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*Zephaniah, Haggai,
Zechariah and Malachi*

Read. Reflect. Respond.



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ZEPHANIAH

1 The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah.

The Great Day of the LORD

- ² I will completely sweep away everything
from the face of the earth —
this is the LORD's declaration.
- ³ I will sweep away people and animals;
I will sweep away the birds of the sky
and the fish of the sea,
and the ruins along with the wicked.
I will cut off mankind
from the face of the earth.
This is the LORD's declaration.
- ⁴ I will stretch out my hand against Judah
and against all the residents of Jerusalem.
I will cut off every vestige of Baal
from this place,
the names of the pagan priests
along with the priests;
- ⁵ those who bow in worship on the rooftops
to the stars in the sky;
those who bow and pledge loyalty to the LORD
but also pledge loyalty to Milcom;
- ⁶ and those who turn back from following the LORD,
who do not seek the LORD or inquire of him.
- ⁷ Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD,
for the day of the LORD is near.
Indeed, the LORD has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.



- 8 On the day of the LORD's sacrifice
I will punish the officials, the king's sons,
and all who are dressed in foreign clothing.
- 9 On that day I will punish
all who skip over the threshold,
who fill their master's house
with violence and deceit.
- 10 On that day —
 this is the LORD's declaration —
there will be an outcry from the Fish Gate,
a wailing from the Second District,
and a loud crashing from the hills.
- 11 Wail, you residents of the Hollow,
for all the merchants will be silenced;
all those loaded with silver will be cut off.
- 12 And at that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps
and punish those who settle down comfortably,
who say to themselves:
The LORD will do nothing — good or bad.
- 13 Their wealth will become plunder
and their houses a ruin.
They will build houses but never live in them,
plant vineyards but never drink their wine.
- 14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and rapidly approaching.
Listen, the day of the LORD —
then the warrior's cry is bitter.
- 15 That day is a day of wrath,
a day of trouble and distress,
a day of destruction and desolation,



- a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and total darkness,
16 a day of ram's horn and battle cry
against the fortified cities,
and against the high corner towers.
17 I will bring distress on mankind,
and they will walk like the blind
because they have sinned against the LORD.
Their blood will be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Their silver and their gold
will be unable to rescue them
on the day of the LORD's wrath.
The whole earth will be consumed
by the fire of his jealousy,
for he will make a complete,
yes, a horrifying end
of all the inhabitants of the earth.

A Call to Repentance

- 2** Gather yourselves together;
gather together, undesirable nation,
2 before the decree takes effect
and the day passes like chaff,
before the burning of the LORD's anger
overtakes you,
before the day of the LORD's anger
overtakes you.
3 Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth,
who carry out what he commands.
Seek righteousness, seek humility;
perhaps you will be concealed
on the day of the LORD's anger.



Judgment against the Nations

- 4 For Gaza will be abandoned,
and Ashkelon will become a ruin.
Ashdod will be driven out at noon,
and Ekron will be uprooted.
- 5 Woe, inhabitants of the seacoast,
nation of the Cherethites!
The word of the LORD is against you,
Canaan, land of the Philistines:
I will destroy you until there is no one left.
- 6 The seacoast will become pasturelands
with caves for shepherds and pens for sheep.
- 7 The coastland will belong
to the remnant of the house of Judah;
they will find pasture there.
They will lie down in the evening
among the houses of Ashkelon,
for the LORD their God will return to them
and restore their fortunes.
- 8 I have heard the taunting of Moab
and the insults of the Ammonites,
who have taunted my people
and threatened their territory.
- 9 Therefore, as I live —
this is the declaration of the LORD of Armies,
the God of Israel —
Moab will be like Sodom
and the Ammonites like Gomorrah:
a place overgrown with weeds,
a salt pit, and a perpetual wasteland.
The remnant of my people will plunder them;
the remainder of my nation will dispossess them.



- 10 This is what they get for their pride,
because they have taunted
and acted arrogantly
against the people of the LORD of Armies.
- 11 The LORD will be terrifying to them
when he starves all the gods of the earth.
Then all the distant coasts and islands
of the nations
will bow in worship to him,
each in its own place.
- 12 You Cushites will also be slain by my sword.
- 13 He will also stretch out his hand
against the north
and destroy Assyria;
he will make Nineveh a desolate ruin,
dry as the desert.
- 14 Herds will lie down in the middle of it,
every kind of wild animal.
Both eagle owls and herons
will roost in the capitals of its pillars.
Their calls will sound from the window,
but devastation will be on the threshold,
for he will expose the cedar work.
- 15 This is the jubilant city
that lives in security,
that says to herself:
I exist, and there is no one else.
What a desolation she has become,
a place for wild animals to lie down!
Everyone who passes by her
scoffs and shakes his fist.

