ZEPHANIAH.

1. 1–3. 8 (A¹, p. 1271). MINATORY.

(Aalternations and Introductions.)

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.

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 Chersmis with the priests;

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;

6. And them that are turned back from the LORD; and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.

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.

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.

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.

10. And it shall come to pass in that day, because so clothed; not Kohën, as appointed by Jehovah. Works worship of the host of heaven.

References: Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 4: 19; 17: 3). Ap. 92. Jer. 19, 13. 19: Malcham—king-god, or king-idol. Syr. and Vulg. read "Milcom", "from"—from after, sought...enquired. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 4: 29, where the two Heb. verbs are in the same order, and are rendered "seek...seek"). Ap. 92.

1. 7–18 (E, above). THE DAY OF JEHOVAH. (Alternation.)


1. 8–13 (H, above). JUDGMENTS. (Alternation.)


8. the day of the LORD's sacrifice. See note on Isa. 2: 12; 13: 6. day. Put by Fig. Metonymy (of Adjunct), Ap. 6, for the judgments executed in it. punish=visit upon. Ref. to Pent. (Ex. 32: 24). Ap. 92.

Cp. Jer. 9: 25; 11: 22; 13: 21, &c. children as sons: i.e. the royal house. Ap. 1 Kings 22: 46; 2 Kings 11: 3. those that leap, &c. No reference to idolatrous practice, as in 1 Kings 18, 26; but to the servants of rulers sent to enter the houses of others and steal.

Fig. Periphrasis (Ap. 6), for robbers. on=over. violence and deceit. Put by Fig. Metonymy (of Cause), Ap. 6, for the booty procured.

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1. 10. ZEPHANIAH.

518 "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.

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

12 And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candlesticks, 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."

13 Therefore their goods shall become a spoil, 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.

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.

15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasting and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

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

H 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.

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."

F 2 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desirous; before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD's anger come upon you.

3 Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger.

A C L 1 For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up.

5 Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the LORD is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant.

6 And the sea coast shall be dwellings and cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks.

7 And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed thereupon in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening: for the LORD their God shall visit them, and turn away their captivity.

L 8 I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the noise of a cry. Fig. Plerotism. Ap. 6.

10 the second = the new city. See note on 2 Kings 22. 14.

11 Makketh = the mortar. Probably the local name of the merchants' quarter in the Tyropoan valley, west of Zion. Ap. 68, p. 100. So called from its basin-like shape.

cut down = laid low.

12 candles = lamps.

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14 The great day, &c. Cp. Isai. 22. 5. Joel 2. 1, &c.

15 wrath . . . trouble, &c. Note the Fig. Synonymia (Ap. 6).

16 the trumpet and alarm = an alarming trumpet. Fig. Hinnadake (Ap. 6) = a trumpet, yea, a trumpet (call) "unto arms!" 2. 2. 2.

17 they shall walk, &c. Fig. Metonymy (of Adjunct), Ap. 6, for the towers usually fixed there.

18 land. Not the same word as in vv. 2, 3.

for. Ginsburg thinks this should be "yeva".

2. 1 Gather = Collect. Heb. קָבָשׁ. Occurs only in Ex. 5. 2, 13. Num. 15. 23, 31. 1 Kings 17. 10, 12. It is the same word as in III. 8, 18; or in III. 19, 22. See the notes there.

don't = not desirable. Fig. Antitheatra (of Verb), Ap. 6.

2 day = judgment. See note on 1. 2.


3 Seek . . . seek. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 4. 29), as in 1. 5. judgment = ordinances; as in Isai. 58. 2. Jer. 8. 7.

ye shall be hid. Referring to Isai. 26. 20, and the meaning of the name Zephaniah.

2. 4-15 (C, p. 1272). JUDGMENTS. GENERAL.

NATIONS. (Division.)

C | L 1 | 4-7. Gaza. West.

4 For Gaza. Supply the logical Ellipsis (Ap. 6), here, and in vv. 6, 12, 13, 3; i. e., thus: "[Mine anger shall be upon Gaza, with the land, for Gaza ... forsaken. Note the Fig. Paronomasia (Ap. 6), for emphasis. Heb. 'azakah ... 'azaḇah. Ashkelon. Now 'Askalon, on the coast of Philistia. Desolation = ruin. Long since fulfilled. Ashdod. Now 'Esdub. The same as Azotus in Acts 8. 40.

at the noon day: i.e. during the noon day siesta. Ekron ... rooted up. Note the Fig. Paronomasia (Ap. 6), for emphasis. Heb. 'ekron . . . 'ēḵer. Sea coast: or, country by the sea.

6 dwellings = pastures.

cottages = pens.


shall visit them. Ref. to Pent. (Gen. 50. 24. Ex. 3. 16). Ap. 92.

them: i.e. the remnant of Judah.

3 I have heard. Supply the logical Ellipsis (Ap. 6): [My judgment shall come upon Moab], for I have heard", &c., as in v. 8, &c.

the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached My People, and magnified themselves against their border. 9 Therefore as I live, saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, even the breeding of nettles, and salt pits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of My People shall spoil them, and the remnant of My People shall possess them. 10 This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified themselves against the People of the LORD of hosts. 11 The LORD will be terrible unto them: for He will cause all the gods of the earth, and men shall worship Him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen. 12 So Ethiopians also, shall be slain by My sword. 13 And He will stretch out His hand against the north, and destroy Assyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation, and dry up like a wilderness. 14 And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the cormorant and the bittern shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; their voice shall sing in the windows; desolation shall be in the thresholds: for He shall uncover the cedar work. 15 This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, ‘I am, and there is none beside me;’ how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, and wag his hand.”

9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one consent.

10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My suppliants, even the daughter of My dispersed, shall bring Mine offering.

Q In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against Me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of My holy mountain.

12 I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor People, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.

13 The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

N R Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

S 16 The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, He hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee:

O thou shalt not see evil any more.

N R In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, a Touch thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.

S 17 The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save; He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing.

M P I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden. Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that haleth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them peace and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.

20 At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all the earth,

Q when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.

Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 10. 17). Ap. 92. He will rejoice, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 20. 3). Ap. 92. will rest. Heb. will be silent. Sept. reads "will renew thee", reading γ (= μ) instead of τ (= ρ). The Heb. accent places the emphasis on these two words. Hebrew "sorrows for [the cessation of]", Some codices, with one early printed edition (Rabbinic, marg.), Aram., and Syr., read "a burden on thee". 

18 sorrowful for. Supply the Ellipsis solemn assembly = appointed season. a burden.

19 Behold. Fig. Asterismus. Ap. 6. 

20 For I will make you, &c. Ref. to Pent. (Deut. 22. 20). Ap. 92. turn back your captivity. Hebrew pl. Idiom for restoring blessings as a return. See note on Deut. 20. 3. saith = hath said.