

Zephaniah 1:12-18

1:12 – “At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, ‘The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.’

5216 [e]	3389 [e]	853 [e]	2664 [e]	1931 [e]	6256 [e]	1961 [e]
ban·nê·rô·wt;	ye·rû·šā·lim	'et-	'ā·ḥap·pêś	ha·hî,	bā·'êṭ	we·hā·yāh
בְּנֹרֹת	יְרוּשָׁלַיִם	אֶת־	אֲחַפֵּשׂ	הִיא	בְּעֵת	וְהָיָה 12
with lamps	Jerusalem	-	[That] I will search	that	at time	And it shall come to pass
Prep-b, Art N-mp	N-proper-fs	DirObjM	V-Piel-Imperf-1cs	Art Pro-3fs	Prep-b, Art N-cs	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms

3824 [e]	559 [e]	8105 [e]	5921 [e]	7087 [e]	376 [e]	5921 [e]	6485 [e]
bil·bā·bām,	hā·'ō·mê·rîm	šim·rê·hem,	'al-	haq·qō·pə·'îm	hā·'ā·nā·šîm,	'al-	ū·pā·qad·tî
בְּלִבְכֶם	הַאֲמֹרִים	שִׁמְרֵיהֶם	עַל־	הַקִּפְּאִים	הָאֲנָשִׁים	עַל־	וּפְקַדְתִּי
in their heart	who say	complacency	in	who are settled	the men	on	and punish
Prep-b N-msc 3mp	Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	N-mpc 3mp	Prep	Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	Art N-mp	Prep	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-1cs

7489 [e]	3808 [e]	3068 [e]	3190 [e]	3808 [e]
yā·rê·a'.	we·lō	Yah·weh	yê·tîb	lō-
יַרְעֵ:	וְלֹא	יְהוָה	יַיִטִּיב	לֹא־
will He do evil	nor	Yahweh	will do good	not

1. After punishing the Fish Gate, the Second Quarter, the surrounding hills of Jerusalem and the “Mortar” (Jerusalem itself) the “place of pounding” the Lord will begin a detailed intense search through the city.
 - a. YHWH will search Jerusalem
 - b. YHWH will use lamps to search for men who are complacent
 - c. YHWH will find complacent men still left in the city after the initial punishment to punish for being complacent.
2. Complacent men say, “YHWH will not do good, nor will he do ill.”
 - a. Skeptics who doubt YHWH.
 - i. They do not think he exists
 - ii. They do not think YHWH gets involved
 - iii. They do not believe YHWH is powerful enough to make a difference.
 - iv. Thus, these men fear and respect something other than YHWH
3. Men “who are settled in complacency”
 - a. “who are settled” – *haqqopeim* – from the word *qapha* /kaw-faw/ meaning “to thicken, condense, congeal (solidify by cooling), stagnant”
 - b. “complacency” – *simrehem* – from *shemer* meaning “dregs, lees”
 - i. These two words together literally read “dregs which thicken in uselessness”

1:13 – “Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.”

1004 [e] bāt·tīm	1129 [e] ū·bā·nū	8077 [e] liš·mā·māh;	1004 [e] ū·bāt·tê·hem	4933 [e] lim·šis·sāh,	2428 [e] hê·lām	1961 [e] wə·hā·yāh
בָּתִּים	וּבָנוּ	—	וּבְתֵיהֶם	לְמִשְׁטָה	חֵילָם	יִהְיֶה 13
houses	and they shall build	a desolation	and their houses	booty	their goods	Therefore shall become
N-mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3cp	Prep-I N-fs	Conj-w N-mpc 3mp	Prep-I N-fs	N-msc 3mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3ms

3196 [e] yê·nām.	853 [e] 'et-	8354 [e] yiš·tū	3808 [e] wə·lō	3754 [e] kə·rā·mīm,	5193 [e] wə·nā·tə·'ū	3427 [e] yê·šê·bū,	3808 [e] wə·lō
יַיִנָּם:	אֶת־	יִשְׁתּוּ	וְלֹא	כַרְמִים	וְנִטְעוּ	יִשְׁבוּ	וְלֹא
their wine	-	drink	but not	vineyards	and they shall plant	inhabit [them]	but not
N-msc 3mp	DirObjM	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	N-mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3cp	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt

1. YHWH will show the complacent men that he does exist, he is involved, and he is powerful enough to make a difference
2. The complacent men will be punished by:
 - a. Their “goods” will be “plundered”
 - i. “goods” – helam – includes the idea of “strength”, “power”, and “riches.”
 - b. Their houses laid waste
 - c. Building, but not inhabiting their houses (curse of the covenant they broke)...vain effort, labor with no fruit
 - d. Planting vineyards, but not drinking the wine (curse of the covenant they broke)... vain effort, fruitless labor

1:14 – “The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there.”

3117 [e] yō·wm	6963 [e] qō·wl	3966 [e] mə·'ōd;	4118 [e] ū·ma·hêr	7138 [e] qā·rō·wb	1419 [e] hag·gā·dō·wl,	3068 [e] Yah·weh	3117 [e] yō·wm-	7138 [e] qā·rō·wb
יּוֹם	קוֹל	מְאֹד	וּמַהֵר	קָרוֹב	הַגָּדוֹל	יְהוָה	יּוֹם־	קָרוֹב 14
of the day	the noise	quickly	and hastens	[it is] near	the great	of Yahweh	day	[is] near
N-msc	N-msc	Adv	Conj-w Adv	Adj-ms	Art Adj-ms	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Adj-ms

1368 [e] gib·bō·wr.	8033 [e] šām	6873 [e] šō·rê·aḥ	4751 [e] mar	3068 [e] Yah·weh,
גִּבּוֹרִים:	שָׁם	צָרַח	מֵר !	יְהוָה
the mighty men	there	Shall cry out	is bitter	of Yahweh
Adj-ms	Adv	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	Adj-ms	N-proper-ms

1. Ten times in the next five verses “the Day” is mentioned.
2. “The Great Day of the LORD”
 - a. Is near
 - i. “near” is a word used frequently to describe the Day of the Lord:
 1. Matthew 24:32-33
 2. Phil. 4:5
 3. Rev. 1:3
 4. Rev. 22:10

b. Is hastening fast

i. “hastens” – *umaher* –

ii. “quickly” – *meod* –

3. “The sound of the day of the LORD is bitter”

4. “the mighty man cries aloud” on the day of the Lord. The “mighty hero” screams in fear on the Day of the Lord.

1:15 – “A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,”

7722 [e]	3117 [e]	4691 [e]	6869 [e]	3117 [e]	1931 [e]	3117 [e]	5678 [e]	3117 [e]
šō·'āh	yō·wm	ū·mə·šū·qāh,	šā·rāh	yō·wm	ha·hū;	hay·yō·wm	'eḇ·rāh	yō·wm
שָׂאָה	יּוֹם	וּמְצוֹקָה	צָרָה	יּוֹם	הַהוּא	הַיּוֹם	עֲבָרָה	יּוֹם
of devastation	a day	and distress	of trouble	a day	that	day [is]	of wrath	A day
N-fs	N-msc	Conj-w N-fs	N-fs	N-msc	Art Pro-3ms	Art N-ms	N-fs	N-msc

6205 [e]	6051 [e]	3117 [e]	653 [e]	2822 [e]	3117 [e]	4875 [e]
wa·'ā·rā·pēl.	'ā·nān	yō·wm	wa·'ā·pê·lāh,	hō·šek	yō·wm	ū·mə·šō·w·'āh,
וְעֲרֵפֶל:	עָנָן	יּוֹם	וְאֶפְלָה	חֹשֶׁךְ	יּוֹם	וּמְשׂוֹאָה
and thick darkness	of clouds	a day	and [deep] darkness	of darkness	a day	and desolation
Conj-w N-ms	N-ms	N-msc	Conj-w N-fs	N-ms	N-msc	Conj-w N-fs

1. The Day of the Lord is:

- “a day of wrath”
- “a day of distress”
- “a day of anguish”
- “a day of ruin”
- “a day of devastation”
- “a day of darkness”
- “a day of gloom”
- “a day of clouds”
- “a day of thick darkness”
- “a day of trumpet blast”
- “a day of battle cry”

2. These come in couplets

3. See Joel 2:1-11

1:16 – “a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.”

1364 [e]	6438 [e]	5921 [e]	1219 [e]	5892 [e]	5921 [e]	8643 [e]	7782 [e]	3117 [e]	
hag·ge·bō·hō·wt.	hap·pin·nō·wt	wə·'al	hab·bē·šurō·wt,	he·'ā·rīm	'al	ū·tə·rū·'āh;	šō·w·pār	yō·wm	
הַגְּבוֹהוֹת:	הַפְּנוֹת	וְעַל	הַבְּצֻרוֹת	וְעַל	וְתִרְוּעָה	שׁוֹפָר	יוֹם	16	
high	the towers	and against	fortified	the cities	Against	and alarm	of trumpet	a day	
Art Adj-fp	Art N-fp	Conj-w Prep	Art Adj-fp	Art N-fp	Prep	Conj-w N-fs	N-ms	N-msc	

1:17 – “I will bring distress on mankind,
so that they shall walk like the blind,
because they have sinned against the Lord;
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.”

3068 [e]	3588 [e]	5787 [e]	1980 [e]	120 [e]	6887 [e]
Yah·weh	kī	ka·'iw·rīm,	wə·hā·lə·kū	lā·'ā·dām,	wa·hā·šē·rō·tī
לַיהוָה	כִּי	כְעֵוְרִים	וְהֵלְכוּ	לְאָדָם	וְהִצַּרְתִּי
against Yahweh	because	like blind men	and they shall walk	upon men	And I will bring distress
Prep-l N-proper-ms	Conj	Prep-k, Art Adj-mp	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3cp	Prep-l, Art N-ms	Conj-w V-Hifil-ConjPerf-1cs

1561 [e]	3894 [e]	6083 [e]	1818 [e]	8210 [e]	2398 [e]
kag·ge·lā·līm.	ū·lə·ḥu·mām	ke·'ā·pār,	dā·mām	wə·šup·pak	ḥā·tā·'ū;
כְּגִלְלִים:	וּלְחֵמָם	כְּעֶפֶר	דָּמָם	וְשִׁפָּךְ	חָטְאוּ
like refuse	and their flesh	like dust	their blood	and shall be poured out	they have sinned
Prep-k, Art N-mp	Conj-w N-msc 3mp	Prep-k, Art N-ms	N-msc 3mp	Conj-w V-QalPass-ConjPerf-3ms	V-Qal-Perf-3cp

1. Mankind is as worthless as dust and dung on the Day of the Lord
 - a. Mankind’s blood is like dust on that day
 - b. Mankind’s flesh is like dung on that day
2. ...

1:18 – “Neither their silver nor their gold
shall be able to deliver them
on the day of the wrath of the Lord.
In the fire of his jealousy,
all the earth shall be consumed;
for a full and sudden end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.”

5678 [e]	3117 [e]	5337 [e]	3201 [e]	3808 [e]	2091 [e]	1571 [e]	3701 [e]	1571 [e]	
'eb·rat	bə·yō·wm	lə·haṣ·ṣî·lām,	yū·kal	lō-	zə·hā·bām	gam-	kas·pām	gam-	
—	עֲבַרְתָּ	בְּיוֹם	לְהַצִּילֵם	יֻכַּל	לֹא־	זְהָבָם	גַּם־	כֶּסֶפָם	גַּם־ 18
	of the wrath	in the day	to deliver them	shall be able	nor	their gold	nor	their silver	Neither
	N-fsc	Prep-b N-msc	Prep-l V-Hifil-Inf 3mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt	N-msc 3mp	Conj	N-msc 3mp	Conj

926 [e]	389 [e]	3617 [e]	3588 [e]	776 [e]	3605 [e]	398 [e]	7068 [e]	784 [e]	3068 [e]
niḅ·hā·lāh	'aḳ-	kā·lāh	kî-	hā·'ā·reṣ;	kāl-	tê·'ā·kêl	qin·'ā·tōw,	ū·bə·'êš	Yah·weh,
נְבִיָּה	אֲךָ־	כָּלָה	כִּי־	הָאָרֶץ	כָּל־	תֹּאכַל	קִנְיָתוֹ	וּבְאֵשׁ	יְהוָה
speedy	even	riddance	for	the land	all	shall be devoured	of His jealousy	but by the fire	of Yahweh
V-Nifal-Prtcpl-fs	Adv	N-fs	Conj	Art N-fs	N-msc	V-Nifal-Imperf-3fs	N-fsc 3ms	Conj-w, Prep-b N-csc	N-proper-ms

	776 [e]	3427 [e]	3605 [e]	853 [e]	6213 [e]
s	hā·'ā·reṣ.	yō·šə·bê	kāl-	'êṭ	ya·'ā·śeh,
ס .	הָאָרֶץ:	יֹשְׁבֵי	כָּל־	אֵת	יַעֲשֶׂה
-	in the land	those who dwell	all	of	He will make
Punc	Art N-fs	V-Qal-Prtcpl-mpc	N-msc	DirObjM	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms

1. Cities and nations could pay their invaders a tribute (gold, money, gifts, cattle, promises, service, etc.) to be spared destruction.
2. YHWH is accepting no silver, no gold (no payment, no tribute) to spare Judah (or, mankind) on the Day of the Lord because YHWH is jealous and nothing can appease him on that Day.
3. The wrath of YHWH comes because he is jealous.
4. The jealousy of YHWH will be manifest as fire on the Day of the Lord. Literal fire will indicate the manifestation of the wrath of YHWH caused by his jealousy.
 - a. Lamentations records the fire that manifested the Lord's jealousy:
 - i. 1:13
 - ii. 2:3
 - iii. 2:4
 - iv. 4:11
5. It is hopeless to plan or anticipate escape.