

Minor Prophets...

THE MINOR PROPHETS

The Book of Zephaniah

Zeph. 1:1-6

...Major Message

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Zeph. 1:1 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 Chemarims 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.

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TITLE AND WRITER

"Jehovah has Hidden."

UNITY

Criticism of the unity of Zephaniah has not had great influence.

DATE

Zephaniah ministered during the reign of King Josiah of Judah (640-609 B.C.; 1:1).

His contemporaries were Nahum, Habakkuk, and Jeremiah, though Jeremiah's ministry continued beyond the destruction of Jerusalem, which took place in 586 B.C.

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PLACE OF COMPOSITION

References to Jerusalem in 1:10-11 seem to indicate that Zephaniah knew Jerusalem well. Since he ministered to the Southern Kingdom, it is likely that he lived in Judah and probably in Jerusalem.

AUDIENCE AND PURPOSE

Zephaniah's audience consisted of the people of Judah: the surviving Southern Kingdom.

LITERARY FORM

He had an imperative message to deliver and proceeded in the most direct and forceful way to discharge his responsibility.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Zephaniah contains more references to "the day of the LORD" than any other Old Testament book. ***...Major Message***

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MESSAGE

The key to the Book of Zephaniah is the phrase "the day of the Lord."

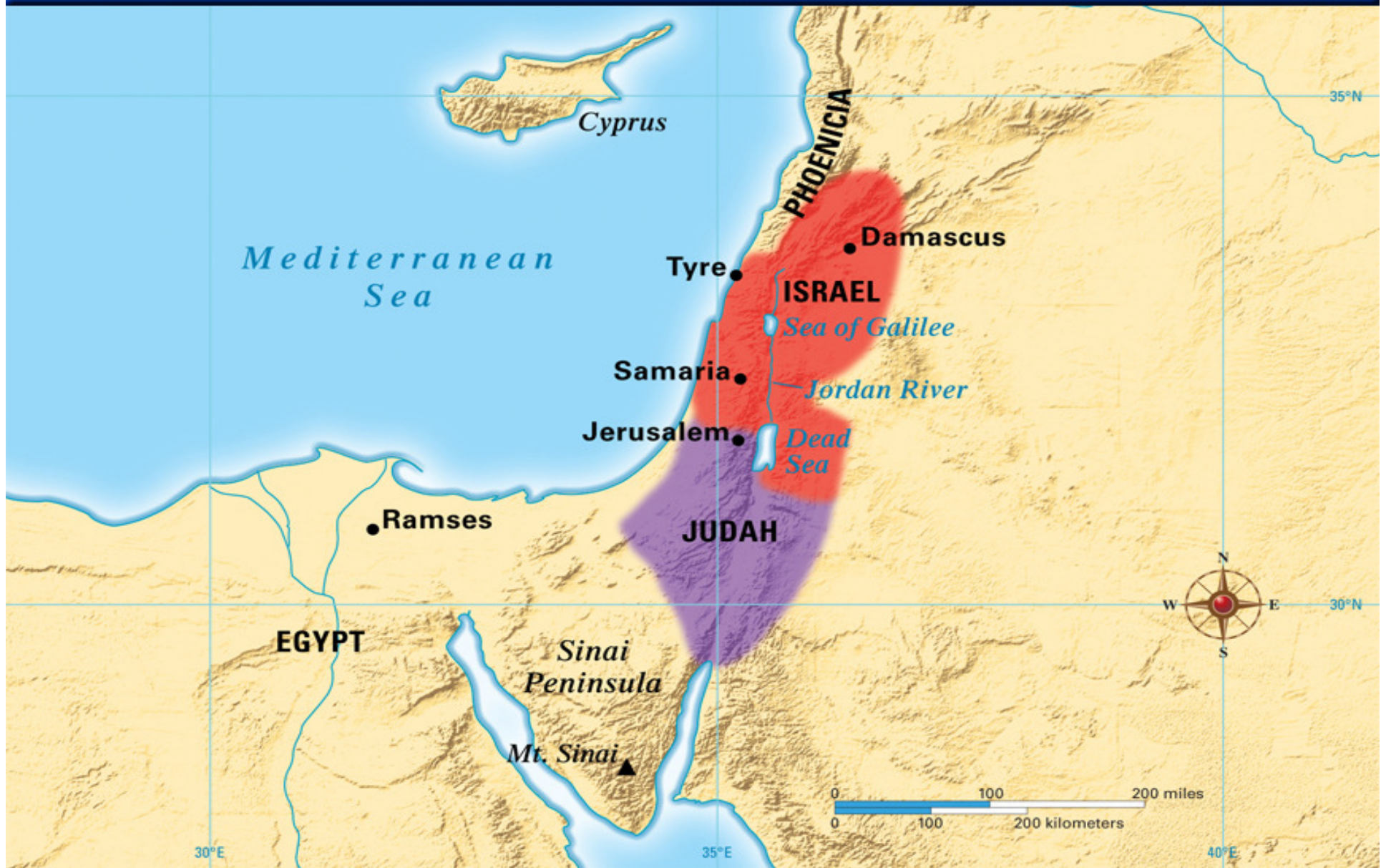
There are three things that this book reveals about this coming day of the Lord:

- its content
- its extent
- its intent.

2 Pet. 3:1-14

...Major Message

Kingdoms of Israel and Judah, 922 B.C.



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Ancient+Israel+Divided+Kingdom+Map&view=detailv2&id=B64AE99879D54DBF32CEC2779C74D037A472FE8E&selectedIndex=1&ccid=hU8elbwo&simid=608048347625816609&thid=JN.BlxbcFkExeq3M7Ylx9a6cw&ajaxhist=0>

...Major Message



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=maps+of+palatine+-+Divided+Kingdom+700+bc&view=detailv2&id=F161F0EBBF38BE16C77B887CFDD0D419D9CB8350&selectedIndex=20&ccid=5jjRRbin&simid=608040474954171223&thid=JN.cxfmQcFD%2bq%2fSbeMxS1LfFQ&ajaxhist=0>

...Major Message

Reigns of Divided Kingdom Kings

KINGS OF ISRAEL			KINGS OF JUDAH	
DYNASTY	KING	YEARS OF REIGN (B.C.)	KING	YEARS OF REIGN (B.C.)
1st	Jeroboam	933 - 911 ←	→ Rehoboam	933 - 916
	Nadab	911 - 910 ←	→ Abijah	915 - 913
2nd	Baasha	910 - 887 ←	→ Asa	912 - 872
	Elah	887 - 886		
3rd	Zimri	886		
4th	Omri	886 - 875	→ Jehoshaphat	874 - 850
	Ahab	875 - 854 ←	→ Jehoram	850 - 843
	Ahaziah	855 - 854 ←	→ Ahaziah	843
	Jehoram (Joram)	854 - 843 ←	→ Athaliah	843 - 837
5th	Jehu	843 - 816 ←	→ Joash	843 - 803
	Jehoahaz	820 - 804 ←	→ Amaziah	803 - 775
	Jehoash (Joash)	806 - 790 ←	→ Uzziah	787 - 735
	Jerboam II	790 - 749 ←	→ Joham	749 - 734
	Zechariah	748 ←		
6th	Shallum	748		
7th	Menaem	748 - 738	→ Ahaz	741 - 726
	Pekahiah	738 - 736 ←		
8th	Pekah	748 - 730	→ Hezekiah	726 - 697
9th	Hoshea	730 - 721 ←	Manasseh	697 - 642
			Amon	641 - 640
			Josiah	639 - 608
			Jehoahaz	608
			Jehoiakim	608 - 597
			Jehoiachin	597
			Zedekiah	597 - 586



Kings of Judah	Bible	Good/Bad	Kings of Israel	Bible	All Bad	General Chronological Line-up of Prophets to Kings																																																																								
Rehoboam	1 Kings 11-14	BAD	Jeroboam I	1 Kings 12-14	BAD																																																																									
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I. THE DETERMINATION OF THE LORD, 1:1-6

Zeph. 1:1 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.

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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 Chemarims 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.

A. The Prophet's Pedigree, 1:1

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Zeph. 1:1 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 Chron. 35:25 And Jeremiah lamented for Josiah: and all the singing men and the singing women spake of Josiah in their lamentations to this day, and made them an ordinance in Israel: and, behold, they are written in the lamentations.

B. The Prophet's Perspective, 1:2-6

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Zeph. 1:2 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 Chemarims 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.

1. The Lord's Decision, 1:2-4a

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Zeph. 1:2 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;

a. The Devouring Flame, 1:2-3

Zeph. 1:2 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.

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Isa. 6:11 Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, 12 And **the LORD have removed men** far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

Isa. 24:1 **Behold, the LORD maketh** the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.

2 And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him.

3 **The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word.**

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4 The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.

5 The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; **because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.**

6 Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: **therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.**

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Isa. 24:19 The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly.

20 **The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard**, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.

21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that **the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.**

22 And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.

23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, **when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.**

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(1) Cleansing, 1:3b

Zeph. 1:3b ...**I will** consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumblingblocks with the wicked;

(2) Conquering, 1:3c

Zech. 1:3c ...and **I will** cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD.

b. The Divine Focus, 1:4a

Zech. 1:4 **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 Chemarims with the priests; **...Major Message**

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Deut. 28:58 **If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law** that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;

63 And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; **so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.**

64 And **the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods**, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

65 And **among these nations shalt thou find no ease**, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

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Prov. 13:15 Good understanding giveth favour: but **the way of transgressors is hard.**

Rom. 11:1 I say then, **Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.** For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

2 **God hath not cast away his people** which he foreknew...

Rom. 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

28 As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but **as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.**

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2. The Lord's Discrimination, 1:4b-6

Zech. 1:4b ...and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarims 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.

a. Immorality (Baal Worship), 1:4b

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Zech. 1:4b ...and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarims with the priests;

2 Chron. 34:3 For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: **and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.**

4 And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them.

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b. Astrology (Worshiping the Hosts of Heaven), 1:5a

Zech. 1:5a And them that worship the host of heaven upon the housetops...

Deut. 4:19 And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the LORD thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven.

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2 Kgs. 17:16 And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal.

21:3 For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. (Manasseh)

21:5 And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.

Jer. 8:2 And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth.

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Jer. 19:13 And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be defiled as the place of Tophet, because of all the houses upon whose roofs they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven, and have poured out drink offerings unto other gods.

c. Insincerity (Swearing by the Lord), 1:5b

Zech. 1:5b ...and them that worship and that swear by the LORD...

d. Cruelty (Sacrificing to Moloch), 1:5c

Zech. 1:5c ... and that swear by Malcham;

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Lev. 18:21 And **thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech**, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

2 Kgs. 16:3 But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel, yea, and **made his son to pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the heathen**, whom the LORD cast out from before the children of Israel.

2 Kgs. 21:6 And **he made his son pass through the fire**, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: **he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.**
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Jer. 32:35 And **they built the high places of Baal**, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, **to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech**; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

e. Apostasy (Turning Back to Sin), 1:6a

Zech. 1:6a And them that are turned back from the LORD...

Psa. 78:41 Yea, **they turned back** and tempted God, **and limited the Holy One of Israel.**

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Psa. 78:57 But **turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers**: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow.

Acts 7:39 To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and **in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,**

2 Tim. 4:10 For Demas hath forsaken me, **having loved this present world**, and is departed unto Thessalonica...

f. Infidelity (Not Seeking the Lord), 1:6b

Zech. 1:6b ...and those that have not sought the LORD, nor enquired for him.

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Conclusion

Deut. 4:29 But if from thence thou shalt **seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.**

1 Chron. 16:10 Glory ye in his holy name: **let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD.**

11 **Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.**

Isa. 55:6 **Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:**

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Mt. 6:33 But **seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness**; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Acts 17:27 That **they should seek the Lord**, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, **though he be not far from every one of us**:

Jas. 4:8 **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you**. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

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References:

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Israel+Divided+Kingdom+Timeline&view=detailv2&&id=8537F8C41B84F4CF418052A4BD7AE8D38C6A7E44&selectedIndex=12&ccid=diRT4ZX5&simid=608055292585117062&thid=JN.FfFvjKOH5gBAB2VgC5i9ug&ajaxhist=0>

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Israel+Divided+Kingdom+Timeline&view=detailv2&&id=923833337B67285A143B6297ABB722067483A247&selectedIndex=37&ccid=VuegzlOf&simid=608041050478874279&thid=JN.2SFjJYqUjYTpUbvshUuenw&ajaxhist=0>

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