ZEPHANIAH

CHAPTER 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 Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

2Let all things be utterly consumed from off the face of the earth, saith the Lord. 3Let man and cattle be cut off; let the fowls of the heaven be cut off, and the fishes of the sea; and the ungodly shall fail, and I will take away the transgressors from off the face of the land, saith the Lord. 4I will also stretch out Mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will remove the names of Baal from this place, and the names of the priests; 5and them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops; and them that worship and swear by the Lord; and them that swear by their king; 6and them that turn aside from the Lord; and those that seek not the Lord; and them that cleave not unto the Lord. 7Fear ye before the Lord God; for the day of the Lord is at hand: for the Lord hath prepared His sacrifice, and hath sanctified His guests. 8And it shall come to pass in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will take vengeance upon the princes, and upon the king's house, and upon all that wear strange apparel. 9And I will openly take vengeance upon all that are in the porches in that day, that fill the house of God with ungodliness and deceit. 10And there shall come to pass that day, saith the Lord, the noise of a cry from the gate of men slaying, and an howling from the second, and a great crashing from the hills. 11Lament, ye that inhabit the city that is broken down, for the whole people is become like unto Canaan; and all that were exalted by silver have been cut off. 12And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will search Jerusalem with a lamp, and take vengeance on the men that despise the things that are committed unto them: but they say in their hearts, The Lord will not do any good, neither will He do any evil. 13And their power shall be for ravaging, and their houses for utter destruction; they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof. 14For the great day of the Lord is near, it is near and very speedy; the voice of the day of the Lord is made bitter and harsh. 15A mighty day of wrath is that day, a day of affliction and distress, a day of desolation and destruction, and day of gloominess and darkness, a day of cloud and vapour, 16a day of the trumpet and cry against the strong cities, and against the high corners. 17And I will greatly afflict the men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: therefore shall He pour out their blood as dust, and their flesh as dung. 18And their silver and their gold shall in no wise 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 will bring a speedy destruction upon all them that dwell in the land.

CHAPTER 2

Gather yourselves together, and bind yourselves together, O nations not chastened; [2]before ye be as the flower that passeth away, before the anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's wrath come upon you. [3]Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth; do judgment, and seek justice, and answer accordingly; that ye may be hid in the day of the Lord's anger. [4]For Gaza shall be utterly spoiled, and Ashkelon shall be destroyed; and Ashdod shall be cast forth at the noonday, and Ekron shall be rooted up. [5]Woe unto them that dwell on the sea coast, the neighbours of the Cretans! the word of the Lord is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines, and I will destroy you out of your dwelling place. [6]And Crete shall be a pasture of flocks, and a fold of sheep. [7]And the sea coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall pasture upon them in the houses of Ashkelon; they shall rest in the evening because of the children of Judah; for the Lord their God hath visited them, and He will turn away their captivity. [8]I have heard the revilings of Moab, and the reproaches of the children of Ammon, wherewith they have reviled My people, and magnified themselves against My coasts. [9]Therefore as I live, saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah; and Damascus shall be left as an heap of the threshing floor, and desolate for ever: and the remnant of My people shall spoil them, and the remnant of My nation shall inherit them. [10]This shall be to them in return for their haughtiness; because they have reproached and magnified themselves against the Lord Almighty. [11]The Lord shall appear against them, and shall utterly destroy all the gods of the Gentiles of the earth; and they shall worship Him, every one from his place, even all the islands of the nations. [12]Ye Ethiopians also are the slain of My sword. [13]And He shall stretch forth his hand against the north, and destroy the Assyrians, and make Nineveh a dry wilderness, even as a desert. [14]And flocks, and all the wild beasts of the land and chameleons shall feed in the midst thereof; and hedgehogs shall lodge in the ceilings thereof; and wild beasts shall cry in the breaches thereof, and ravens in her porches; seeing her loftiness was as a cedar. [15]This is the scornful city that dwelleth securely, that saith in her heart, I am, and there is none else after me: how is she become desolate, an habitation of wild beasts! every one that passeth through her shall hiss, and wag his hands.

CHAPTER 3

Ah, glorious and ransomed, the city, the dove! [2]She hearkened not unto the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the Lord, and she

drew not near to her God. [3]Her princes within her were as roaring lions; her judges as the wolves of Arabia.; they remained not till the morrow. [4]Her prophets are borne of the wind, scornful men, and sinfully transgress the law. [5]But the just Lord is in the midst thereof; and He will do no unjust thing: morning by morning will he bring out His judgment to the light, and it is not hid; and He knoweth not injustice by extortion, nor injustice in strife. [6]I have brought down the proud with destruction; their corners are destroyed: I will altogether make their ways waste, that none shall pass through: their cities are come to an end by reason of none living or dwelling *therein*. [7]I said, But do ye fear Me, and receive instruction, and ye shall not be cut off from the face of the land *for* all the vengeance I have brought upon her: prepare thou, rise early: all their gleaning is corrupted. [8]Therefore wait ye upon Me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up for a witness: for My judgment shall be upon the gathering of the Gentiles, to draw king unto Me, to pour out upon them all My fierce anger: for all the earth shall be consumed with the fire of My jealousy. [9]For then will I turn to the peoples a tongue for her generation, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him under one yoke. [10]From the borders of the rivers of Ethiopia will I receive My dispersed; they shall offer sacrifices unto Me. [11]In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against Me: for then will I take away from thee thy disdainful pride, and thou shalt no more magnify thyself upon My holy mountain. [12]And I will leave in thee a meek and lowly people; [13]and the remnant of Israel shall fear the name of the Lord, and shall do no iniquity, neither shall they speak vanity; neither shall a deceitful tongue be in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and there shall be none to make them afraid. [14]Rejoice, O daughter of Zion; proclaim, O daughter of Jerusalem; rejoice and delight thee with all thine heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. [15]The Lord hath taken away thine iniquities, He hath redeemed thee from the hand of thine enemies: the Lord, even the King of Israel, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more. [16]At that time the Lord shall say to Jerusalem, Be of good courage, O Zion; let not thine hands be slack. [17]The Lord thy God is in the midst of thee; the Mighty One shall save thee: He shall bring joy upon thee, and renew thee with His love: and He shall rejoice over thee with delight as in a day of feasting. [18]And I will gather thine afflicted ones. Alas, who hath taken up a reproach against her? [19]Behold, I will work in thee for thy sake at that time, saith the Lord, and I will save her that was oppressed, and receive her that was rejected; and I will make them a praise, and honoured in all the earth. [20]And they shall be ashamed at that time, when I shall deal well with you, and at the time when I shall receive you: for I will make you honoured and a praise among all the nations of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before you, saith the Lord.