

Zephaniah Two

Transcribed from tape of Jeremiah using *The Authorized Version* of the Holy Bible.

Verse 1:

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

(Use Hebrew Translation included with file.)

Gather yourselves together, yea gather together, Oh nation not rapacious.

Now this is *The Authorized Version*, which says, "not desired." Now this is not true. The more correct rendering is found only in *The Septuagint* which states "O nation unchastized," or "unchastised nation." The other translations we find don't even understand this passage at all. Some leave it out, and some make it look like it is a wicked nation. But if it is a wicked nation, why should YAHWEH tell them to gather themselves together? Why is He going to tell them that HE is going to deliver them? So they miss the thought altogether. Now the reason HE says "unchastised." naturally, is because the only way a person can be chastized is to come into the truth and be corrected by YAHWEH. And if they have to correct themselves before they are gathered it would take an unusually long period of time. It is going to take a long time to bring man back to perfection, and there would not be enough time during this 1,260 days. It is going to take a lot longer than that for man to get rid of all his imperfections.

So YAHWEH looks upon the heart, so even though we have faults, when we come into the truth, we are forgiven. So HE says in Psalm 32:1:

Blessed is he whose sins are covered.

This means a person can be sinning, but his sins are covered. How are they covered? They are covered because of faith in the Living GOD, and faith in the sacrifice of HIS Son. so they are covered, indicating that you do sin, but they are covered. HE doesn't say, 'blessed is he who doesn't sin.' But "blessed is he whose sins are covered." Because the others who are also sinning, their sins are not covered because they do not take advantage of YAHWEH'S Provision.

Verse 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.

Hebrew Translation:

Before the decree [of the] statute as chaff pass through day before not it come upon you burning anger YAHWEH. Before not it come upon you day anger YAHWEH.

Clarification:

Before the words of execution of the statute for this day pass through as blown chaff (and is lost forever). Before the burning anger of YAHWEH come upon you, before the day of YAHWEH'S anger come upon you.

Verse 3:

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Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.

Hebrew Translation:

Seek you this same YAHWEH all oppressed meek [of] the earth whose judgement\reward [is in] travail. Seek you righteousness, seek you humility.

Clarification:

Seek you this same YAHWEH all you oppressed-meek of the earth, you whose reward is in travail. Seek righteousness, seek humility, perhaps you will be sheltered in the day of YAHWEH'S anger.

Now you notice? The "meek of the earth." Some translators really louse this up. How could HE be talking to the meek of the earth and yet be talking to a wicked nation. Watch how *Moffatt's* louses it up:

O, shameless nation, huddled in power,

In other words, huddled in power like a criminal. But then he goes on to say "seek ye the LORD all you meek of the earth." So how could the meek of the earth, which YAHWEH will bless, how could they be shameless and cowardly? So the *Septuagint* has it correct when it says "Gather yourselves together, O unchastized nation." (*Hebrew Translation:* "Gather yourselves together, yea gather together, Oh nation not rapacious.") So they are YAHWEH'S People, but they are faulty like every other human creature on the face of the earth. The only two perfect men on the earth was Yahshua and Adam before Him. All others are imperfect. So HE says in verse 3, (*Hebrew Clarification inserted*):

Seek you this same YAHWEH all you oppressed-meek of the earth, you whose reward is in travail. Seek righteousness, seek humility, perhaps you will be sheltered in the day of YAHWEH'S anger.

So this means there are no guarantees because you may not hold out. YAHWEH will be with HIS People if they continue with HIM. Now many people, we find, that they do seek righteousness, and they do seek meekness and they come in, and the first thing you know, they have got it made. "O.K. I know enough, I will know what to do from here on in, I don't need any more instruction, I can go ahead and enjoy myself from here on in." This is not true, because YAHWEH will remove HIS Spirit from you, and the first thing you know, you don't understand anything and the things will be happening, and you will not be able to interpret them. You won't even know what is going on, because you only understand through HIS Holy Spirit and HIS Holy Spirit is only given to those who are striving for HIS blessing. And the minute people stop, they are not striving for HIS blessing; they are unappreciative, and YAHWEH'S wrath is directed against them.

Verse 4:

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

These are all cities of the philistines. These were the enemies of YAHWEH. And in symbolical language HE is telling you that all the enemies of YAHWEH will be done away with.

Verse 5:

Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the LORD [is] against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant.

The word, *Cherethites* actually means executioners, or the ones who are in authority who pass judgement. These would, naturally, be the ruling class in the devil's organization. Woe unto them because these are the ones that further the interests of the devil and his organization, these are the ones that pronounce judgement on the righteous, on YAHWEH'S People, these are the ones who are sinning. These are the greatest sinners. They are in authority, and they should never be in authority, because they are usurping this authority from YAHWEH, and from HIS People.

"O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant." The philistines possessed a portion of canaan from time to time. This is the promised land, this indicates the whole system of the devil, primarily the commercial system. And YAHWEH will destroy the enemies of HIS People, and their entire system.

Verse 6:

And the sea coast shall be dwellings [and] cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks.

In other words, when they leave, YAHWEH'S People will take over, and live in peace. HE refers to it as a happy situation that YAHWEH'S People are acquainted with. As we can read that when Israel flourished, that the shepherds and their dwelling places were at peace, and they flourished and there were content and happy. We know that the Kingdom will far surpass anything that the world has ever seen. The contentment in the Kingdom will be far greater than just making a living and having peace for a short time. The Kingdom will bring *untold* blessings; plus everlasting life.

Verse 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 captivity.

Ashelon was one of the cities of the philistines. And this brings out that Israel will possess what was once owned by the philistines, and that YAHWEH'S People would "have their captivity removed." They would no longer be captive to this system, and that YAHWEH would be with them and they would be at peace.

Verse 8:

I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and magnified [themselves] against their border.

To magnify themselves against the border would indicate that they are endeavoring to make YAHWEH'S People feel as though they had no land of their own, that they had no right in this world, that no possession is rightfully theirs. That the heathen own the land, and everything should remain in their control. Now moab and ammon actually pictures commerce and politics. These are the rulers of this world and it turns out in the end that it will be fully realized in the united states and russia. We will be outlawed, as though we had no heritage in this land. And this YAHWEH brings out as though they have magnified themselves against the border, or against the line that divided our land from theirs, as though we should not have any possessions, whatsoever. YAHWEH'S People will definitely be outlawed, and this will be done by the two super-powers; the political organization of russia and the

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commercial organization of the united states. These will take the lead in this.

Verse 9:

Therefore [as] I live, saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, [even] the 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.

Now we know that sodom and gomorrah were completely annihilated. So this is what is going to happen to ammon, and moab, the two super-powers. "...and the breeding of nettles and saltpits." This actually means a place that will be abandoned and desolate. Never to be inhabited again, where nettles begin to thrive. "A perpetual desolation: the residue of my people shall spoil them, and the remnant of my people shall possess them." The destruction actually comes about by the message of judgement pronounced by Israel; by the truth. The truth will wreak havoc to this world. The truth will be a blessing to the righteous, it will gather the righteous, and bring them to the understanding of YAHWEH and deliver HIS People. But the truth is going to wreak havoc on the world because they will actually be face with having to cope with their lies, and their deceit, and their unauthorized possession of YAHWEH'S planet and they will be exposed to the eyes of all. And the truth will throw them into utter confusion, in a tremendous rage where like madmen they will turn one another. Naturally their ultimate purpose will be to annihilate us, first they outlaw us. But they don't turn on us right away because the argument comes between them, and naturally, they have to take care of those who are around first. And in so doing they finish one another, and we watch. And it is a good thing we have YAHWEH with us, or there would be nothing left of us. "And the remnant of my people shall possess them."

Verse 10:

This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified [themselves] against the people of the LORD of hosts.

Now instead of pride, it should say "this is the way they will be paid back." In other words, "because they have reproached and magnified themselves against the People of YAHWEH of hosts." They will have the gall to not only oppose us, opposing is one thing, you might say they don't understand. But they will continue to oppose even though everything is made clear to them. And they will banish us completely, they will not allow us to buy and sell, they will not allow us to speak anymore; and when they do this, naturally, they are doing this against the Living GOD because HE sponsors us, HE is backing us, it is HIS work.

Verse 11:

The LORD [will be] terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; and [men] shall worship him, every one from his place, [even] all the isles of the heathen.

Now famishing the gods of the earth means that they will be starved. In other words, they are now supported, they have a lot of lies, and the ignorant of the world support all these gods. They support all these religions because of the ignorance of the people. If they knew the truth, they wouldn't be doing this. So when the truth comes out, and all these false religions are exposed, all these false religions will be famished, because the people will leave them and no longer support them. Now first, we know the most powerful of all, will for a short time, take the reins and the ignorant will throw their lot in with them. But this isn't going to last long.

Verse 12:

Ye Ethiopians also, ye [shall be] slain by my sword.

Now the ethiopians were descendants of Ham, not that YAHWEH is against any race of people, not at all, but it pictures something. Like Canaan was the son of Ham, the offspring of Ham. Ham pictured the devil, Canaan pictured the system. Now the ethiopians here, being as they are the descendants of the "corrupted one" would actually picture the children of the devil. HE just uses the word as a symbol. So instead of saying plainly, 'the children of the devil' HE uses the symbol of the ethiopians who were the children of Ham. Naturally, all people and races are equal in YAHWEH'S eyes, what YAHWEH looks upon is the heart. So this is not personally on the ethiopians. You must remember that, because we will get the same percentage from ethiopia as we will for the united states or any other place; maybe more.

Verse 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.

Now assyria are the successful ones; these are the ones who are successful in this world and have the authority in this world. These are the ones that sway the decisions in this world. These are the ones who oppose YAHWEH'S People, and these are the ones to incur the wrath of YAHWEH. Nineveh was once the capital of assyria. So here HE is bringing out that HE is against all the successful ones in this world, and those who want to continue in this way. These are the ones who prove themselves wicked. Now there are men who may be successful in this world, and when they find the truth they will throw in their lot in with Israel. YAHWEH certainly wouldn't have HIS wrath against them. But HE will pronounce HIS wrath against those who continue in this way and oppose YAHWEH'S People and become our enemies.

Verse 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.

Now this is referring to the destruction of the assyrians, naturally the assyrians would have to have a place to live in. But when the assyrians is destroyed, it is uninhabited. What this is referring to naturally is the system which the assyrians control. So if it is a place for "flocks, beasts, cormorants, and bitterns." Who live there, it brings out that the animals will take over where once the successful ones lived. Indicating that the successful ones will not be there. Neither will their organization be there. "...for he shall uncover the cedar work." This is the inside structure. In other words, all buildings are coated with an outside coating of something. It could be brick, or wood or plaster or something else, but YAHWEH will actually get to the very inside and see what the inside is like. So what He means here, HE will get tot the heart, to see the seat of motivation, is what HE is referring to. If somebody would want to see what this building was really like inside, they would have to go through the outside wall to see what it is really made of. And this is what YAHWEH is bringing out, HE breaks through the outside to see what is inside. Well, what is inside is really hidden, it is the heart. But YAHWEH shows the heart of the people by giving them a message of justice, love and wisdom, and when they rebel against these things, we see what they are made of inside. We see they are truly wicked.

Verse 15:

This [is] the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I [am], and

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**[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.**

Or as some translators say "shake a fist at her." This means that everyone will come to know the wickedness of the devil's organization, and will realize that those who fought against YAHWEH'S People and supported this organization did not have the proper heart condition. And we thank YAHWEH that HE brought us through this.

(Study continues to Zephaniah Three)