

ZEPHANIAH: A SUMMONS TO SATISFACTION

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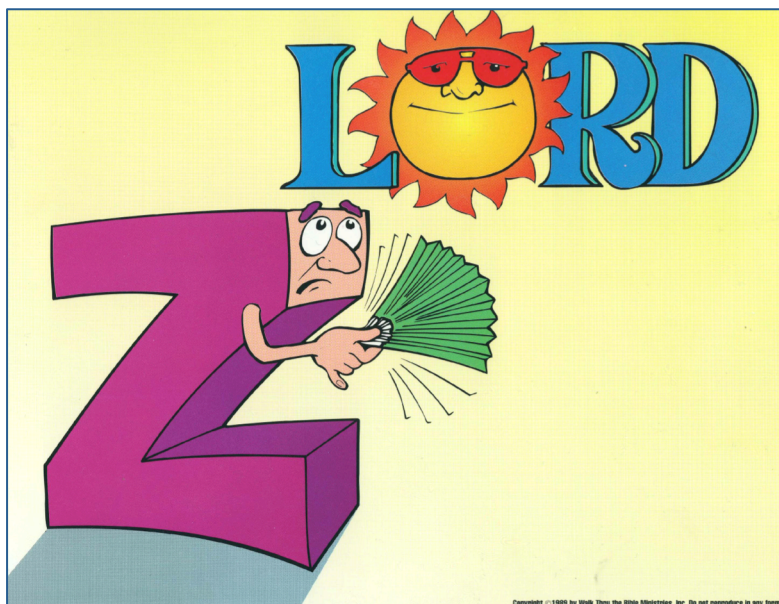
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Big Idea: Absolutely convinced of Yahweh's coming day of wrath, Zephaniah sought to muster a patient pursuit of God and a tireless trust in his faithfulness (Zeph 2:1, 3; 3:8) to preserve and ultimately satisfy his believing remnant, even through judgment.

The prophet's reasons and motivations for perseverance are as important today as ever as we plod through a world filled with suffering and anticipate the ultimate return of Christ, the day of judgment, and realization of eternal glory (cf. 2 Thess 1:4–12).

Basic Outline:

- I. The *Superscription* of the Summons to Satisfaction (1:1): The Nature, Messenger, and Time of the Prophecy
- II. The *Setting* of the Summons to Satisfaction (1:2–18): A Call to Dreadful Silence in Light of the Nearness and Nature of the Day of the LORD
- III. The *Essence* of the Summons to Satisfaction (2:1–3:20): A Charge to Repent and Wait upon the LORD in Light of the Impending Judgment Against Rebels and the Future Joy Promised to the Remnant



Session 1. The Superscription and the Call to Silence in Light of Coming Judgment (1:1–18)

- I. *The Superscription*: The Nature, Messenger, and Time of the Prophecy (1:1)
- II. *The Setting*: A Call to Dreadful Silence in Light of the Nearness and Nature of the Day of the LORD (1:2–18)
 - A. The Reason for the Call to Silence (1:2–6)
 - B. The Makeup of the Call to Silence (1:7–18)
- III. *The Essence*: Charges to Repent and Wait upon the LORD in Light of the Impending Judgment Against Rebels and the Future Joy Promised to the Remnant (2:1–3:20)

1:1 *The Superscription of the Summons to Satisfaction*

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

- The Nature of the Prophecy

- The Messenger of the Prophecy

- The Time of the Prophecy

1:2–18 *The Setting of the Summons to Satisfaction.* Sets a context for the book's main exhortations in chs. 2–3. The prophet calls his Judean listeners to pause in silence in light of the nearness and nature of Yahweh's impending judgment on Judah and the world. Verses 2–6 highlight the base reason for the call, and vv. 7–18 define the makeup of the call.

1:2–6 *The Reason for the Call to Silence.* Yahweh promises to bring devastating judgment on the broad world (vv. 2–3) and on Judah and Jerusalem in particular (vv. 4–6) in light of rampant wickedness and idolatrous rebellion.

ESV	NIV
<p>1:2 "I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. 1:3 "I will sweep away man and beast; I will sweep away the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, and the rubble with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. 1:4 "I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off from this place the remnant of Baal and the name of the idolatrous priests along with the priests, 1:5 those who bow down on the roofs to the host of the heavens, those who bow down and swear to the LORD and yet swear by Milcom, 1:6 those who have turned back from following the LORD, who do not seek the LORD or inquire of him."</p>	<p>1:2 "I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. 1:3 "I will sweep away both man and beast; I will sweep away the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea—and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble." "When I destroy all mankind on the face of the earth," declares the LORD, 1:4 "I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place, the very names of the idolatrous priests— 1:5 those who bow down on the roofs to worship the starry host, those who bow down and swear by the LORD and who also swear by Molek, 1:6 those who turn back from following the LORD and neither seek the LORD nor inquire of him."</p>

- Global judgment against the rebels of humanity (1:2–3)
- Localized judgment against the rebels of Jerusalem and Judah (1:4–6)

1:7–18 *The Makeup of the Call to Silence.* Like a herald readying an audience for an angry king's arrival, Zephaniah charges his audience to become quiet (v. 7a) and then further describes the basis for the call, detailing the imminent timing and sacrificial makeup of Yahweh's impending judgment day with respect to both Judah (vv. 7b–13) and the whole world (vv. 14–18).

ESV	NIV
<p>1:7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 1:8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. 1:9 On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.</p> <p>1:10 "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. 1:11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 1:12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' 1:13 Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."</p> <p>1:14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. 1:15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 1:16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.</p> <p>1:17 I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the LORD. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.</p>	<p>1:7 Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near. The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited. 1:8 "On the day of the LORD's sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all those clad in foreign clothes. 1:9 On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit.</p> <p>1:10 "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills. 1:11 Wail, you who live in the market district; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be destroyed. 1:12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.' 1:13 Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine."</p> <p>1:14 The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. 1:15 That day will be a day of wrath—a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and black-ness— 1:16 a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.</p> <p>1:17 "I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung. 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath." In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.</p>

1:7a The Call for Silence Made

1:7b–18 The Basis of the Call Described: Impending Judgment in the Day of the LORD

- The imminent timing of the judgment announced (1:7b)

Session 2–3: The Charge to Repent in Order to Avoid Judgment (2:1–3:7)

- I. *The Superscription: The Nature, Messenger, and Time of the Prophecy* (1:1)
- II. *The Setting: A Call to Dreadful Silence in Light of the Nearness and Nature of the Day of the LORD* (1:2–18)
- III. *The Essence: Charges to Repent and Wait upon the LORD in Light of the Impending Judgment Against Rebels and the Future Joy Promised to the Remnant* (2:1–3:20)
 - A. *Stage 1 of the Summons to Satisfaction (2:1–4): Judah Charged to Repent Before the LORD to Avoid Judgment*
 - B. *Some Reasons for the Summons to Repent and Wait Expounded (2:5–3:7)*
 - 1. *Reason 1: The Lamentable State and Fate of the Rebels from the Foreign Nations (2:5–15)*
 - 2. *Reason 2: The Lamentable State and Fate of the Rebels from Jerusalem (3:1–7)*
 - C. *Stage 2 of the Summons to Satisfaction (3:8–20): The Remnant of Judah Charged to Wait for the LORD, Ultimately to Enjoy Satisfaction*

2:1–3:20 *The Essence of the Summons to Satisfaction: A Charge to Repent and Wait upon the LORD in Light of the Impending Judgment Against Rebels and the Future Joy Promised to the Remnant.* Building off the context of dreadful silence sparked by the encroaching day of Yahweh (1:2–18), the book’s main section calls the remnant of Judah to *repent* and *wait for God* (2:1, 3; 3:8). The dual charges frame 2:5–3:7, which highlights the lamentable state and fate of the rebels from the foreign nations (2:5–15) and Jerusalem (3:1–7) in order to clarify some reasons why Israel should turn to Yahweh, looking and longing, hunting and hoping, entreating and trusting.

2:1–4 *Stage 1 of the Summons to Satisfaction: Judah Summoned to Repent before the LORD to Avoid Judgment.* Stage 1 in the summons to satisfaction is repentance, defined here in two parts as *gathering* together (v. 1–2) and *seeking* Yahweh (v. 3abc). Only by this means may a remnant from Judah “perhaps . . . be sheltered” from God’s destruction of the wicked (v. 3d), like those from Philistia (v. 4).

ESV	NIV
<p>2:1 Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation, 2:2 before the decree takes effect—before the day passes away like chaff—before there comes upon you the burning anger of the LORD, before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the LORD. 2:3 Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD. 2:4 For Gaza shall be deserted, and Ashkelon shall become a desolation; Ashdod’s people shall be driven out at noon, and Ekron shall be uprooted.</p>	<p>2:1 Gather together, gather yourselves together, you shameful nation, 2:2 before the decree takes effect and that day passes like windblown chaff, before the LORD’s fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the LORD’s wrath comes upon you. 2:3 Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD’s anger. 2:4 Gaza will be abandoned and Ashkelon left in ruins. At midday Ashdod will be emptied and Ekron uprooted.</p>

- The charge to gather (2:1–2)
- The charge to seek the LORD (2:3–4)

2:5–3:7 *Some Reasons for the Summons to Repent and Wait Expounded.* This unit expounds on the judgment mentioned in 2:4 and by this develops the rational basis for the charges to “seek” and “wait” found 2:3 and 3:8. The rebellious Judeans should patiently pursue Yahweh because he has promised to judge not only the rebels of the foreign nations (2:5–15) but also those from Jerusalem (3:1–7). Each reason for repentance and rest begins with the term “woe” (2:5; 3:1) and laments the state and fate of the respective groups.

2:5–15 *Reason 1: The Lamentable State and Fate of the Rebels from the Foreign Nations.* With the call to Judah to repent in focus (2:1–4), this unit announces God’s judgment on the foreign peoples surrounding Israel, beginning with the Philistines to the west (vv. 5–7) and followed by the Moabites and Ammonites to the east (vv. 8–11) and the Cushites/Ethiopians and Assyrians to the south and north (vv. 12–15). Implied is that the judgment that spans the populated world will reach Judah (cf. Hab 2:16–17) unless they return to Yahweh and become part of the preserved remnant (see Zeph 3:7, 9).

ESV	NIV
<p>2:5 Woe to you inhabitants of the seacoast, you nation of the Cherethites! The word of the LORD is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines; and I will destroy you until no inhabitant is left. 2:6 And you, O seacoast, shall be pastures, with meadows for shepherds and folds for flocks. 2:7 The seacoast shall become the possession of the remnant of the house of Judah, on which they shall graze, and in the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening. For the LORD their God will be mindful of them and restore their fortunes.</p>	<p>2:5 Woe to you who live by the sea, you Kerethite people; the word of the LORD is against you, Canaan, land of the Philistines. He says, “I will destroy you, and none will be left.” 2:6 The land by the sea will become pastures having wells for shepherds and pens for flocks. 2:7 That land will belong to the remnant of the people of Judah; there they will find pasture. In the evening they will lie down in the houses of Ashkelon. The LORD their God will care for them; he will restore their fortunes.</p>

<p>2:8 "I have heard the taunts of Moab and the revilings of the Ammonites, how they have taunted my people and made boasts against their territory. 2:9 Therefore, as I live," declares the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Moab shall become like Sodom, and the Ammonites like Gomorrah, a land possessed by nettles and salt pits, and a waste forever. The remnant of my people shall plunder them, and the survivors of my nation shall possess them." 2:10 This shall be their lot in return for their pride, because they taunted and boasted against the people of the LORD of hosts. 2:11 The LORD will be awesome against them; for he will famish all the gods of the earth, and to him shall bow down, each in its place, all the lands of the nations.</p> <p>2:12 You also, O Cushites, shall be slain by my sword. 2:13 And he will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, and he will make Nineveh a desolation, a dry waste like the desert. 2:14 Herds shall lie down in her midst, all kinds of beasts; even the owl and the hedgehog shall lodge in her capitals; a voice shall hoot in the window; devastation will be on the threshold; for her cedar work will be laid bare. 2:15 This is the exultant city that lived securely, that said in her heart, "I am, and there is no one else." What a desolation she has become, a lair for wild beasts! Everyone who passes by her hisses and shakes his fist.</p>	<p>2:8 "I have heard the insults of Moab and the taunts of the Ammonites, who insulted my people and made threats against their land. 2:9 Therefore, as surely as I live," declares the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, "surely Moab will become like Sodom, the Ammonites like Gomorrah—a place of weeds and salt pits, a wasteland forever. The remnant of my people will plunder them; the survivors of my nation will inherit their land." 2:10 This is what they will get in return for their pride, for insulting and mocking the people of the LORD Almighty. 2:11 The LORD will be awesome to them when he destroys all the gods of the earth. Distant nations will bow down to him, all of them in their own lands.</p> <p>2:12 "You Cushites, too, will be slain by my sword." 2:13 He will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, leaving Nineveh utterly desolate and dry as the desert. 2:14 Flocks and herds will lie down there, creatures of every kind. The desert owl and the screech owl will roost on her columns. Their hooting will echo through the windows, rubble will fill the doorways, the beams of cedar will be exposed. 2:15 This is the city of revelry that lived in safety. She said to herself, "I am the one! And there is none besides me." What a ruin she has become, a lair for wild beasts! All who pass by her scoff and shake their fists.</p>
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2:5–7 A woe oracle against the Philistines to the east (2:5–7)

2:8–15 Further declarations of judgment against the Moabites and Ammonites to the west, along with the Ethiopians to the south and the Assyrians to the north.

- Against the Moabites and Ammonites (2:8–11)

- Against the Ethiopians and the Assyrians (2:12–15)

3:1–7 Reason 2: *The Lamentable State and Fate of the Rebels from Jerusalem.* As implied in the preceding lament against the rebels from the foreign nations (2:5–15), this brief unit further unpacks the sinful makeup and certain judgment of those in Jerusalem by highlighting their stubborn resistance to learn from God’s correction of them or from his punishment of the foreign nations (cf. 1:4–6). In turn it provides a further reason why the remnant from Judah should indeed pursue Yahweh (“gather” and “seek,” 2:1–3) with patient trust (“wait,” 3:8).

ESV	NIV
<p>3:1 Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, the oppressing city!</p> <p>3:2 She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God. 3:3 Her officials within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave nothing till the morning. 3:4 Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men; her priests profane what is holy; they do violence to the law. 3:5 The LORD within her is righteous; he does no injustice; every morning he shows forth his justice; each dawn he does not fail; but the unjust knows no shame.</p> <p>3:6 “I have cut off nations; their battlements are in ruins; I have laid waste their streets so that no one walks in them; their cities have been made desolate, without a man, without an inhabitant. 3:7 I said, ‘Surely you will fear me; you will accept correction. Then your dwelling would not be cut off according to all that I have appointed against you.’ But all the more they were eager to make all their deeds corrupt.</p>	<p>3:1 Woe to the city of oppressors, rebellious and defiled!</p> <p>3:2 She obeys no one, she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD, she does not draw near to her God. 3:3 Her officials within her are roaring lions; her rulers are evening wolves, who leave nothing for the morning. 3:4 Her prophets are unprincipled; they are treacherous people. Her priests profane the sanctuary and do violence to the law. 3:5 The LORD within her is righteous; he does no wrong. Morning by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail, yet the unrighteous know no shame.</p> <p>3:6 “I have destroyed nations; their strongholds are demolished. I have left their streets deserted, with no one passing through. Their cities are laid waste; they are deserted and empty. 3:7 Of Jerusalem I thought, ‘Surely you will fear me and accept correction!’ Then her place of refuge would not be destroyed, nor all my punishments come upon her. But they were still eager to act corruptly in all they did.</p>

3:1 The audience makeup identified

Session 4–5: The Charge to Wait in Order to Enjoy Satisfaction (3:8–20)

- I. *The Superscription*: The Nature, Messenger, and Time of the Prophecy (1:1)
- II. *The Setting*: A Call to Dreadful Silence in Light of the Nearness and Nature of the Day of the LORD (1:2–18)
- III. *The Essence*: A Charge to Repent and Wait upon the LORD in Light of the Impending Judgment Against Rebels and the Future Joy Promised to the Remnant (2:1–3:20)
 - A. Stage 1 of the Summons to Satisfaction (2:1–4): Judah Charged to Repent Before the LORD to Avoid Judgment
 - B. Some Reasons for the Summons to Repent and Wait Expounded (2:5–3:7)
 - C. **Stage 2 of the Summons to Satisfaction (3:8–20): The Remnant of Judah Charged to Wait for the LORD, Ultimately to Enjoy Satisfaction**
 - 1. **The Charge to Wait Asserted (3:8a)**
 - 2. **The Dual Basis of the Charge Declared (3:8b–10): Coming Judgment and Salvation**
 - 3. **The Ultimate Motivation of the Charge Expounded (3:11–20): The Impact of the Great Salvation for the Remnant of Judah**

3:8–20 *Stage 2 of the Summons to Satisfaction: The Remnant of Judah Summoned to Wait for the LORD, Ultimately to Enjoy Satisfaction.* Added to the command to repent (2:1–3) is here a call to enduring patience (3:8), and together they make up Zephaniah’s two-stage summons that explains the means to lasting joy, which climaxes in God’s delight in those he has saved (highlighted in the final section, 3:9–20).

3:8 *The Charge to Wait Asserted.*

3:8b–10 *The Dual Basis of the Charge Declared.* Both the clause beginning with “I have decided” and the sentence in 3:9 begin with Hebrew causal conjunctions (“because/for”) that stand in series. The two reasons why the remnant from Judah should continue to wait upon Yahweh is because he still intends both to judge the rebel nations (3:8b; cf. Hab 1:2; 3:17–19) and to save a group from the nations of the world, reversing the effects of the Tower of Babel (Zeph 3:9–10). Specifically, on the very day Yahweh stands in judgment as covenant witness (“then”), Yahweh will do a work of new creation, transforming peoples from all over the world into true worshippers—a picture now realized eternally in the church (Matt 28:18–20; Rom 11; Eph 2:11–22; Rev 5:9–10; 7:9–10).

3:11–20 *The Ultimate Motivation of the Charge Expounded: The Remnant of Judah’s Satisfying Salvation.* The content and lack of conjunction at the head of 3:11 suggests that the whole unit from 3:11–20 clarifies for the remnant from Judah the implications of the global transformation highlighted in 3:8b–10. For the preserved from Jerusalem, the restoration through judgment will include the removal of the proud and the preservation of the God-dependent (vv. 11–13), the verbal expression of joy in the wake of the King’s irreversible victory (vv. 14–15), and Yahweh’s deliverance of and delight in his remnant, which secures provision and protection (vv. 16–20). Thus, the call to patiently pursue Yahweh that shapes the book’s body (2:1–3; 3:8) is nothing less than a *summons to satisfaction*. The first and last sub-units, each of which begins with “on that day” (3:11, 16), expound the primary implications for Judah of Yahweh’s judicial decision (3:8), and they together frame vv. 14–15, which stand as an intrusive call to celebrate, as if the promise of unpolluted pleasure in God’s presence is already fulfilled.

ESV	NIV
<p>3:11 “On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. 3:12 But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD, 3:13 those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.”</p>	<p>3:11 On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill. 3:12 But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the LORD. 3:13 They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid.”</p>
<p>3:14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 3:15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.</p>	<p>3:14 Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! 3:15 The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.</p>
<p>3:16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. 3:17 The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. 3:18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. 3:19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 3:20 At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.</p>	<p>3:16 On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. 3:17 The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.” 3:18 “I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. 3:19 At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. 3:20 At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,” says the LORD.</p>

3:11–13 The future removal of all Jerusalem's shame detailed

- The fact of shamelessness highlighted (3:11a)

- The basis for shamelessness identified (3:11b–13)

3:14–15 An intrusive call to joy as if the great salvation has already occurred

3:16–20 The future realization of Jerusalem's coming satisfaction charged

- The record and nature of the future charge made (3:16)

- The ground of the future charge clarified (3:17–20)
 - The ground noted: the LORD's saving position and future posture (3:17)

- The ground developed: the LORD's future saving activity for the fame of his name (3:18–20)

ESV	NIV
<p>1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.</p>	<p>1:1 The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, during the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah:</p>
<p>1:2 "I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. 1:3 "I will sweep away man and beast; I will sweep away the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, and the rubble with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. 1:4 "I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off from this place the remnant of Baal and the name of the idolatrous priests along with the priests, 1:5 those who bow down on the roofs to the host of the heavens, those who bow down and swear to the LORD and yet swear by Milcom, 1:6 those who have turned back from following the LORD, who do not seek the LORD or inquire of him."</p>	<p>1:2 "I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. 1:3 "I will sweep away both man and beast; I will sweep away the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea—and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble." "When I destroy all mankind on the face of the earth," declares the LORD, 1:4 "I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place, the very names of the idolatrous priests— 1:5 those who bow down on the roofs to worship the starry host, those who bow down and swear by the LORD and who also swear by Molek, 1:6 those who turn back from following the LORD and neither seek the LORD nor inquire of him."</p>
<p>1:7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 1:8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. 1:9 On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.</p>	<p>1:7 Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near. The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited. 1:8 "On the day of the LORD's sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all those clad in foreign clothes. 1:9 On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit.</p>
<p>1:10 "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. 1:11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 1:12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' 1:13 Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."</p>	<p>1:10 "On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills. 1:11 Wail, you who live in the market district; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be destroyed. 1:12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.' 1:13 Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine."</p>
<p>1:14 The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. 1:15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 1:16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.</p>	<p>1:14 The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. 1:15 That day will be a day of wrath—a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and black-ness— 1:16 a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.</p>
<p>1:17 I will bring distress on mankind, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the LORD; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the LORD. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.</p>	<p>1:17 "I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung. 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath." In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.</p>

2:1 Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation, 2:2 before the decree takes effect—before the day passes away like chaff—before there comes upon you the burning anger of the LORD, before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the LORD. 2:3 Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD. 2:4 For Gaza shall be deserted, and Ashkelon shall become a desolation; Ashdod's people shall be driven out at noon, and Ekron shall be uprooted.

2:5 Woe to you inhabitants of the seacoast, you nation of the Cherethites! The word of the LORD is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines; and I will destroy you until no inhabitant is left. 2:6 And you, O seacoast, shall be pastures, with meadows for shepherds and folds for flocks. 2:7 The seacoast shall become the possession of the remnant of the house of Judah, on which they shall graze, and in the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening. For the LORD their God will be mindful of them and restore their fortunes.

2:8 "I have heard the taunts of Moab and the revilings of the Ammonites, how they have taunted my people and made boasts against their territory. 2:9 Therefore, as I live," declares the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "Moab shall become like Sodom, and the Ammonites like Gomorrah, a land possessed by nettles and salt pits, and a waste forever. The remnant of my people shall plunder them, and the survivors of my nation shall possess them." 2:10 This shall be their lot in return for their pride, because they taunted and boasted against the people of the LORD of hosts. 2:11 The LORD will be awesome against them; for he will famish all the gods of the earth, and to him shall bow down, each in its place, all the lands of the nations.

2:12 You also, O Cushites, shall be slain by my sword. 2:13 And he will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, and he will make Nineveh a desolation, a dry waste like the desert. 2:14 Herds shall lie down in her midst, all kinds of beasts; even the owl and the hedgehog shall lodge in her capitals; a voice shall hoot in the window; devastation will be on the threshold; for her cedar work will be laid bare. 2:15 This is the exultant city that lived securely, that said in her heart, "I am, and there is no one else." What a desolation she has become, a lair for wild beasts! Everyone who passes by her hisses and shakes his fist.

3:1 Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, the oppressing city! 3:2 She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God.

3:3 Her officials within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave nothing till the morning. 3:4 Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men; her priests profane what is holy; they do violence to the law. 3:5 The LORD within her is righteous; he does

2:1 Gather together, gather yourselves together, you shameful nation, 2:2 before the decree takes effect and that day passes like windblown chaff, before the LORD's fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the LORD's wrath comes upon you. 2:3 Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger. 2:4 Gaza will be abandoned and Ashkelon left in ruins. At midday Ashdod will be emptied and Ekron uprooted.

2:5 Woe to you who live by the sea, you Kerethite people; the word of the LORD is against you, Canaan, land of the Philistines. He says, "I will destroy you, and none will be left." 2:6 The land by the sea will become pastures having wells for shepherds and pens for flocks. 2:7 That land will belong to the remnant of the people of Judah; there they will find pasture. In the evening they will lie down in the houses of Ashkelon. The LORD their God will care for them; he will restore their fortunes.

2:8 "I have heard the insults of Moab and the taunts of the Ammonites, who insulted my people and made threats against their land. 2:9 Therefore, as surely as I live," declares the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, "surely Moab will become like Sodom, the Ammonites like Gomorrah—a place of weeds and salt pits, a wasteland forever. The remnant of my people will plunder them; the survivors of my nation will inherit their land." 2:10 This is what they will get in return for their pride, for insulting and mocking the people of the LORD Almighty. 2:11 The LORD will be awesome to them when he destroys all the gods of the earth. Distant nations will bow down to him, all of them in their own lands.

2:12 "You Cushites, too, will be slain by my sword." 2:13 He will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, leaving Nineveh utterly desolate and dry as the desert. 2:14 Flocks and herds will lie down there, creatures of every kind. The desert owl and the screech owl will roost on her columns. Their hooting will echo through the windows, rubble will fill the doorways, the beams of cedar will be exposed. 2:15 This is the city of revelry that lived in safety. She said to herself, "I am the one! And there is none besides me." What a ruin she has become, a lair for wild beasts! All who pass by her scoff and shake their fists.

3:1 Woe to the city of oppressors, rebellious and defiled! 3:2 She obeys no one, she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD, she does not draw near to her God.

3:3 Her officials within her are roaring lions; her rulers are evening wolves, who leave nothing for the morning. 3:4 Her prophets are unprincipled; they are treacherous people. Her priests profane the sanctuary and do violence to the law. 3:5 The LORD within her is

no injustice; every morning he shows forth his justice; each dawn he does not fail; but the unjust knows no shame.

3:6 "I have cut off nations; their battlements are in ruins; I have laid waste their streets so that no one walks in them; their cities have been made desolate, without a man, without an inhabitant. 3:7 I said, 'Surely you will fear me; you will accept correction. Then your dwelling would not be cut off according to all that I have appointed against you.' But all the more they were eager to make all their deeds corrupt.

3:8 "Therefore wait for me," declares the LORD, "for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed. 3:9 "For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord. 3:10 From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering.

3:11 "On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. 3:12 But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD, 3:13 those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid."

3:14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 3:15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

3:16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. 3:17 The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. 3:18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. 3:19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 3:20 At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

righteous; he does no wrong. Morning by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail, yet the unrighteous know no shame.

3:6 "I have destroyed nations; their strongholds are demolished. I have left their streets deserted, with no one passing through. Their cities are laid waste; they are deserted and empty. 3:7 Of Jerusalem I thought, 'Surely you will fear me and accept correction!' Then her place of refuge would not be destroyed, nor all my punishments come upon her. But they were still eager to act corruptly in all they did.

3:8 Therefore wait for me," declares the LORD, "for the day I will stand up to testify. I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them—all my fierce anger. The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger. 3:9 "Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him shoulder to shoulder. 3:10 From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring me offerings.

3:11 On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill. 3:12 But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the LORD. 3:13 They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid."

3:14 Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! 3:15 The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

3:16 On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. 3:17 The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." 3:18 "I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. 3:19 At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. 3:20 At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.