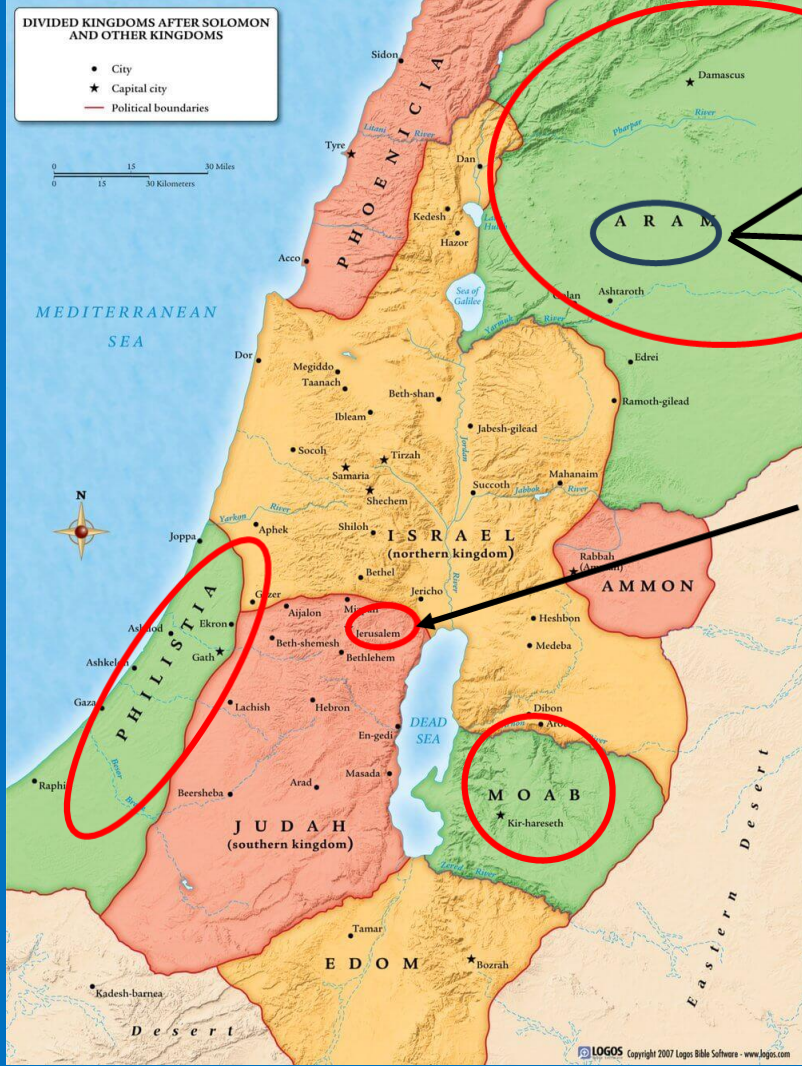
- Zephaniah prophesied against:
 - Philistia (2:5-7) []
 - **Moab** and Ammon (sons of Lot) 2:8-11 []
 - Ethiopia (2:12) []
 - Assyria (2:13-15) []

Ethiopia
Eastern Africa



- Jerusalem (3:1-7) []
- God’s judgment will fall upon all these nations by the end of the Great Tribulation. (3:8). []
- Compare this to Zechariah 12:3 []

Ethiopia
Eastern Africa



Assyria

Jerusalem

Chapter 3:9-20-Prophecies of Blessings toward Israel

- Zephaniah tells of Israel's future blessings during the Millennium (3:9-10). []
- During the Millennium, those living in Jerusalem will feel no shame. They will live righteously (3:11). []
- The Jews living in Jerusalem when Jesus comes (second coming) will all be saved. Zechariah 12:10-11; 13:8-9; Matthew 24:29-31 []



<https://www.alby.com.sg/events/2016/1/14/the-millennium>

- “In that day” refers to the millennial period (3:16). []
- “At that time” also refers to the millennial period (3:20). []



<https://www.alby.com.sg/events/2016/1/14/the-millennium>

- Summary

- It is interesting to note how far Israel had moved from God.
- Israel showed no shame for their sinful behavior.
- Sin mirrors a slow-growing disease. It weakens and destroys without warning.
- Sin will slowly destroy our relationship with God.
- Ask God each day for cleansing and guidance to maintain a close relationship with Him.
- Never Fear
- We have a wonderful future waiting for us-all who believe in Jesus Christ.

- End---

Zephaniah 1:1

1 The word of the Lord which came to Zephaniah son of Cushi [Ku-shi'], son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah...[]

2 Chronicles 34:3

3 For in the eighth year of his reign while he was still a youth, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, the carved images, and the cast metal images. []

2 Chronicles 34:14

14 When they were bringing out the money which had been brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest found the Book of the Law of the Lord given by Moses. []

Zephaniah 1:4, 7, 12, 14

4 “So I will stretch out My hand against Judah

And against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

And I will eliminate the remnant of Baal from this place,

And the names of the idolatrous priests along with the other priests. 7 Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the Lord is near,

Because the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,

He has consecrated His guests.

Over---

12 “And it will come about at that time
That I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
And I will punish the people
Who are stagnant in spirit,
Who say in their hearts,
‘The Lord will not do good nor harm!’
14 The great day of the Lord is near,
Near and coming very quickly;
Listen, the day of the Lord!
In it the warrior cries out bitterly. []

Zephaniah 2:1-3

1 Gather yourselves together, yes, join together,
You nation without shame,

2 Before the decree takes effect—

The day passes like chaff—

Before the burning anger of the Lord comes upon you,
Before the day of the Lord's anger comes upon you.

Over---

3 Seek the Lord,

All you humble of the earth

Who have practiced His ordinances;

Seek righteousness, seek humility.

Perhaps you will remain hidden

On the day of the Lord's anger (Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego-Daniel and his three friends were hidden from destruction). []

Zephaniah 2:5-7

...The word of the Lord is against you,

Canaan, land of the Philistines;

And I will eliminate you

So that there will be no inhabitant.

Over---

6 So the seacoast will become grazing places,
With pastures for shepherds and folds for flocks.

7 And the coast will be

For the remnant of the house of Judah,

They will drive sheep to pasture on it.

In the houses of Ashkelon [Philistine city] they will lie down
at evening;

For the Lord their God will care for them

And restore their fortunes [after their release from Babylon
535 B.C]. []

Zephaniah 2:8-11

8 “I have heard the taunting of Moab

And the abusive speech of the sons of Ammon,

With which they have taunted My people

And boasted against their territory.

Over---

9 “Therefore, as I live,” declares the Lord of armies,
The God of Israel,

“Moab will assuredly be like Sodom,
And the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah—

Ground overgrown with weeds and full of salt mines,
And a permanent desolation.

The remnant of My people will plunder them,
And the remainder of My nation will inherit them.”

Over---

10 This they will have in return for their arrogance, because they have taunted and boasted against the people of the Lord of armies. 11 The Lord will be terrifying to them, for He will starve all the gods of the earth; and all the coastlands of the nations will bow down to Him, everyone from his own place. (Verse 11 is future-at the end of the Great Tribulation) []

Zephaniah 2:12

2 “You also, Ethiopians, will be slain by My sword.” []

Zephaniah 2:13-15

13 And He will stretch out His hand against the north

And eliminate Assyria,

And He will make Nineveh a desolation,

Parched like the wilderness.

Over---

14 Flocks will lie down in her midst,
All animals that range in herds;
Both the pelican and the hedgehog
Will spend their nights in the tops of her pillars;
Birds will sing in the window,
Devastation will be on the threshold;
For He has uncovered the cedar work.
Over---

15 This is the presumptuous city

That dwells securely,

Who says in her heart,

“I am, and there is no one besides me.” [compare this to
Isaiah 45:5 []

How she has become a desolation,

A resting place for animals!

Everyone who passes by her will hiss

And wave his hand in contempt. []

Zephaniah 3:1-7

1 Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled,
The oppressive city!

2 She obeyed no voice,

She accepted no discipline.

She did not trust in the Lord,

She did not approach her God.

3 Her leaders within her are roaring lions,

Her judges are wolves at evening;

They have no bones to gnaw in the morning. Over---

4 Her prophets are insolent, treacherous men;
Her priests have profaned the sanctuary.
They have done violence to the Law.

5 The Lord is righteous within her;
He will do no injustice.

Every morning He brings His justice to light;
He does not fail.

But the criminal knows no shame.

Over---

6“I have eliminated nations;
Their corner towers are deserted.
I have laid waste their streets,
With no one passing by;
Their cities have been laid waste,
Without a person, without an inhabitant.
Over---

7 “I said, ‘You will certainly revere Me,
You will accept discipline.’

So her dwelling will not be eliminated

In accord with everything that I have stipulated for
her. Instead, they were eager to corrupt all their deeds. []

Zephaniah 3:8

8 “Therefore wait for Me,” declares the Lord,

“For the day when I rise up as a witness.

Indeed, My decision is to gather nations,

To assemble kingdoms,

To pour out on them My indignation,

All My burning anger;

For all the earth will be devoured

By the fire of My zeal. []

Zephaniah 3:11

11 “On that day you will feel no shame

Because of all your deeds

By which you have rebelled against Me;

For then I will remove from your midst

Your proud, arrogant ones,

And you will never again be haughty

On My holy mountain. []

Zephaniah 3:16

16 On that day it will be said to Jerusalem:

“Do not be afraid, Zion;

Do not let your hands fall limp. []

Zephaniah 3:20

20 “At that time I will bring you in,

Even at the time when I gather you together;

Indeed, I will make you famous and praiseworthy

Among all the peoples of the earth,

When I restore your fortunes before your eyes,”

Says the Lord. []

Zephaniah 1:15-18

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.

Over---

18 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the Lord's wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth. []

1st Thessalonians 5:1-9

1 Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;

Over---

5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Over---

Revelation 6:15-17

15 Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” []

Isaiah 45:5

5 I am the Lord, and there is no other;

Besides Me there is no God... []

Zechariah 12:3

3 It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it. []

Zechariah 12:10-11

10 “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. 11 In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

Over---

Zechariah 13:8-9

8 It will come about in all the land,” Declares the Lord,
“That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; But the third
will be left in it. 9 And I will bring the third part through the
fire, Refine them as silver is refined, And test them as
gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will
answer them; I will say, ‘They are My people,’ And they
will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’ ”

Over---

Matthew 24:29-31

29 “But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 31 And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other. []

Zephaniah 3:9-10

9 For then I will give to the peoples purified lips,
That all of them may call on the name of the Lord,
To serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia
My worshipers, My dispersed ones,
Will bring My offerings. []

2 Chronicles 34:1-3,8,14,27-28

1 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. 2 He did right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of his father David and did not turn aside to the right or to the left. 3 For in the eighth year of his reign [16 years old] while he was still a youth, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year [20 years old] he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, the carved images and the molten images.

Over---

8 Now in the eighteenth year of his reign [26 years old], when he had purged the land and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maaseiah an official of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the Lord his God. 14 When they were bringing out the money which had been brought into the house of the Lord, Hilkiah the priest found the book of the law of the Lord given by Moses.

Over---

27 “Because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and because you humbled yourself before Me, tore your clothes and wept before Me, I truly have heard you,” declares the Lord. 28 “Behold, I will gather you to your fathers and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace, so your eyes will not see all the evil which I will bring on this place and on its inhabitants.” ’ ” And they brought back word to the king. []

Jeremiah 25:11-12

11 This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. []

