



Come Follow Me 2022
Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah



COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT



Old Testament Seminary Manual

Nahum prophesied in the seventh century B.C., at about the same time as Zephaniah and Jeremiah. Each of these prophets shared insights into the years leading up to the Babylonian conquest of Judah.

The book of Nahum contains a prophecy that Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, would be destroyed because of its people's wickedness. The Assyrians had brutally conquered and terrorized large areas of the Near East in the eighth century B.C., destroying the Northern Kingdom of Israel and deporting its inhabitants in approximately 721 B.C. and later laying siege to Jerusalem in 701 B.C.

Old Testament Seminary Manual

Nahum addressed a significant portion of his prophecy to the people of Nineveh. These people were not the same as those who had repented of their sins after Jonah had preached in Nineveh more than a century earlier. The people of Nineveh in Nahum's time had returned to wickedness, and their actions led to their destruction. The destruction of Assyria can be likened to the destruction of the wicked in the last days.

Old Testament Seminary Manual

Nahum wrote in poetic form, using imagery and symbolism. His tone is markedly hostile toward Nineveh, especially in chapters 2 and 3, which describe the city's destruction and humiliation. The book's description of the Lord's anger may cause some readers to feel uncomfortable. However, it is important to recognize that underlying the Lord's anger toward Nineveh is a deep sense of concern for the suffering of the many people who had been conquered, slain, enslaved, and terrorized by Assyria (see Nahum 3:19). The Lord's judgments of the wicked are connected to His compassion for their victims.

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The meaning of Nahum's name, "consoler," plays an important role in the prophet's message (see Bible Dictionary, "Nahum"). The unrepentant wicked will receive no comfort (see Nahum 3:7), but the righteous can take comfort from Nahum's message that the Lord cares about them and will one day bring an end to wickedness.

Old Testament Institute Manual

“The date of Nahum’s activities has to be deduced from certain statements made in the prophecy. In Chapter 3:8–10 reference is made to the destruction of the city of No-Amon, the Egyptian Thebes, as an already accomplished fact. We know Thebes was captured by Assurbanipal, the Assyrian, in 663 B.C. Therefore, Nahum’s prophecy must have been written after that date. And since Nahum’s prophecy deals with the coming destruction of Nineveh, we know it must have been written before 612 B.C., the date of her downfall. We may date Nahum’s ministry with some degree of probability, therefore, between the years 663 B.C. and 612 B.C.” (Sidney B. Sperry, *The Voice of Israel’s Prophets*, p. 353.)

900 BC

800 BC

700 BC

600 BC

500 BC

200 years

NORTHERN KINGDOM
(ISRAEL)

ASSYRIA

BABYLON

Daniel

Ezekiel



Jeroboam

Reheboam

Jehu

Elijah

Elisha

Jonah

Hosea

Amos

Habakkuk

Jeremiah

David

Solomon

Ahijah

Micah

Nahum

Joel

Isaiah

Zephaniah

SOUTHERN KINGDOM
(JUDAH)

100 years

COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT



father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man's ^aenemies *are* the men of his own ^bhouse.

7 Therefore I will look unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will ^ahear me.

8 ¶ Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in ^adarkness, the LORD shall be a ^blight unto me.

9 I will ^abear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the ^blight, and I shall behold his righteousness.

10 Then *she that is* mine enemy shall see *it*, and shame shall cover her which said unto me, Where is the LORD thy God? mine eyes shall behold her: now shall she be ^atrodden down as the mire of the streets.

11 *In* the day that thy walls are to be built, *in* that day shall the decree be far removed.

12 *In* that day *also* he shall ^acome even to thee from Assyria, and *from* the fortified cities, and from the fortress even to the river, and from sea to sea, and *from* mountain to mountain.

13 Notwithstanding the land shall be desolate because of them that

dwell therein, for the fruit of their doings.

14 ¶ Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily *in* the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed *in* Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old.

15 According to the days of thy coming out of the land of Egypt will I shew unto him marvellous *things*.

16 ¶ The nations shall see and be confounded at all their might: they shall lay *their* hand upon *their* mouth, their ears shall be deaf.

17 They shall lick the dust like a serpent, they shall move out of their holes like worms of the earth: they shall be afraid of the LORD our God, and shall fear because of thee.

18 Who *is* a God like unto thee, that ^apardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his ^banger for ever, because he ^cdelighteth *in* ^amercy.

19 He will turn again, he will have ^acompassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

20 Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, *and* the mercy to ^aAbraham, which thou hast ^bsworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

NAHUM

CHAPTER 1

Nahum speaks of the burning of the earth at the Second Coming and of the mercy and power of the Lord.

THE burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

2 God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and

God's Wrath Against Nineveh

is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth *wrath* for his enemies.

3 The LORD *is* ^aslow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit *the* ^bwicked: the LORD *hath* his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds *are* the dust of his feet.

4 He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.

5 The mountains quake at him, and the hills ^amelt, and the earth is ^bburned at his ^cpresence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.

6 Who can stand before his ^aindignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

7 The LORD *is* ^agood, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that ^btrust in him.

8 But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.

9 What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.

10 For while *they be* folden together *as* thorns, and while they are drunken *as* drunkards, they shall be devoured as ^astubble fully dry.

11 There is *one* come out of thee, that imagineth evil against the LORD, a wicked counsellor.

12 Thus saith the LORD; Though *they be* quiet, and likewise many, yet thus shall they be cut down, when he shall pass through. Though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more.

13 For now will I break his ^ayoke

from off thee, and will burst thy bonds in sunder.

14 And the LORD hath given a commandment concerning thee, *that* no more of thy name be sown: out of the house of thy gods will I cut off the graven image and the molten image: I will make thy grave; for thou art vile.

15 Behold upon the mountains the ^afeet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.

CHAPTER 2

Nineveh will be destroyed, which is a symbol of what will be in the latter days.

HE that dasheth in pieces is come up before thy face: keep the munition, ^awatch the way, make *thy* loins strong, fortify *thy* power mightily.

2 For the LORD hath turned away the excellency of Jacob, as the excellency of Israel: for the emptiers have emptied them out, and marred their vine branches.

3 The shield of his mighty men is made red, the valiant men *are* in scarlet: the chariots *shall be* with flaming torches in the day of his preparation, and the ^afir trees shall be terribly shaken.

4 The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings.

5 He shall recount his ^aworthies: they shall stumble in their walk; they shall make haste to the wall thereof, and the defence shall be prepared.

6 The gates of the rivers shall be opened, and the palace shall be dissolved.

The Destruction of Nineveh

6a Luke 12:53.

9a Lam. 3:27 (24-27).

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1 3a TG Forbear.

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a. 3:27 (24–27).
e. 16:4 (4–5).
4:3.
. 1:9;
C 101:13.

Jer. 3:5 (1–5).
c Jer. 9:24.
d TG God, Mercy of; Mercy.
19a D&C 64:2.

Institute Manual

This phrase refers to a message of doom pronounced against Nineveh. The people of Nineveh had repented once before when Jonah preached to them. But more than 100 years later, at the time of Nahum, the people of Nineveh had again become wicked.

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The Destruction of Nineveh

7 And ^aHuzzab shall be led away captive, she shall be brought up, and her maids shall lead *her* as with the voice of doves, tabering upon their breasts.

8 But Nineveh *is* of old like a pool of water: yet they shall flee away. Stand, stand, *shall they cry*; but none shall look back.

9 Take ye the spoil of silver, take the spoil of gold: for *there is* none end of the store *and* glory out of all the pleasant furniture.

10 She is empty, and void, and waste: and the heart melteth, and the knees smite together, and much pain *is* in all loins, and the faces of them all gather ^ablackness.

11 Where *is* the dwelling of the lions, and the feedingplace of the young lions, where the lion, *even* the old lion, walked, *and* the lion's whelp, and none made *them* afraid?

12 The lion did tear in pieces enough for his whelps, and strangled for his lionesses, and filled his holes with prey, and his dens with ^aravin.

13 Behold, I *am* against thee, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will burn her chariots in the smoke, and the sword shall devour thy young lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth, and the voice of thy messengers shall no more be heard.

CHAPTER 3

The miserable downfall of Nineveh is foretold.

WOE to the bloody city! it *is* all full of lies *and* robbery; the prey departeth not;

2 The noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the pransing horses, and of the jumping chariots.

3 The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering

spear: and *there is* a multitude of slain, and a great number of carcases; and *there is* none end of *their* corpses; they stumble upon their corpses:

4 Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the wellfavoured harlot, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.

5 Behold, I *am* against thee, saith the LORD of hosts; and I will discover thy skirts upon thy face, and I will shew the nations thy nakedness, and the kingdoms thy shame.

6 And I will cast abominable filth upon thee, and make thee vile, and will set thee as a gazingstock.

7 And it shall come to pass, *that* all they that look upon thee shall flee from thee, and say, Nineveh is laid waste: who will bemoan her? whence shall I seek comforters for thee?

8 Art thou better than ^apopulous No, that was situate among the rivers, *that had* the waters round about it, whose rampart *was* the sea, *and* her ^bwall *was* from the sea?

9 Ethiopia and Egypt *were* her strength, and *it was* ^ainfinite; ^bPut and ^cLubim were thy helpers.

10 Yet *was* she carried away, she went into captivity: her young ^achildren also were dashed in pieces at the top of all the streets: and they cast lots for her honourable men, and all her great men were bound in chains.

11 Thou also shalt be drunken: thou shalt be hid, thou also shalt seek strength because of the enemy.

12 All thy strong holds *shall be like* fig trees with the firstripe figs: if they be shaken, they shall even fall into the mouth of the eater.

13 Behold, thy people in the midst of thee *are* ^awomen: the gates of thy land shall be set wide open unto

Woe to Nineveh

thy enemies: the fire shall devour thy bars.
14 Draw thee waters for the siege, fortify thy strong holds: go into clay, and tread the mortar, make strong the brickkiln.

15 There shall the fire devour thee; the sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm: make thyself many as the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts.

16 Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven: the cankerworm spoileth, and flieth away.

17 Thy crowned *are* as the locusts,

and thy captains as the grasshoppers, which camp in the cold day, *but* when they arise they flee away, a place is not known where

18 Thy shepherds slumber of Assyria: thy nobles *shall be in the dust*: thy people is upon the mountains, and gathereth *them*.

19 *There is* no healing of thy wound is grievous: all the ^abruit of thee shall be as hands over thee: for upon thee hath not thy wickedness continually?

HABAKKUK

CHAPTER 1

When Habakkuk learns that the Lord will raise up the Chaldeans to overrun the land of Israel, he is troubled that the wicked can be thus employed.

THE burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.

2 O LORD, ^ahow long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! *even* cry out unto thee of ^bviolence, and thou wilt not save!

3 Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause *me* to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence *are* before me: and there are *that* raise up ^astrife and contention.

4 Therefore the law ^ais slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

5 ¶ Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvel-

lously: for I will work a new thing in your days, *which* ye will not expect, though it be told *you*.

6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, that bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the cities that *are* not theirs.

7 They *are* terrible and will devour their judgment and their strength: ^ashall proceed of themselves.

8 Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more swift than the evening wolves: ^atheir horsemen shall spread their bow, and their horsemen shall come far; they shall fly as the eagle, hasteth to eat.

9 They shall come all for spoil, their faces shall sup up as the eagle, and they shall gather as the eagle, captivity as the sand.

10 And they shall scoff at the king, and the princes shall be as their slaves: they shall deride even

Habakkuk's Complaint

^a TG God, Indignation of. ^a Ps. 34:8; Lam. 3:25; D&C 70:18 (17-18).

13a TG Bondage, Physical. 15a Rom. 10:15; Mosiah 15:18 (13-18); 3 Ne. 20:40;

7a OR the queen. 10a Hebrew idiom meaning "children"

3 8a HEB No-amon; i.e., Thebes.

b Gen. 10:6. c IE the Libyans.

19a HEB report.

b Micah 6:12.

7a OR are of the

COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT



Old Testament Seminary Manual

This book is attributed to a prophet named Habakkuk (see Habakkuk 1:1; 3:1). Little is known about Habakkuk except that he was a prophet who lived in the kingdom of Judah, “possibly in the reign of Josiah or of Jehoiakim (about 600 B.C.)” (Bible Dictionary, “Habakkuk”). The date of Habakkuk’s ministry is uncertain, but it likely took place shortly before the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem in 597 B.C. (see Habakkuk 1:6). If this dating is correct, he would have been a contemporary of the prophets Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Obadiah, and Ezekiel.

Old Testament Seminary Manual

The book of Habakkuk contains an exchange between Habakkuk and the Lord that is “similar to those in Jeremiah 12 and D&C 121” (Guide to the Scriptures, “Habakkuk”; scriptures.lds.org). Like Jeremiah and Joseph Smith, Habakkuk asked God sincere and bold questions that reflected concern for his people and for the Lord’s plans for them.

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14 Draw thee waters for the siege, fortify thy strong holds: go into clay, and tread the mortar, make strong the brickkiln.

15 There shall the fire devour thee; the sword shall cut thee off, it shall eat thee up like the cankerworm: make thyself many as the cankerworm, make thyself many as the locusts.

16 Thou hast multiplied thy merchants above the stars of heaven: the cankerworm spoileth, and flieth away.

17 Thy crowned *are* as the locusts,

and thy captains as the great grasshoppers, which camp in the hedges in the cold day, *but* when the sun ariseth they flee away, and their place is not known where they *are*.

18 Thy shepherds slumber, O king of Assyria: thy nobles shall dwell *in the dust*: thy people is scattered upon the mountains, and no man gathereth *them*.

19 *There is* no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous: all that hear the ^abruit of thee shall clap the hands over thee: for upon whom hath not thy wickedness passed continually?

HABAKKUK

CHAPTER 1

When Habakkuk learns that the Lord will raise up the Chaldeans to overrun the land of Israel, he is troubled that the wicked can be thus employed.

THE burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see.

2 O LORD, ^ahow long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! *even* cry out unto thee of ^bviolence, and thou wilt not save!

3 Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause *me* to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence *are* before me: and there are *that* raise up ^astrife and contention.

4 Therefore the law ^ais slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

5 ¶ Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvel-

lously: for I will work a ^awork in your days, *which* ye will not believe, though it be told *you*.

6 For, lo, I raise up the Chaldeans, *that* bitter and hasty nation, which shall march through the breadth of the land, to possess the dwelling-places *that are* not theirs.

7 They *are* terrible and dreadful: their judgment and their dignity ^ashall proceed of themselves.

8 Their horses also are swifter than the leopards, and are more fierce than the evening wolves: and their horsemen shall spread themselves, and their horsemen shall come from far; they shall fly as the eagle *that* hasteth to eat.

9 They shall come all for violence: their faces shall sup up *as* the east wind, and they shall gather ^athe captivity as the sand.

10 And they shall scoff at the kings, and the princes shall be a scorn unto them: they shall deride every strong

hold; for they shall heap dust, and take it.

11 Then shall *his* ^amind change, and he shall pass over, and offend, *imputing* this his power unto his god.

12 ¶ *Art* thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction.

13 *Thou art* of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, *and* holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth *the man that is* more righteous than he?

14 And makest men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, *that have* no ruler over them?

15 They take up all of them with the ^aangle, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their ^bdrag: therefore they rejoice and are glad.

16 Therefore they sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag; because by them their portion *is* fat, and their meat plentifulous.

17 Shall they therefore empty their net, and not spare continually to slay the nations?

CHAPTER 2

The Lord admonishes patience and promises that the just will live by faith—The earth will be filled with knowledge about God—Idols have no power.

I WILL stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved.

2 And the LORD answered me, and said, ^aWrite the vision, and make it

plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.

3 For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely ^acome, it will not tarry.

4 Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his ^afaith.

5 ¶ Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, *he is* a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and *is* as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people:

6 Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Woe to him that increaseth *that which is* not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!

7 Shall they not rise up suddenly that shall bite thee, and awake that shall vex thee, and thou shalt be for ^abooties unto them?

8 Because thou hast ^aspoiled many nations, all the remnant of the people shall spoil thee; because of men's blood, and *for* the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

9 ¶ Woe to him that ^acoveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!

10 Thou hast ^aconsulted shame to thy house by cutting off many people, and hast sinned *against* thy soul.

11 For the stone shall cry out of the wall, and ^athe beam out of the timber shall answer it.

12 ¶ Woe to him that buildeth a town with ^ablood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!

13 Behold, *is it* not of the LORD of hosts that the people shall labour in

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19a HEB report.

b Micah 6:12.

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Old Testament Institute Manual

Sperry wrote that this verse “is one of the great passages of the Old Testament. It means essentially this: There is a moral and spiritual distinction between the Chaldeans and the people of Judah. The Chaldeans, puffed up and arrogant, priding themselves in their wealth and power and deceptive in their dealings with other nations, do not possess the moral and spiritual elements which alone can insure permanence and stability. The people of the Lord, on the other hand, [should] possess moral integrity, fidelity, and spiritual insight which insure for them a future. ‘The future belongs to the righteous.’ When the prophet says that ‘the righteous shall live by his faith (more accurately faithfulness)’ he implies permanency.” (Voice of Israel’s Prophets, pp. 371–72.)

the very fire, and the people shall weary themselves for very ^avanity?

14 For the ^aearth shall be filled with the ^bknowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

15 ¶ Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to *him*, and makest *him* ^adrunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!

16 Thou art filled ^awith shame for glory: drink thou also, and let thy foreskin be uncovered: the cup of the LORD's right hand shall be turned unto thee, and shameful spewing *shall be* on thy glory.

17 For the violence of Lebanon shall cover thee, and the spoil of beasts, *which* made them afraid, because of men's blood, and for the violence of the land, of the city, and of all that dwell therein.

18 ¶ What profiteth the graven ^aimage that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

19 Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and *there is* no breath at all in the midst of it.

20 But the LORD *is* in his holy temple: let all the earth keep ^asilence before him.

CHAPTER 3

In his prayer Habakkuk trembles at the majesty of God.

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2 O LORD, I have heard thy speech,

and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

3 God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount ^aParan. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise.

4 And *his* brightness was as the light; ^ahe had horns *coming* out of his hand: and *there was* the hiding of his power.

5 Before him went the pestilence, and ^aburning coals went forth at his feet.

6 He stood, and measured the earth: he beheld, and drove asunder the nations; and the everlasting mountains were scattered, the perpetual ^ahills did bow: his ways *are* everlasting.

7 I saw the tents of ^aCushan in affliction: *and* the curtains of the land of ^bMidian did tremble.

8 Was the LORD displeased against the rivers? *was* thine anger against the rivers? *was* thy wrath against the sea, that thou didst ride upon thine horses *and* thy chariots of salvation?

9 Thy bow was made quite naked, *according* to the oaths of the tribes, *even* thy word. Selah. Thou didst cleave the earth with rivers.

10 The ^amountains saw thee, *and* they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, *and* lifted up his hands on high.

11 The ^asun *and* moon stood still in their habitation: at the light of thine arrows they went, *and* at the shining of thy glittering spear.

12 Thou didst march through the land in indignation, thou didst thresh the heathen in anger.

13a Jer. 51:58.
TG Vanity.

14a Isa. 11:9.
TG Earth, Destiny of.

TG Shame.
18a Isa. 44:10.

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20a Zeph. 1:7.

4a OR rays of light are at His side.

5a HEB a flame.
6a D&C 133:31.

13 Thou wentest forth for the ^asalvation of thy people, *even* for salvation with thine anointed; thou ^bwoundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah.

14 Thou didst strike through with his staves the head of his villages: they came out as a whirlwind to scatter me: their rejoicing *was* as to devour the poor secretly.

15 Thou didst walk through the sea with thine horses, *through* the ^aheap of great waters.

16 When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones,

and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.

17 ¶ Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither *shall* fruit *be* in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and *there shall be* no herd in the stalls:

18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

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Habakkuk Rejoices
in the Lord

Habakkuk's Prayer

The Coming Judgment on Judah

ZEPHANIAH

CHAPTER 1

The destruction of Judah is symbolic of the Second Coming—It is the day of the Lord's sacrifice, a day of wrath and trouble.

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 ^aJosiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

2 I will utterly ^aconsume 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 ^astumblingblocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD.

4 I will also ^astretch 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 ^bChemarims with the priests;

5 And them that worship the host of heaven upon the ^ahousetops; and them that worship *and* that swear by the LORD, and that swear by ^bMalcham;

6 And them that are ^aturned back from the LORD; and *those* that have not sought the LORD, nor inquired for him.

7 ^aHold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the ^bday of the LORD *is* at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.

13a TG Jesus Christ, Prophecies about Jesus Christ

b Deut. 32:13; 33:29.

Ezek. 7:19.
4a 2 Ne. 19:21

laid over with gold and silver, and *there is no breath at all in the midst of it.*

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Deut. 23:2 (2, 3)

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7 *a* Historic allusions as in

v. 3. Judg. 3:10 (8–10).

b Num. 31:2 (1–12).

10 *a* Ex. 19:18 (16–18).

11 *a* Josh. 10:12 (12–13);

Hel. 12:15

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Institute Manual

A shigionoth may have been a stringed instrument, or perhaps a musical expression used to accompany singers. Possibly this prayer of Habakkuk was set to music and intended for use in the temple. A selah was a cue for the person singing or chanting the words. The use of this word in Psalms is further evidence that Habakkuk's prayer may have been set to music.

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18 Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

19 The LORD God *is* my ^astrength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine ^bhigh places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments.

Job 13:15

"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him: ..."

Daniel 3:17-18

Sadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego declared, "[God] will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods..."

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Romans 8:35, 38-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

And what about when Nephi laments about all his weaknesses and trials? "Nevertheless," he says, "I know in whom I have trusted." (2 Nephi 4:19).

COME FOLLOW ME: OLD TESTAMENT



Old Testament Seminary Manual

The book is attributed to a prophet named Zephaniah, who ministered in Judah during the reign of King Josiah, which lasted from about 639 to 608 B.C. (see Zephaniah 1:1; Bible Dictionary, “Zephaniah”). Zephaniah may have been a contemporary of other Old Testament prophets such as Jeremiah and Nahum and the Book of Mormon prophet Lehi (see Bible Chronology). Zephaniah’s name means “the Lord hides” (Bible Dictionary, “Zephaniah”).

Old Testament Seminary Manual

Like many ancient prophecies, the words of Zephaniah can apply to both his day and the future. At the time Zephaniah was prophesying, a foreign army was threatening to destroy Judah. This threatened destruction can be compared to the destruction of the wicked that will occur before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Additionally, the blessings the Lord promised to the righteous inhabitants of Jerusalem can foreshadow the blessings the righteous will receive at the Second Coming (see Zephaniah 3:12–20).

13 Thou wentest forth for the ^asalvation of thy people, *even* for salvation with thine anointed; thou ^bwoundedst the head out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Selah.

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4 I will also ^astretch 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 ^bChemarims with the priests;

5 And them that worship the host of heaven upon the ^ahousetops; and them that worship *and* that swear by the LORD, and that swear by ^bMalcham;

6 And them that are ^aturned back from the LORD; and *those* that have not sought the LORD, nor inquired for him.

7 ^aHold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the ^bday of the LORD *is* at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.

The Day of the Lord Is Near

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 ^aapparel.

9 In the same day also will I punish all those that leap ^aon the threshold, which fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.

10 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, *that there shall be* the noise of a cry from the fish ^agate, and an howling from ^bthe second, and a great crashing from the hills.

11 Howl, ye inhabitants of ^aMaktesh, 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 candles, and punish the men that are ^asettled on their ^blees: that say in their heart, The LORD will ^cnot do good, neither will he do evil.

13 Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also ^abuild houses, but not inhabit *them*; and they shall ^bplant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof.

14 The ^agreat 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 wasteness and ^adesolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 A day of the ^atrumpet and alarm against the ^bfenced cities, and against the high towers.

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 ^afire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

CHAPTER 2

Seek righteousness; seek meekness—Judgment will come upon the Philistines, the Moabites, the children of Ammon, the Ethiopians, and the Assyrians.

GATHER yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired;

2 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 ^ameek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek ^brighteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the ^cday of the LORD's anger.

4 ¶ For Gaza shall be forsaken, and ^aAshkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up.

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

6 And the sea coast shall be

Judgment on Judah's Enemies

13a TG Jesus Christ, Prophecies about Jesus Christ

b Deut. 32:13; 33:29.

Ezek. 7:19.

8a Morm. 8:36 (36–37).

9a OR over; i.e., to plunder and pillage.

10a 2 Chr. 33:14.

b IE the second quarter, a

b Jer. 48:11.

c Mal. 3:14.

13a Amos 5:11.

b Deut. 28:30 (30, 39).

14a Mal. 4:5;

18a Joel 1:19 (19–20).

2 3a Ps. 76:9;

3 Ne. 12:5;

D&C 88:17 (15–17).

b TG Righteousness.

4 I will also ^astretch 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 ^bChemarims with the priests;

5 And them that worship the host of heaven upon the ^ahousetops; and them that worship *and* that swear by the LORD, and that swear by ^bMalcham;

6 And them that are ^aturned back from the LORD; and *those* that have not sought the LORD, nor inquired for him.

7 ^aHold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the ^bday 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 ^aapparel.

9 In the same day also will I punish all those that leap ^aon the threshold, which fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.

10 And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD, *that there shall be* the noise of a cry from the fish ^agate, and an howling from ^bthe second, and a great crashing from the hills.

11 Howl, ye inhabitants of ^aMaktesh, 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 candles, and punish the men that are ^asettled on their ^bblees:

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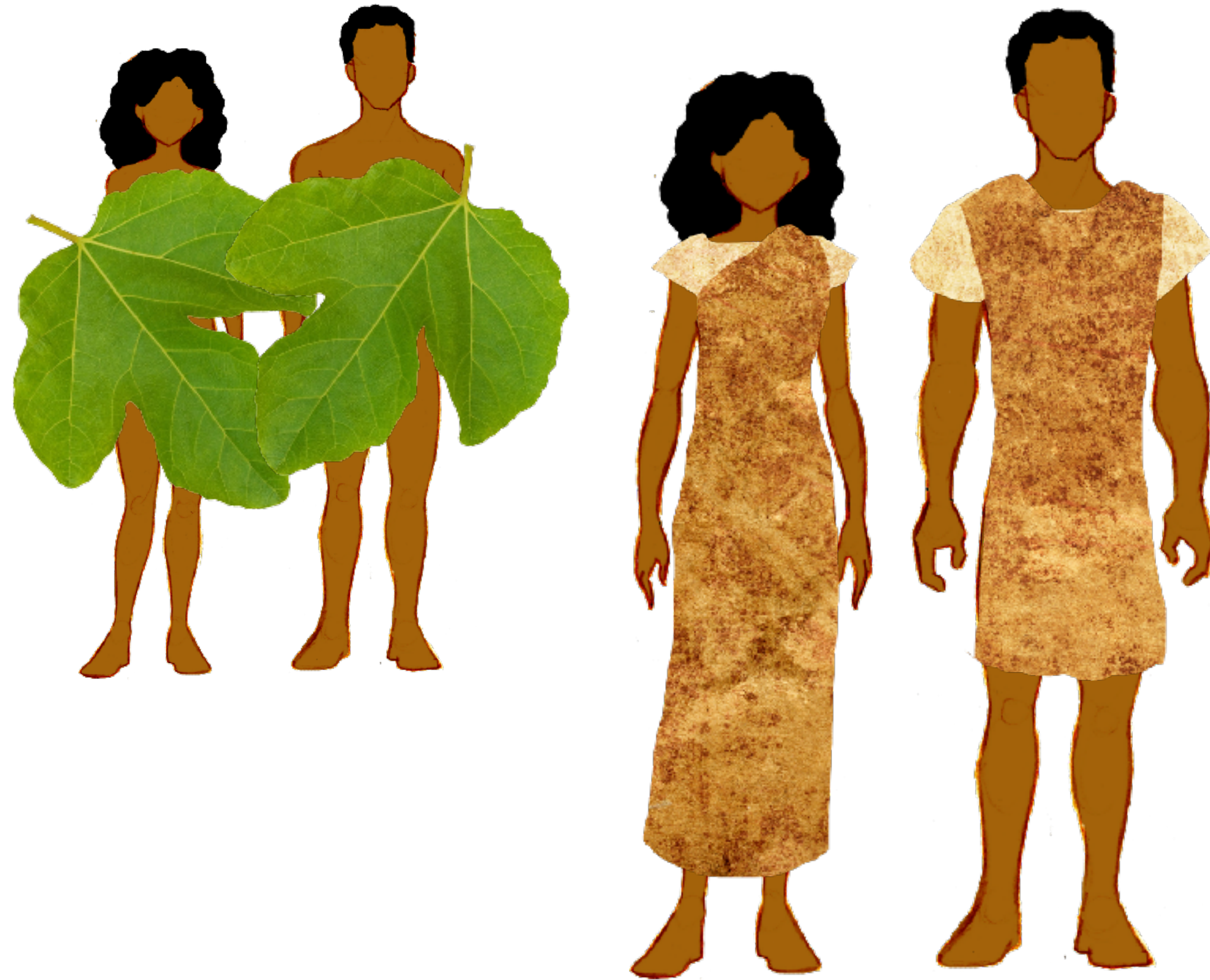
eut. 32:13; 33:29.

Ezek. 7:19.

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**The Lord, " hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness..."
(Isaiah 61:10)**

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that say in their heart, The LORD will ^cnot do good, neither will he do evil.

13 Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also ^abuild houses, but not inhabit *them*; and they shall ^bplant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof.

14 The ^agreat 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 wasteness and ^adesolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 A day of the ^atrumpet and alarm against the ^bfenced cities, and against the high towers.

2 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 ^ameeke of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek ^brighteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the ^cday of the LORD's anger.

4 ¶ For Gaza shall be forsaken, and ^aAshkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up.

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

6 And the sea coast shall be

8a Morm. 8:36 (36–37).

9a 2P 1:10–11; 2P 1:12–13

b Jer. 48:11.

c Mal. 3:14

18a Joel 1:19 (19–20).

23a De 7:6–8

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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 ^afire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.

CHAPTER 2

Seek righteousness; seek meekness— Judgment will come upon the Philistines, the Moabites, the children of Ammon, the Ethiopians, and the Assyrians.

GATHER yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired:

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President Gordon B. Hinckley:

**“Meekness implies a spirit of
gratitude as opposed to an
attitude of self-sufficiency,
an acknowledgment of a
greater power beyond
oneself, a recognition of
God, and an acceptance of
his commandments”**

*(“With All Thy Getting Get
Understanding,” Ensign, Aug. 1988, 3–4).*

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6 And the sea coast shall be

^adwelling 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 ^acaptivity.

8 ¶ I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the ^arevilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and ^bmagnified *themselves* against their border.

9 Therefore *as* I live, saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as ^aSodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, *even* ^bthe breeding of nettles, and saltpits, 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* ^aterrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; and *men* shall ^bworship him, every one from his place, *even* all the isles of the ^cheathen.

12 ¶ Ye ^aEthiopians also, ye *shall be* slain by my sword.

13 And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and destroy ^aAssyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation, *and* dry like a wilderness.

14 And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the ^acormorant 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* ^awag his hand.

CHAPTER 3

At the Second Coming, all nations will assemble to battle—Men will have a pure language—The Lord will reign in their midst.

WOE to her that is ^afilthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!

2 She ^aobeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God.

3 Her princes within her *are* roaring lions; her judges *are* evening ^awolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.

4 Her prophets *are* ^alight and treacherous persons: her priests have ^bpolluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the ^claw.

5 The just LORD *is* in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

6 I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that none passeth by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is none inhabitant.

7 I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction; so their dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them: but they rose early, *and* corrupted all their doings.

8 ¶ Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my

Judgment on Judah's Enemies

Judgment on Jerusalem and the Nations The Conversion of the Nations

determination *is* ^ato gather the ^bnations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, *even* all my fierce anger: for all the ^cearth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

9 For then will I turn to the people a pure ^alanguage, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one ^bconsent.

10 From ^abeyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, *even* the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

11 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 ^ahaughty ^bbecause 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 ^alies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make *them* afraid.

14 ¶ Sing, O daughter of Zion;

- 8a Joel 3:2 (1-2).
- b Isa. 13:4.
- c TG Earth, Destiny of; World, End of.
- 9a TG Communication; Language.
- b TG Common Consent;

- Unity.
- 10a Isa. 18:1.
- 11a TG Haughtiness.
- b HEB in.
- 13a TG Lying.
- 15a TG Jesus Christ, Millennial Reign.

b Jer. 48:11.
c Mal. 3:14.
a Amos 5:11.
b Deut. 28:30 (30, 39).
a Mal. 4:5;

18a Joel 1:19 (19-20).
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3 Ne. 12:5;
D&C 88:17 (15-17).
b TG Righteousness.

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9a Gen. 19:24.
14a Isa. 34:11 (10-11).

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Jerusalem, Fear thou not: *and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack*

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.

18 I will gather *them that are* sorrowful for the solemn assembly, *who are of thee, to whom* the reproach of it *was* a burden.

19 Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that ^ahalteth, and ^bgather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise 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 ^agather you: for I will make you a name and a ^bpraise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your ^ccaptivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.

Henry B. Eyring

“The word wait in scripture language means to hope for or anticipate” (*“Waiting Upon the Lord” [Brigham Young University fireside, Sept. 30, 1990], 4; speeches.byu.edu*).

Jeffrey R. Holland

“Some blessings come soon, some come late, and some don’t come until heaven; but for those who embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ, they come” (*“An High Priest of Good Things to Come,” Oct 1999 GC Ensign, Nov. 1999, 38*).