

Minor Prophets...

THE MINOR PROPHETS

The Book of Zephaniah

Zeph. 2:12-3:4

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Zeph. 2:12 Ye Ethiopians also, ye 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 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.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

3:1 Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!

2 She obeyed 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 wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.

4 Her prophets are light and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

I. THE DETERMINATION OF THE LORD, 1:1-6

A. The Prophet's Pedigree, 1:1

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

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

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

II. THE DAY OF THE LORD, 1:7-3:8

A. The People, 1:7-13

1. The Summons, 1:7

2. The Sacrifice, 1:8-13

a. The Royal Rebels, 1:8

b. The Sin-Seekers, 1:9

c. The Money-Makers, 1:10-11

d. The Leisure-Lovers, 1:12-13

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

B. The Period, 1:14-18

1. Its Nearness, 1:14
2. Its Nature, 1:15-18
 - a. To Fulfill Prophecy, 1:15-16
 - b. To Finally Punish, 1:17
 - c. To Fully Purge, 1:18

C. The Places, 2:1-3:8

1. The Country of Judah, 2:1-3
 - a. Warned, 2:1-2
 - b. Wooed, 2:3

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

2. The Conquerors of Judah, 2:4-15

a. To the West: Philistia, 2:4-7

(1) Its Towns Given Over to Judgment, 2:4-6

(2) Its Territory Given Over to the Jews, 2:7

b. To the East: Moab and Ammon, 2:8-11

(1) Their Policy, 2:8

(2) Their Punishment, 2:9

(3) Their Pride, 2:10-11

(a) Racial, 2:10

(b) Religious, 2:11

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

c. To the South: the Ethiopians, 2:12

Zeph. 2:12 Ye Ethiopians also, ye shall be slain by my sword.



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=map+of+Cush&view=detailv2&&id=E9358522DF5A63AF4851C0FD53CBF79B65C89EB9&selectedIndex=3&ccid=DWKij%2fq7&simid=608026207107874819&thid=JN.0kliZDQmfzLUWeWqAHDpHw&ajaxhist=0>

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Ezek. 30:4 And the sword shall come upon Egypt, and **great pain shall be in Ethiopia**, when the slain shall fall in Egypt, and they shall take away her multitude, and her foundations shall be broken down.

5 **Ethiopia**, and Libya, and Lydia, and all the mingled people, and Chub, and the men of the land that is in league, shall fall with them by the sword. ...

9 In that day shall messengers go forth from me in ships **to make the careless Ethiopians afraid**, and great pain shall come upon them, as in the day of Egypt: for, lo, it cometh. ...

24 And I will strengthen the arms of **the king of Babylon**, and put my sword in his hand: but I will break Pharaoh's arms, and he shall groan before him with the groanings of a deadly wounded *man*.

25 But I will strengthen the arms of **the king of Babylon**, and the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down; and **they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall stretch it out upon the land of Egypt.**

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

d. To the North: Assyria, 2:13-15

(1) Ruin Predicted, 2:13-14

Zeph. 2:13 And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and destroy Assyria; 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 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.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=map+of+Cush&view=detailv2&&id=E9358522DF5A63AF4851C0FD53CBF79B65C89EB9&selectedIndex=3&ccid=DWKji%2fq7&simid=608026207107874819&thid=JN.0kliZDQmfzLUWeWgAHDpHw&ajaxhist=0>

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Isa. 14:24 The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

25 That **I will break the Assyrian** in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: then shall his yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders.

26 This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.

27 For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

(2) Rejoicing Predicted, 2:15a

Zeph. 2:15 “This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that **said in her heart, I am, and there is none beside me...**”

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Isa. 10:12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, **I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks.**

Prov. 6:16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

17 **A proud look...**

Ex. 3:14 And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM:** and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Isa. 45:6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that **there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.**

Isa. 45:21 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? **and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.**

Gen. 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods**, knowing good and evil.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Motyer summarized five principles that Zephaniah taught in this section (2:4-15).

- First, the Lord is the God of all the earth.
- Second, the Lord plans for the spiritual needs of the world.
- Third, the Lord is in charge of the whole historical process.
- Fourth, the Lord's people are central to His world purposes.
- Fifth, the Lord is the fierce enemy of pride.

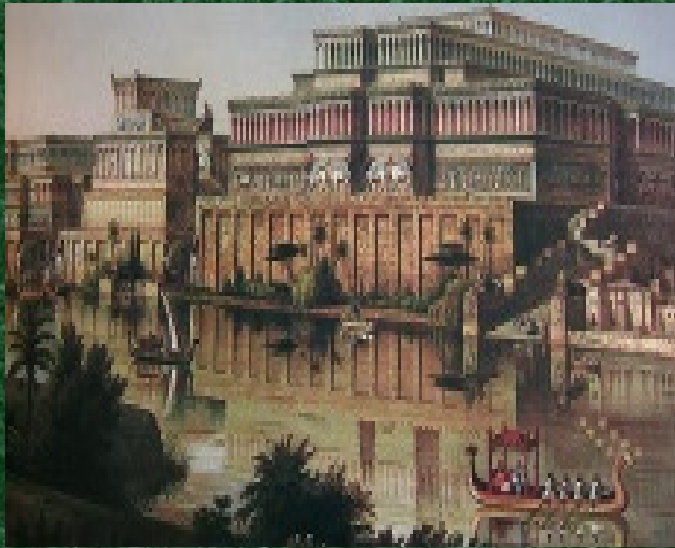
Motyer, J. Alec. "Zephaniah." In *The Minor Prophets: An Exegetical and Expositional Commentary*, 3:897-962. 3 vols. Edited by Thomas Edward McComiskey. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1992, 1993, and 1998. (See p. 937)

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

(3) Reviling Predicted, 2:15b

Zeph. 2:15b "...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."



Ancient Nineveh

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=map+of+Cush&view=detailv2&&id=E9358522DF5A63AF4851C0FD53CBF79B65C89EB9&selectedIndex=3&ccid=DWKji%2fq7&simid=608026207107874819&thid=JN.0kliZDQmfzLUWeWgAHDpHw&ajaxhist=0>

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=map+of+Cush&view=detailv2&&id=E9358522DF5A63AF4851C0FD53CBF79B65C89EB9&selectedIndex=3&ccid=DWKji%2fq7&simid=608026207107874819&thid=JN.0kliZDQmfzLUWeWgAHDpHw&ajaxhist=0>



Modern Nineveh

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=map+of+Cush&view=detailv2&&id=E9358522DF5A63AF4851C0FD53CBF79B65C89EB9&selectedIndex=3&ccid=DWKji%2fq7&simid=608026207107874819&thid=JN.0kliZDQmfzLUWeWgAHDpHw&ajaxhist=0>

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Prov. 16:18 **Pride goeth before destruction**, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Amos 2:4 Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:

5 But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem. (See Isa. 65:2ff)

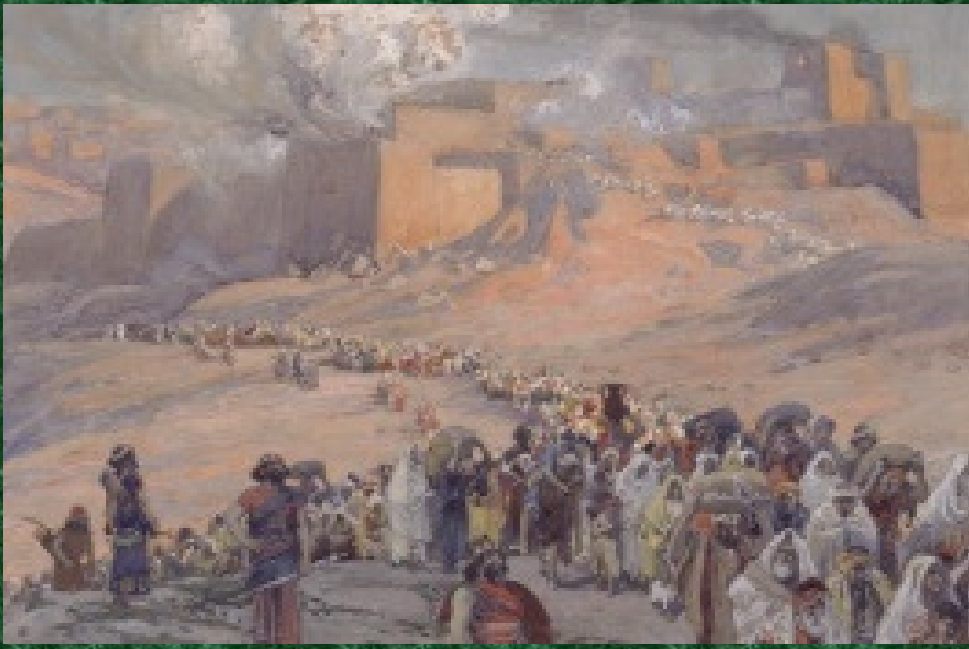
3. The Capital of Judah, 3:1-8

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=map+of+Cush&view=detailv2&&id=E9358522DF5A63AF4851C0FD53CBF79B65C89EB9&selectedIndex=3&ccid=DWKji%2fq7&simid=608026207107874819&thid=JN.0kliZDQmfzLUWeWgAHDpHw&ajaxhist=0>



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=map+of+Cush&view=detailv2&&id=E9358522DF5A63AF4851C0FD53CBF79B65C89EB9&selectedIndex=3&ccid=DWKji%2fq7&simid=608026207107874819&thid=JN.0kliZDQmfzLUWeWgAHDpHw&ajaxhist=0>

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

a. Its Pollutions, 3:1-4

Zeph. 3:1 Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!

2 She obeyed 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 wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.

4 Her prophets are light and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

(1) The People, 3:1-2

Zeph. 3:1 Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!

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

- She obeyed not the voice;

De 11:27 **A blessing, if ye obey** the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:

28 And **a curse, if ye will not obey** the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

- She received not correction;

Jer. 5:3 O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, **but they have refused to receive correction**: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.

Jer. 7:28 But thou shalt say unto them, **This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction**: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.

- She trusted not in the LORD;

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Psa. 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses:
but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

Psa. 37:3 **Trust in the LORD, and do good**; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

Prov. 3:5 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart**; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and **he shall direct thy paths.**

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

•She drew not near to her God.

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.

(2) The Princes, 3:3

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

(3) The Prophets, 3:4a

Zeph. 3:4a “**Her prophets** are light and treacherous persons...”

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Jer. 23:9 Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of **the words of his holiness**.

11 For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD.

12 Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation, saith the LORD.

13 And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

14 I have seen also in **the prophets of Jerusalem** an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and **walk in lies**: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them **unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.**

15 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for **from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land.**

16 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: **they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD...***Major Message*

Minor Prophets...

(4) The Priests, 3:4b

Zeph. 3:4b "...her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law."

Jer. 5:31 **The prophets prophesy falsely**, and **the priests bear rule by their means**; and **my people love to have it so**: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

2 Tim. 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 **Preach the word**; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For **the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine**; but **after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers**, having itching ears;

4 And **they shall turn away their ears from the truth**, and shall be turned unto fables.

...Major Message

Minor Prophets...

Conclusion

Jas. 4:4 Ye **adulterers and adulteresses**, know ye not that the **friendship of the world is enmity with God?** whosoever therefore will be **a friend of the world is the enemy of God.**

5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, **God resisteth the proud**, but giveth grace unto the humble.

7 **Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

8 **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.**

Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

...Major Message