

# ZEPHANIAH.

Zephaniah's Office as Prophet was about 630 B.C.

1 **T**HE Message from the EVER- | Ben-Amariah, Ben-Hezekiah, in the  
LIVING that came to Zeph- | days of Josiah-ben-Amon, King of  
aniah - ben - Kushi, — Ben - Gedaliah, | Judah.

## The Message of the Ever-libing.

2 "I will reap! I will reap all the fat of the land."

Says the LORD,

3 "I will reap both the Man and the Beast.

I will reap all the birds of the skies and the fish of the sea,  
With the vice of the vile!

And men will cut off from the face of the ground,"

Says the LORD ;

4 "And stretch out My hand against Judah,

At Jerusalem and all her people!

And cut off from his high place the Master of Bal,

And the fame of his Nobles and Priests,

5 Who bow on the roofs to the Host of the skies,

And who worship, and mix with the LORD'S,

And all who swear by Milkom!

6 And those who revolt from the LORD,—

Who seek not the LORD, nor desire Him!"

7 Be still before the Great LORD,

For the day of the LORD is at hand ;

The LORD has arranged for His feast—

And has chosen His guests.

8 In the day of the feast of the LORD,

I will punish the Princes the Sons of the King,

And all wearing foreign attire!

9 And punish all leaping the threshold,—

Who fill their LORD'S House with oppression and wrong!

10 "And then," says the LORD, "a  
sound of shrieking will come from  
the Fish-gate, and a howling, and  
a great crash from the highlands.

11 Howl, people of Maktesh! because  
all the Merchants are destroyed! All  
who earn money are cut off!

12 "And at that time I will search  
Jerusalem with lamps, and punish

the men settled on their dregs, who  
say in their hearts, 'The LORD can  
do neither benefit nor hurt.' But 13  
their wealth will be plundered, and  
their houses desolated! When they  
build houses they shall not inhabit  
them, or plant vineyards, they shall  
not drink the wine!"

## The Day when God Punishes.

14 The great day of the LORD approaches,

Approaches and comes on quick!

The sound of the Day of the LORD!—

When the heroes will bitterly cry ;

A furious day is that day,  
 A day of distress and of grief, 15  
 A day of wide wasting and ruin.  
 A day of deep darkness and black,—  
 A day of thick clouds and of gloom,  
 A day of the trumpet and drum  
 In the cities and fortified towns, 16  
 And in all the towers of the hills,—  
 When I bring destruction on men,  
 And they walk like the blind, 17  
 Because they offended the LORD,  
 And shed blood, and spread corpses like dung!

Nor their silver or gold can redeem,  
 In the day of the wrath of the LORD, 18  
 When His burning anger devours the ground,  
 When He wakes to a terrible end  
 Of all who inhabit the land!

### An Appeal to Repentance.

Assemble yourselves!—Oh! assemble!  
 You nation, who are without shame! 2  
 Before the Decree is proclaimed,— 2  
 Before the Day passes like chaff!—  
 Before comes on you the LORD'S anger,  
 Before comes on you the LORD'S day,—  
 Let all the Good men of the country 3  
 Who have practised the right, seek the LORD.  
 Seek you Righteousness,—seek you for Mercy—  
 Perhaps they may turn in that day the LORD'S wrath;  
 For Gaza will then be forsaken, 4  
 And Ashkalon ruined and waste,  
 Ashdod be plundered at noonday,  
 And Akron uprooted!  
 Woe you who dwell on the banks of the Sea!  
 The Tribe of the Krithim! 5  
 The LORD'S Message comes against you.

Philistia's mercantile land!—  
 I will waste you and your people,  
 And the Sea-coasts shall come to be pastures,— 6  
 Huts for shepherds, and foldings for sheep!  
 And that coast will be broken to fragments;  
 And Judah's house pasture on them;— 7  
 Couch in Ashkalon's houses at evening  
 For there the LORD GOD will collect,  
 And bring their captivity home!

### A Denunciation of Moab and Edom.

8 "I have heard of the insults of Moab and the jeers of the Beni-Amon;—How they insulted My People, and have jeered at their bounds!

9 "And, therefore, by My life," says the LORD OF HOSTS, the GOD of Israel,—“Moab shall become like Sodom, and the Beni-Amon like Gomorah,—the possession of nettles,

and salt-pits, and a desolation for ever.—The fragments of My People shall plunder them, and the remnant of the Nation inherit them. This is 10  
 for them,—because of their pride; because they insulted and cursed against the People of the LORD OF HOSTS.—The LORD will be venerated 11  
 by them,—for all the GODS of the earth will waste away and they will worship Him, every one from his home, in all the Isles of the Heathen.  
 “You Kushim, also, will be assailed 12

13 by the sword yourselves, and He will extend His hand against the North and enfeeble Ashur, and make Ninevah a desolation,—waterless like the Desert!  
14 "And herds shall lie down in the

midst of it, animals of every kind. The Pelican and Hedgehog shall lodge in her porticos; their voice will sing in her windows. Desolation shall sit on her threshold,—when her wainscot is stripped!

### The Lament of the Beasts over Edom.

15 This was the City of Delight!  
The dweller in ease!  
Who said in her heart, "I Am,  
And there is none like me!"  
How has she become a desolate couch for beasts?  
Every by-passer sighs, and shakes his hand!

### Woe to Jerusalem.

3 Woe! to the rebellious, polluted,  
2 oppressing City! Who would not listen to the voice, nor accept correction from the EVER-LIVING! nor trust on her GOD, nor approach!  
3 The Princes in her, are roaring lions,  
—her Judges wolves,—do they not  
4 gnaw from evening to morning? Her Preachers are profligate, treacherous men!—Her Priests profane the sanctuary and pervert the Law!  
5 The LORD of Righteousness in the midst of her does not do wrong;—He brings His Justice to light, morning by morning;—but the corrupt knew neither disgrace nor shame.  
6 "I cut off Nations.—They were desolated. I burnt up their towers. Their streets were without passengers. Their Cities were destroyed, destitute of men,—without inhabitants.  
7 "For I reflected, 'Surely you will fear Me;—you will accept correction; so that you may not have executed within you all I shall inflict upon you.' However they rose early and corrupted all their ways.  
8 "Therefore look out for Me," says

the EVER-LIVING, "on the day I assail, —on the day when I execute Justice! When I collect the Tribes, and assemble from the Kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation,—all My burning anger,—when the fire of My wrath will consume all the country!

"Then, afterwards, I will convert 9 the Nations to a pure lip;—for all of them to call upon the name of the EVER-LIVING, to serve Him with united shoulder. From beyond the 10 Rivers of Kush, the rich Daughter of the DISPERSION shall bring Me tribute.

"At that time will you not be 11 ashamed of all your rebellious ways against Me? For I will then expel your presumptuous pride from your breast, and you will not swell with grandeur again on My Holy Hill. For I will select in your breast a 12 gentle and meek People, who shall trust in the Name of the EVER-LIVING. The remainder of Israel will not 13 practise evil nor speak lies, nor shall a deceptive tongue be found in their mouth,—but they shall feed, and lie down, and have no terror."

### Zion's Song of Victory.

14 "Shout, Daughter of Zion,  
Israel cheer with delight;  
Exult with full heart, Jerusalem's Daughter!  
15 The LORD has revoked your conviction,  
And turned back your foes!  
The LORD, Israel's King, is within you!  
Fear no misery again!

16 "Then say to Jerusalem, 'Fear not,'  
To Zion, 'Relax not your hand!'  
17 The LORD your GOD is within you,  
The mighty to save,—  
He joys over you with delight!  
Gentle in love He delights you with song.

" Once I expelled you ;—I now will restore,— 18  
     They laid it on her as reproach.—  
 But be sure I will deal at this time 19  
 With all who laid insult on you !  
     The lame I will help,  
     And recover the strayed,  
 And make the despised rule the earth,  
     In Glory and Fame !—

" At that time I will lead, 20  
     At that period collect,  
 When I make you a Fame and a Glory,  
 Among all the Peoples of earth,—  
 When I have removed your enslavement,  
 In their sight," says the LORD !

END OF THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ZEPHANIAH.