

Sabbath Brothers

Time to Read Scripture

(76 Hours 13 Minutes)

Old Testament 57.65 Hours*

New Testament 18.57 Hours**

Estimated Time to Read	
The Law/Pentateuch/Torah	13.5 Hours
1. Genesis	3.5 Hours
2. Exodus	3 Hours
3. Leviticus	2 Hours
4. Numbers	3 Hours
5. Deuteronomy	2.5 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
The Books of History	18.67 Hours
6. Joshua	1.75 Hours
7. Judges	1.75 Hours
8. Ruth	15 Minutes
9. 1 Samuel	2.25 Hours
10. 2 Samuel	1.75 Hours
11. 1 Kings	2 Hours
12. 2 Kings	2.25 Hours
13. 1 Chronicles	2 Hours
14. 2 Chronicles	2.5 Hours
15. Ezra	40 Minutes
16. Nehemiah	1 Hour
17. Esther	30 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Books of Poetry	9.33 Hours
18. Job	1.75 Hours
19. Psalms	5 Hours
20. Proverbs	1.75 Hours
21. Ecclesiastes	30 Minutes
22. Song of Solomon	20 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Major Prophets	13.08 Hours
23. Isaiah	3.75 Hours
24. Jeremiah	4 Hours
25. Lamentations	20 Minutes
26. Ezekiel	3.75 Hours
27. Daniel	1.25 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
The Minor Prophets	3.07 Hours
28. Hosea	30 Minutes
29. Joel	12 Minutes
30. Amos	25 Minutes
31. Obadiah	4 Minutes
32. Jonah	8 Minutes
33. Micah	20 Minutes
34. Nahum	8 Minutes
35. Habakkuk	9 Minutes
36. Zephaniah	10 Minutes
37. Haggai	7 Minutes
38. Zechariah	40 Minutes
39. Malachi	11 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
The Gospels	8.5 Hours
40. Matthew	2.5 Hours
41. Mark	1.5 Hours
42. Luke	2.5 Hours
43. John	2 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
Establishment of the Church	2.25 Hours
44. Acts	2.25 Hours

Estimated Time to Read	
Paul's Public Epistles	4.1 Hours
45. Romans	1 Hour
46. 1 Corinthians	1 Hour
47. 2 Corinthians	40 Minutes
48. Galatians	20 Minutes
49. Ephesians	20 Minutes
50. Philippians	14 Minutes
51. Colossians	13 Minutes
52. 1 Thessalonians	12 Minutes
53. 2 Thessalonians	7 Minutes

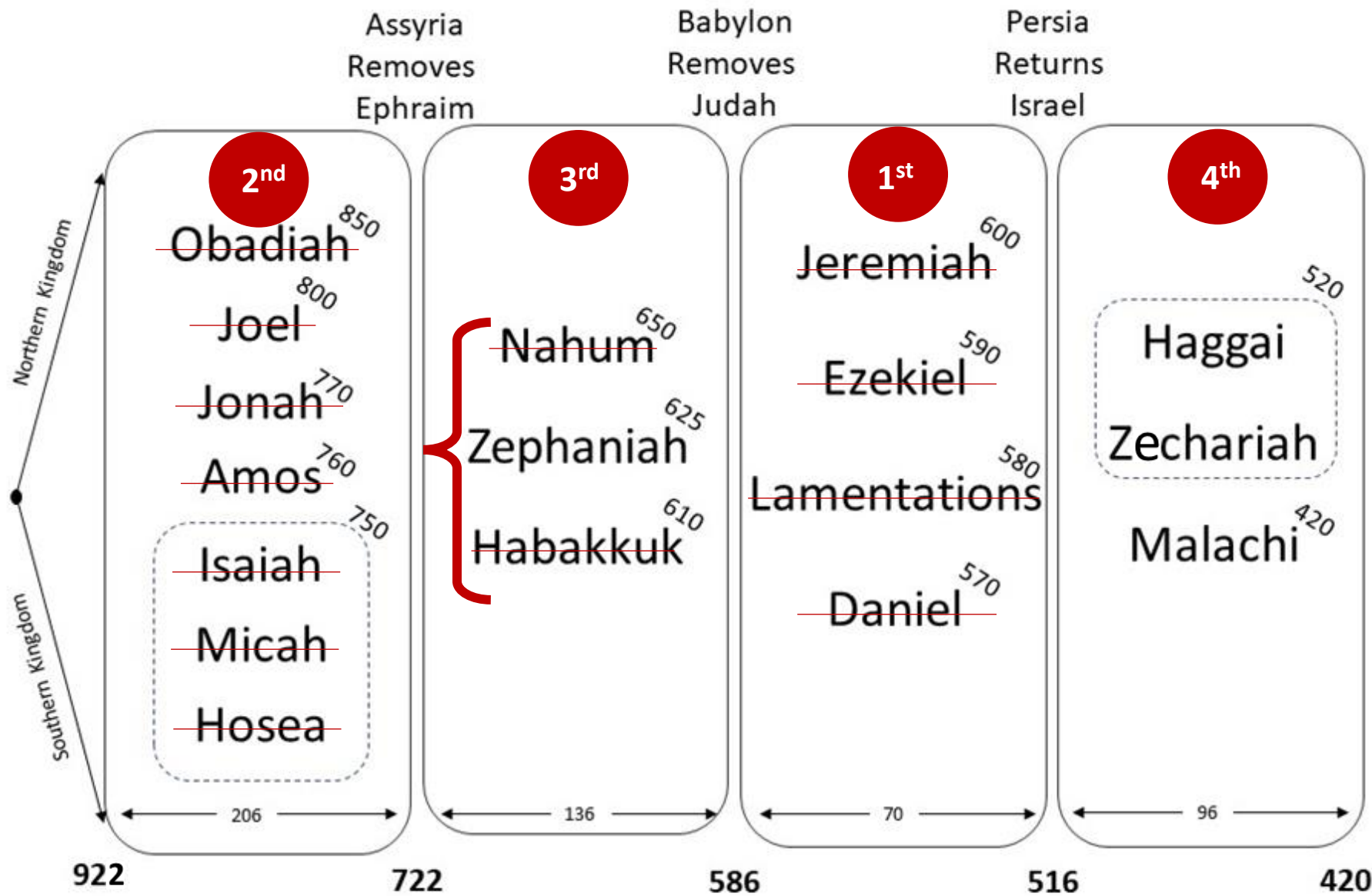
Estimated Time to Read	
Paul's Private/Pastoral Epistles	34 Minutes
54. 1 Timothy	16 Minutes
55. 2 Timothy	11 Minutes
56. Titus	7 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
General Epistles	1.9 Hours
57. Philemon	3 Minutes
58. Hebrews	45 Minutes
59. James	16 Minutes
60. 1 Peter	16 Minutes
61. 2 Peter	10 Minutes
62. 1 John	16 Minutes
63. 2 John	2 Minutes
64. 3 John	2 Minutes
65. Jude	4 Minutes

Estimated Time to Read	
End Times Prophecy	1.25 Hours
66. Revelation	1.25 Hours

*Old Testament 57 Hours 39 Minutes

**New Testament 18 Hours 34 Minutes



Timeline of the Prophets



OLD TESTAMENT STRUCTURE, 5-12-5-5-12
5 BOOKS OF THE LAW—12 BOOKS OF HISTORY--5 BOOKS OF WISDOM WRITINGS---5 MAJOR PROPHETS
12 BOOKS OF MINOR PROPHETS---MINOR BECAUSE THEY WROTE LESS. NOT LESS IMPORTANT!

Zephaniah

("Treasured/Hidden by God")



Several themes of Zephaniah include:

- The Dangers of being Indifferent to God
- The Day of Judgment will become a Day of Joy

The "Day of the Lord" (similar to "the Day of Judgment/Wrath") is mentioned seven times in this book as a focus of God's wrath.



Zephaniah ("*Treasured of Jehovah*" or "*The Lord Hides*") was a prophet to Judah during the time that Assyria was falling to the Babylonian-Mede armies.

During a time of great corruption, the Lord hid Zephaniah.

A key purpose of Zephaniah's message was to disturb the complacency of God's people, so that they would return to Him.

“The Word of the Lord Came to Me...”

This Phrase was used frequently by the Major Prophets

The Word of the Lord came to the Prophets					
Isaiah	1:10; 28:13-14; 37:22; 38:4; 39:5; 66:5				
Jeremiah	1:2, 4, 11, 13; 2:1, 4, 31; 7:2; 9:20; 10:1; 13:2-3, 8; 14:1; 16:1; 17:20; 18:5; 19:3; 20:8; 21:1, 11; 22:2, 29; 24:4; 25:3; 26:1; 27:1; 28:12; 29:20, 30: 30:2; 31:10; 32:1, 6, 26; 33:133:19, 23; 34:1, 4, 8, 12; 35:1, 12; 36:1, 27; 37:6; 39:15; 40:1; 42:7; 42:15; 43:1, 8; 44:16, 24, 26; 46:1, 13; 49:34; 50:1 (Daniel 5:10)				
Ezekiel	1:3; 3:16; 6:1; 7:1; 11:14; 12:1, 8, 17, 21, 21; 13:1; 14:2, 12; 15:1; 16:1; 17:1, 11; 18:1; 20:2, 45; 21:1, 8, 18; 22:1, 17, 23; 23:1; 24:1, 15, 20; 25:1, 3; 26:1; 27:1; 28:1, 11, 20; 29:1, 17; 20:1, 20; 31:1; 32:1, 17; 33:1; 33:23; 34:1; 35:1; 36:16; 37:15; 38:1				
Daniel	--				
Hosea	4:1				
Joel	1:1				
Amos	3:1; 7:16	hā·yāh,	'ā·šer	Yah·weh	də·bā·r-
Obadiah	--				
Jonah	1:1; 3:1, 3	הָיָה	אֲשֶׁר	יְהוָה	דְּבַר
Micah	1:1	came	which	of Yahweh	The word
Nahum	--				
Habakkuk	--				
Zephaniah	1:1; 2:5				
Haggai	1:1, 3; 2:1, 10, 20				
Zechariah	1:1, 7; 4:6, 8; 6:9; 7:4, 8, 12; 8:1, 18; 9:1; 11:11; 12:1				
Malachi	1:1				

The Prophets spoke with the Authority of the Lord

God's people worshipped the Lord as well as the World

Judgment on the Worldly (Zephaniah 1:1-6)

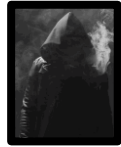
1 The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah.



2 I will completely sweep away everything from the face of the earth— this is the LORD's declaration.



3 I will sweep away man and animal; I will sweep away the birds of the sky and the fish of the sea, and the ruins along with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth. This is the LORD's declaration.



4 I will stretch out My hand against Judah and against all the residents of Jerusalem. I will cut off every vestige of Baal from this place, the names of the pagan priests along with the priests; **5** those who bow in worship on the rooftops to the heavenly host; those who bow and pledge loyalty to the LORD but also pledge loyalty to Milcom;

6 and those who turn back from following the LORD, who do not seek the LORD or inquire of Him.



Zephaniah was of royal descent as the great, great grandson of good King Hezekiah and a distant cousin to their current king, Josiah

With four ancestors listed, this is the longest recorded ancestry of any prophet.

The elimination of life on earth is recorded in reverse order of Genesis 1 (man → animals → birds → fish)

The Hebrew word for "man" is "adam" ('ādām אָדָם) which is similar to the Hebrew word for "earth/land" is 'ādāmāh (אֲדָמָה). (Romans 8:18-19)

Judgment begins in the household of God (1 Peter 4:17), and God's followers had straddled between following Him and this world (1 Kings 18:21; Mt 6:24; Lk 16:13).

The exact translation of "idolatrous priests" (Zephaniah 1:4) is "black robed" (2 King 23:5; Hosea 10:5); these were regular priests who were now active in idolatry.

Baal (meaning "owner" and "lord") was symbolized by a raised uncut stone (2 Chronicles 33:3, 7).

God's people had a divided heart between the Lord and Milcom (the false god of the Ammonites – 1 Kings 11:5, 33; 2 Kings 23:13). The spelling "Milcom" is a corruption of the Hebrew word for "king" which was "melek" (מֶלֶךְ).

The worship of the heavens had been encouraged by Manasseh (2 Kings 21:3); Sabeans were those who worshipped the stars and followed astrology.

Characteristics of a "Backslider" <i>(Zephaniah 1:6)</i>		
1	They do not FOLLOW the Lord	Pursue their own desires/will
2	They do not SEEK the Lord	No Bible Study/Church
3	They do not INQUIRE of the Lord	No Prayer



Zephaniah Identifies Sin/Idolatry

- The King Manasseh adopted the Assyrian astral worship (2 Kings 21:3-5) although Scripture clearly forbade astral worship of the heavens (Deuteronomy 4:19; Job 31:26-27).
- Israel had been judged because of the worship of astral deities (2 Kings 17:16), but Judah did not learn their lesson (2 Kings 21: 3, 5; 23:4-5, 11-12; Jeremiah 7:18; 8:2; 44:17).
- God's people had a divided heart between the Lord and Milcom (the false god of the Ammonites – 1 Kings 11:5, 33; 2 Kings 23:13).
- The spelling "Milcom" is a corruption of the Hebrew word for "king" which was "melek" (מֶלֶךְ).

God would search the streets of Jerusalem to judge everyone who disregarded Him

Judgment Day (Zephaniah 1:7-13)

7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord GOD, for the Day of the LORD is near. Indeed, the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; He has consecrated His guests.

8 On the day of the LORD's sacrifice I will punish the officials, the king's sons, and all who are dressed in foreign clothing.

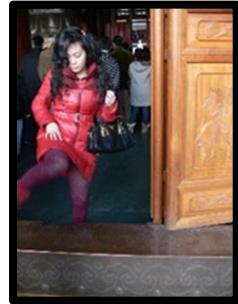
9 On that day I will punish all who skip over the threshold, who fill their master's house with violence and deceit.

10 On that day— this is the LORD's declaration— there will be an outcry from the Fish Gate, a wailing from the Second District, and a loud crashing from the hills.

11 Wail, you residents of the Hollow, for all the merchants will be silenced; all those loaded with silver will be cut off.

12 And at that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish the men who settle down comfortably, who say to themselves: The LORD will not do good or evil.

13 Their wealth will become plunder and their houses a ruin. They will build houses but never live in them, plant vineyards but never drink their wine.



"Canaanite" means "Merchants"

Be silent before God; wait and listen (Habakkuk 2:20; Zechariah 2:13).

The "Day of the Lord" is not a day of rest, but a time of devastation (Joel 2:1, 11, 31, 3:14).

This slaughter feast (sacrifice) would host the Babylonians as guests ("holy ones" in Isaiah 13:3) in consuming Judah.

In Scripture, clothing symbolizes the covering of righteousness; one chooses God's clothing (righteousness) or something foreign (external to His provision) – 2 Kings 10:22, 25:7.

The "black robed" priests had turned from the service to the one, true God (Zephaniah 1:4).

The Fish Gate was the "Damascus Gate" on the north side of Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 33:4; Nehemiah 3:3, 12:39). This was the location of the fish market where fish were cleaned and sold.

**✂ "Fish" represent God's people. ✂
Thirty years after this (586 BC), Babylon would enter through this gate to "clean" God's people.**

Similar to the Assyrian & Babylonian captivities, this was a foreshadowing of the Tribulation with birds as the guests (Revelation 19:17-21)

Superstition held that the threshold was a dangerous place because demons dwelt there (1 Samuel 5:5 – worship of Dagan). This is the reason that the bride is carried across the threshold.

Modern superstitions of not stepping on cracks nor walking under ladders nor breaking mirrors – all heighten "coincidence" instead of God's control (1 Sam 5:5).

The second district was the newer section of Jerusalem to the northwest of the Temple (2 Kings 22:14; 2 Chronicles 34:22; Nehemiah 11:9)

"The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:4)

The Day of the Lord (Zephaniah 1:14-18)

14 The great Day of the LORD is near, near and rapidly approaching. Listen, the Day of the LORD—then the warrior's cry is bitter.



15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of destruction and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness,



16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities, and against the high corner towers.

"When disaster comes to a city, has not the LORD caused it?" (Amos 3:6)

17 **I will bring distress on mankind, and they will walk like the blind because they have sinned against the LORD.** Their blood will be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung.

18 Their silver and their gold will not be able to rescue them on the day of the LORD's wrath. **The whole earth will be consumed by the fire of His jealousy. For He will make a complete, yes, a horrifying end of all the inhabitants of the earth.**

Zephaniah warns of the imminent "Day of the Lord" with horrific cries of even the mighty men (Isaiah 2:19; Joel 2:11, 31).

God Himself will bring distress on mankind.

While light conveys a state of enlightenment and understanding, blindness conveys a lack of understanding and inability to grasp simple truths (Deuteronomy 28:29).

Six Descriptions of "The Day of the Lord"

(Zephaniah 1:15-16)

- 1 A Day of Wrath
- 2 A Day of Trouble & Distress
- 3 A Day of Destruction & Desolation
- 4 A Day of Darkness & Gloom
- 5 A Day of Clouds & Blackness
- 6 A Day of Trumpet Blast & Battle Cry (Joel 2:1)



The phrase "flesh as dung" speaks of the corpses lying about on the ground without burial. (Jeremiah 9:22)

"Blood" (representing life) will be poured as "dust" (representing death); spilled blood will be as common as dust.

God speaks and acts out of His burning jealousy (Deuteronomy 29:20; Psalm 79:5; Ezekiel 36:5-6; Zephaniah 3:8)



Man's self-effort (behavior or buying power) will not afford salvation (1 Peter 1:18).

Although Jerusalem's inhabitants attempted to buy their way out of destruction, they would not be able to bribe Babylon not to invade. (2 Kings 15:20; 18:13-15)

**"Seek the Lord while He may be found;
Call upon Him while He is near."
(Isaiah 55:6)**

Repent Before Judgment (Zephaniah 2:1-3)

1 Gather yourselves together;
gather together, undesirable nation,

2 before the decree takes effect
and the day passes like chaff,
before the burning of the
LORD's anger overtakes you,
before the day of the LORD's
anger overtakes you.



3 Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth,
who carry out what He commands.
Seek righteousness, seek humility;
perhaps you will be concealed
on the day of the LORD's anger.

**Hebrew form of "gather" is a verb used for a slave humbly gathering fire wood as Judah is an undesirable nation.
(1 Kings 17:10, 12)**

The term "goyim" was typically used by Jews to demean Gentile nations, but in this instance, it was used for Judah.

Mankind should repent before fiery judgment. The "decree" may reference the covenant agreement of blessings and curses (Deuteronomy 27-28).

Babylon would defeat Jerusalem as easily as the wind blows away the chaff.

**To be concealed (saved from) the Lord's Wrath,
He gives three directives
*(Zephaniah 2:3)***

- 1 Seek the Lord
- 2 Seek Righteousness
- 3 Seek Humility

The phrase "*perhaps you may be hidden/concealed*" is a play on Zephaniah's name which means "*Hidden by God*" or "*Treasure of God.*"

The sense of being "*hidden*" is synonymous with "*being protected*"

*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord
and He will lift you up*

James 4:10



Just as Nineveh was judged, Jerusalem exhibited those same characteristics and would be similarly judged. (Zephaniah 2:15)

Judgment of Jerusalem (Zephaniah 3:1-8)

1 Woe to the city that is rebellious and defiled, the oppressive city!

2 She has not obeyed; she has not accepted discipline. She has not trusted in Yahweh; she has not drawn near to her God.

3 The princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are wolves of the night, which leave nothing for the morning.

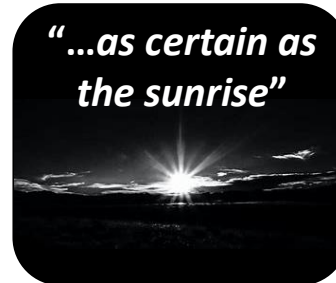
4 Her prophets are reckless— treacherous men. Her priests profane the sanctuary; they do violence to instruction.

5 The righteous LORD is in her; He does no wrong. He applies His justice morning by morning; He does not fail at dawn, yet the one who does wrong knows no shame.

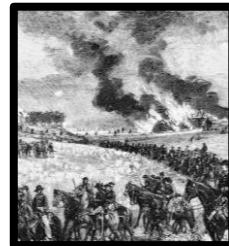
6 I have cut off nations; their corner towers are destroyed. I have laid waste their streets, with no one to pass through. Their cities lie devastated, without a person, without an inhabitant.

7 I thought: You will certainly fear Me and accept correction. Then her dwelling place would not be cut off based on all that I had allocated to her. However, they became more corrupt in all their actions.

8 Therefore, wait for Me—this is the LORD’s declaration—until the day I rise up for plunder. For My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, in order to pour out My indignation on them, all My burning anger; for the whole earth will be consumed by the fire of My jealousy.



“...as certain as the sunrise”



Attributes of the Fallen Jerusalem (Zephaniah 3:1-2)

- 1 Rebellious
- 2 Defiled
- 3 Oppressive
- 4 Disobedient
- 5 Undisciplined
- 6 Does not trust God
- 7 Has not drawn near God

Jerusalem had become as wicked as pagan nations.

Jerusalem had grown hard-hearted, so that no one could offer advice or correction.

Each Position of Leadership Had Failed God’s People

(Zephaniah 3:3-4)

1 Princes	Roaring Lions	Powerful Exploiters	Nah 2:11-12; Neh 9:34; Is 1:23
2 Judges	Night Wolves	Evil & Insatiable with Wild Greed	Micah 3:1-3 & 9-11
3 Prophets	Reckless & Dangerous	Speak Opinion instead of God’s Word	Jer 6:13; Lam 2:14; 2 Peter 2:1-3
4 Priests	Profane the Sanctuary	Corrupt, Polluted Leaders Desecrate God’s Sanctuary	Hosea 6:9; Jer 2:8; Mal 2:1-3, 8

God has judged nations to their end (“cut off” infers no lineage or future), and Judah should have known better. He has shown His justice.

God’s corrective discipline not bring repentance

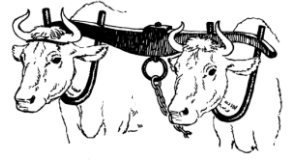
Watch and wait to see what the Lord will do; understand cataclysms truly do come from God

This also foretells the Tribulation when nations gather for Armageddon (Revelation 16:16)

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

The Redemption of the Nations (Zephaniah 3:9-13)

⁹ For I will then restore pure speech to the peoples so that all of them may call on the name of Yahweh and serve Him with a single purpose.



"Shoulder-to-Shoulder"

¹⁰ From beyond the rivers of Cush My supplicants, **My dispersed people, will bring an offering to Me.**

Gentiles will join Jews in worship (Ephesians 2-3)

¹¹ On that day you will not be put to shame because of everything you have done in rebelling against Me. **For then I will remove your proud, arrogant people from among you, and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain.**

"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble." (James 4:6)

¹² I will leave a meek and humble people among you, and they will take refuge in the name of Yahweh.



¹³ The remnant of Israel will no longer do wrong or tell lies; a deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. **But they will pasture and lie down, with nothing to make them afraid.**



This blessing of pure speech will be the reversal of Babel (Genesis 11) which also took place at Pentecost when diverse foreigners understood what was spoken (Acts 2:8-11).

Linguists determined that the Hebrew language is the most effective language in communicating to extraterrestrial beings (Jeremiah 31:23)

The phrase "to serve Him with one accord" was an allusion to two men carrying an object between their two shoulders – a single burden carried on the shoulders of two men might be a metaphor for Jew and Gentile serving the Lord together.

The "Hebrew" language is the only dead language that has ever been "resurrected" for common use. Israel's exiles stopped using Hebrew when they were taken to Chaldea.

God will not allow prideful people on Mt Zion (Jerusalem); pride is promoted in this day and age, but only those who depend on Jesus will be saved.

Nebuchadnezzar removed all of the prideful into captivity (Jeremiah 39:10; 2 Kings 25:12)

When God has worked in His people, they will be "humble and lowly" who find their refuge in Him. (Psalm 2:12; 118:8)

Things God's People Will Not Have <small>(Zephaniah 3:13)</small>
No Injustice
No Lies or Deceit
No Fear

God's people would be the "sheep of His pasture" (Psalm 23:2) without fear of anyone. (Micah 4:4)

"Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." (Psalm 51:12)

Israel's Restoration (Zephaniah 3:14-20)

14 Sing for joy, Daughter Zion; shout loudly, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

15 The LORD has removed your punishment; He has turned back your enemy. The King of Israel, Yahweh, is among you; you need no longer fear harm.

16 On that day it will be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear; Zion, do not let your hands grow weak."

17 Yahweh your God is among you, a warrior who saves. He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will bring you quietness with His love. He will delight in you with shouts of joy."

18 I will gather those who have been driven from the appointed festivals; they will be a tribute from you and a reproach on her.

19 Yes, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you. I will save the lame and gather the scattered; I will make those who were disgraced throughout the earth receive praise and fame.

20 At that time I will bring you back, yes, at the time I will gather you. I will give you fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes. **Yahweh has spoken.**



God's people who would be redeemed would experience heartfelt joy that would result in singing and rejoicing.

God alone can remove mankind's just punishment, so there is no need to fear.

God was always the true King of Israel (Judges 8:23; 1 Samuel 8:7).

God's presence has always been a blessing to His people (Zephaniah 3:15, 17). From the communion with Adam in the Garden of Eden to the incarnation of Jesus to His second coming and eternal glory.

The hands falling limp is due to paralysis from fear (2 Samuel 4:1; Isaiah 13:7; Jeremiah 6:24; Hebrews 12:12)

The Lord is a Warrior who saves. "He will bring quietness with His love."

In the persecution of Israel, some would be saddened that they could not keep God's feasts; these individuals would be returned to Jerusalem afterwards to again worship the Lord.

God says that He will save the lame and bring admiration from those scattered around the earth.

God tells His people that He will make them "famous and praiseworthy" while restoring their fortunes – Zerubbabel led Israel's return in 520 BC.

God assembles for restoration and worship just as he had gathered His people for exile and judgment.