

# The Book of ZEPHANIAH

**H**OLD your peace at God's presence,  
**Y**ou who are settled complacently.  
**W**ith candles He searches Jerusalem;  
**D**o you know what day it is?  
**A** day that He will punish those who are  
**n**ot properly dressed  
**W**hen to His sacrifice He has invited  
**g**uests.  
**A** day of trouble and distress.  
**A** day of gloominess and dark!  
**Y**ou say, "God will neither do good nor  
**e**vil!"  
**W**ell, it is the day of the Lord's wrath!

## ZEPHANIAH 1

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord which came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, Gedaliah's son, the son of Amariah, son Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah, the son of Amon, Judah's king:  
<sup>2</sup>"I will utterly consume all things from the face of the land," says the Lord; "I will consume man and animals; I will consume the birds of the heavens."  
<sup>3</sup>"I will consume the fishes of the sea, and the stumbling blocks along with the wicked, and I will cut off man from the face of the land," says the Lord.  
<sup>4</sup>"I will stretch out My hand against Judah, and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place, also the name of the idolatrous priests with the pagan priests;  
<sup>5</sup>"those who worship the hosts of heaven on their housetops; those who worship and swear oaths by the Lord and who also swear by Milcom;  
<sup>6</sup>with those who have turned back from the Lord, and have not sought the Lord, nor inquired for Him.  
<sup>7</sup>Hold your peace at the presence of the Lord God!  
 For the day of the Lord is at hand. The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.  
<sup>8</sup>And it shall be in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes and the children of the king, and all such as are clothed with foreign apparel.  
<sup>9</sup>In the same day I will punish all those who leap over the threshold,

who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.

<sup>10</sup>And there shall be on that day," says the Lord, "the sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate,

a wailing from the Second Quarter, and a loud crashing from the hills.

<sup>11</sup>"Wail, you inhabitants of Mortar, for all the merchants are cut down; all those who handle silver are cut off.

<sup>12</sup>And it shall come to pass at that time, I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish the men who are settled in complacency,

who say in their heart, 'The Lord will do no good nor will He do evil.'

<sup>13</sup>"Therefore their goods shall become booty and their houses a desolation. They shall build houses and not inhabit them. They shall plant vineyards, but shall not drink their wine."

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the Lord is near. It is near and speedily approaching. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter. There the mighty man shall cry out.

<sup>15</sup>That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers.

<sup>17</sup>"I will bring distress upon men, that like the blind men they shall walk." Because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse.

<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrathful anger. But the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land.

## CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *God will add judgment to the land in order to minus everything from its face and to erase demonic activity that is multiplied on the earth.*
2. *God has one mind towards the double-minded, fiery indignation; He has one thought towards the lukewarm, distaste.*
3. *If you turn back from following the Lord He will turn His back on you and on the evil following you; if you fail to seek the Lord and inquire of*

- Him, He will seek you out for fiery inquisition.*
4. *Presence of mind and sensitivity should compel you to silence in the presence of the Lord at the appropriate times.*
  5. *You are an invited guest to the sacrifice of the Lord, but you may become the sacrifice if you have not sacrificed the works of your flesh.*
  6. *The lamp of the Lord searches the heart to unsettle and punish the presumptuous who have settled in complacency.*
  7. *Because the Lord does not do anything does not mean the Lord will not do anything; because you are in the eye of the storm does not mean the storm has passed; grace defers but does not deter judgment; its eye is over you and on you.*
  8. *Refusal to believe in Hell will not send you there, however, the complacency it causes will make you a prime candidate for the fiery reality.*
  9. *The wrath of the Lord is straining against grace to reward presumptuous sin; it cannot breach the grace of the cross but it will be like the breach of a massive dam when grace is lifted.*
  10. *Silver and gold may build your confidence but it cannot break your judgment; judgment will break your confidence and show you the futility of trusting in silver and gold.*

### PRAYER POINTS

- Father, raise up committed laborers in the body of Christ who will give You no rest until this nation is on its knees, in the name of Jesus.
- King of glory, give me singleness of heart towards the things of God; let every uncommitted spirit in me be fanned away by the blood of Jesus. Amen.
- Merciful God, keep my heart from presumptuous sin, in the name of Jesus. Help me to walk daily in Godly fear, in Jesus' name.
- Mighty God, I refuse to be a servant of silver, gold or anything You have appropriated to me to serve me. Amen.
- Father God, I quiet myself in Your presence and I tremble before Your awesomeness in silence, in the name of Jesus.

**A**n attitude of pride,  
**Will see you destroyed!**  
**An attitude of meekness,**  
**Will give you a place to hid!**  
**Seek the Lord you meek of the earth;**  
**Seek righteousness; let meekness come forth!**  
**In an attitude of meekness you must live;**  
**That in the day of the Lord's anger,**  
**you may be hid.**

### ZEPHANIAH 2

- <sup>1</sup>Gather yourselves together, yes, gather,  
 O nation who is not desired,  
<sup>2</sup>before the decree is issued,  
 or the day passes like chaff blown away,  
 before the fierce anger of the Lord comes upon you,  
 before the day of the Lord's anger comes upon you.  
<sup>3</sup>Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth,  
 who have upheld His justice.  
 Seek righteousness, seek humility.  
 It may be that you will be hidden

in the day of the Lord's anger.

<sup>4</sup>For Gaza shall be forsaken,  
 and Ashkelon shall be a desolation.  
 They shall drive out Ashdod at the noonday,  
 and uproot Ekron.

<sup>5</sup>Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast;  
 to the nations of the Cherethites!  
 The word of the Lord is against you,  
 O Canaan, land of the Philistines:  
 "I will destroy you so that there shall be no inhabitant."

<sup>6</sup>The seacoast shall be pastures,  
 with cottages for shepherds and folds for flocks.

<sup>7</sup>For the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah.

They shall feed their flocks there.

In the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening,

for the Lord their God shall visit them and return their captives.

<sup>8</sup>"I have heard the reproach of Moab,  
 and the insults of the people of Ammon,  
 with which they have reproached My people,  
 and magnified themselves against their borders.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore, as I live," says the Lord of hosts,  
 the God of Israel,

"surely Moab shall be like Sodom,  
 and the children of Ammon like Gomorrah;  
 overrun with weeds and salt pits.

It shall be perpetually desolate.  
 The residue of My people shall plunder them,  
 and the remnant of My people shall possess them.

<sup>10</sup>And they shall have this for their pride,  
 because they have reproached My people,  
 and have magnified themselves against the people of the Lord of hosts.

<sup>11</sup>The Lord will be awesome to them,  
 for He will reduce all the gods of the earth to nothing.

People shall worship Him,  
 each one from his place,  
 even all the coastlands of the nations.

<sup>12</sup>You Ethiopians also, you shall be slain by My sword."

<sup>13</sup>And He will stretch out His hand against the north.

Destroy Assyria, and make Nineveh a desolation,  
 as dry as the wilderness.

<sup>14</sup>The herds shall lie down in her midst,  
 every beast of the nation.

Both the cormorant and the bittern  
 shall lodge on the upper lintels of her pillars.

Their voices shall sing in the windows.

Desolation shall be at the threshold for he will lay the cedar work bare.

<sup>15</sup>This is the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly,

that said in her heart, "I am, and there is none besides me."

How has she become a desolation,  
 a place for beasts to lie down!

Everyone who passes by her shall hiss and wag their hand.

### CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *Undesirable activity in a nation makes a nation undesirable to God; it is a call for the righteous to quickly gather and intercede to prevent heaven's certain decree.*
2. *The day of the Lord may not be hidden from you but you can be hidden from the day; your hiding place is righteousness and humility.*
3. *The Lord our God is God of the nations; although they may not know Him He knows them very well! They may refuse to acknowledge Him but must acknowledge His judgment.*
4. *A moment of grace is more precious and productive than a lifetime of works; whatever your situation God's intervention changes it suddenly and gloriously.*
5. *No one can insult the people of God without inviting His attention and commanding His intervention.*
6. *God refuses to hear unrepentant sinners pray but will make them His prey when He hears their reproaches, insults and threats against His people.*
7. *Remain righteous, for you shall possess the possession of those who target you for persecution.*
8. *Reduce foreign gods to nothing in your sight and serve the Lord your God, or He will reduce you to nothing with them when He exposes you.*
9. *Many peoples, one house; many tabernacles one spirit; from shore to shore and coast to coast beyond Jerusalem worship rises. This is a 'now reality' spoken of before Christ.*
10. *You may be 'it' in your eyes; full of yourself, self-righteous; but who you are in God's eyes is your true reality; be full of Him. You may consider there to be none like you but you will bow and acknowledge there is none like Him.*

### PRAYER POINTS

- Let the spirit of fear and conviction engulf the hearts of men in this nation and call them to consciousness and change, in the name of Jesus.
- Father God make me an intercessor, in the name of Jesus. Help me to passionately hate evil and love good. Amen.
- My Father, my God, I hide myself under Your wings and take refuge in Your love from the judgment of every sinful Egyptian spirit, in the name of Jesus.
- Most righteous God, intervene on my behalf. Let my lips erupt with shouts of grace, in the name of Jesus.
- King Jesus, let my righteousness speak for me in the day of trouble, in the name of Jesus. Amen.
- Awesome and amazing God, thank You for consecrating my temple and accepting my worship. Amen.
- Father God, You are 'it' in my eyes; nothing and no one can supersede You. Amen.

**T**HE Lord your God in the midst of you is mighty;  
**He will rest in His love and rejoice over you greatly!**  
**Fear not, for He joys over you with singing.**  
**Mighty is your King; mighty is your King!**  
**When you hear God's voice will you obey Him?**

**Will you receive correction and draw near to Him?**  
**For the judgment of God is shining in your midst;**  
**Mighty is your King; mighty is your King!**

### ZEPHANIAH 3

- <sup>1</sup>Woe to her who is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!  
<sup>2</sup>She has not obeyed His voice. She has not received correction. She has not trusted the Lord. She has not drawn near to her God.  
<sup>3</sup>Her princes within her are roaring lions. Her judges are evening wolves that do not leave a bone till tomorrow.  
<sup>4</sup>Her prophets are insolent, treacherous people. Her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.  
<sup>5</sup>The Lord is just in her midst, He will do no unrighteousness. Every morning He brings His justice to light. He does not fail, but the unjust knows no shame.  
<sup>6</sup>"I have cut off nations. Their towers are devastated. I have made their streets desolate with none passing by. Her cities are destroyed so that there is no one, no inhabitant.  
<sup>7</sup>I said, 'Surely you will fear Me, you will receive instruction,' so that her dwelling would not be cut off in spite of all her deeds for which I punished her. But they rose early and corrupted all their deeds.  
<sup>8</sup>Therefore wait for Me," says the Lord, "until the day I rise up for plunder. For My determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms to pour on them My indignation, even My fierce anger. for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy.  
<sup>9</sup>For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one determination.  
<sup>10</sup>From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia, My worshippers, the daughter of My disbursed, shall bring My offering.  
<sup>11</sup>"In that day you shall not be put to shame for any of your deeds in which you transgressed against Me; for then I will take away from your midst all those who rejoice in your pride, and you shall no longer be haughty on My holy mountain.  
<sup>12</sup>I will leave in your midst an afflicted and poor people, and they will trust in the name of the Lord.  
<sup>13</sup>The remnant of Israel shall do no unright-

eousness and speak no lies,  
nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their  
mouth;  
for they shall feed their flocks and lie down,  
and no one shall make them afraid.”

<sup>14</sup>Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O  
daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The Lord has taken away your judgments;  
He has cast out your enemy.  
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst.  
You shall see no more disaster.

<sup>16</sup>And in that day it shall be said to Jerusa-  
lem: ‘Do not fear!

Zion, do not let your hands be weak.

<sup>17</sup>The Lord your God in your midst, is mighty.  
He will save!

He will rejoice over you with gladness!

He will give you rest with His love!

He will rejoice over you with singing!’

<sup>18</sup>‘I will gather those who sorrow over the ap-  
pointed assembly,  
who are among you, to whom its reproach is  
a burden.

<sup>19</sup>Behold, I will deal with all who afflict you at  
that time.

I will save the lame and gather those who were  
driven out.

I will appoint them for praise and fame,  
in every land where they were put to shame.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you back.

At that time I will gather you;

for I will give you fame and praise among all  
the peoples of the earth,  
when I turn your captives before your eyes,”  
says the Lord.

### CWDS Bible Quotes

1. *When you fail to obey God, to receive correction, to draw near to Him, or to trust in Him, God will consider you polluted and designate you as faulted for destruction.*
2. *The righteous God can do no unrighteousness; although His justice shines on sinners they can do no righteousness, and they have no shame.*
3. *The persistent love of the righteous God pursues sinners with correction but they resist Him persistently to pursue their love for sin.*
4. *The fiery love that embraces the righteous is the same consuming fire of jealousy that consumes*

*sinners.*

5. *One nation is not strong enough to oppose God, in fact, He gathers all the nations and kingdoms together to receive His indignation.*
6. *Your language is as pure as the heart that produces it. Your language is pure in heaven if you use it to call upon the Lord and to serve Him single-heartedly.*
7. *The promise of a pure language is to the peoples not to a people and therefore not peoples’ language; its purpose is to call on the Lord. It is now available but grossly under-utilized.*
8. *It is impossible to separate worship from sacrifice and giving; the worshippers of the Lord must bring His offering.*
9. *The natural response to the saving grace of God is shouting, gladness of heart, singing and rejoicing. This is one time you must never restrain yourself; in His presence is fullness of joy.*
10. *What defines special is when the almighty God rejoices over ordinary clay; what defines extra-special is when He sings His own composition in celebration as He gets ecstatic about you.*
11. *There is no greater resting place than in the love of the Lord; it makes turmoil tranquil.*
12. *Get ready! You have an appointment to meet that is set in history by your story-changer. You are appointed for praise and fame in every place you have experienced shame.*
13. *Your hands can never be weak if you know the Lord is in your midst and the Holy Spirit lives in you. His hands are Almighty strong.*

### PRAYER POINTS

- Lord God of Abraham, I will obey You; I stand corrected at Your word; I will draw near to You daily and trust You; I refuse to be polluted in Your sight. Amen.
- Father God, let the heart of sinners everywhere melt in the presence of Your amazing love, in the name of Jesus.
- Most Holy God, let my words be salted and seasoned with grace and let my language be pure in Your ears always. Amen.
- My heart rejoices in Your presence, O God, my Father. Your saving grace brings me great joy that no one can take away. Amen.
- Thank You Lord that You have turned my shame around; thank You that those who once spat curses at me will be singing my praise, in the name of Jesus.
- The Lord is with me and I am strong; I am very confident because my strength cannot be topped or defeated, in the name of Jesus.