

For Gaza shall be desolate  
and Ashkelon shall be a desolation.  
Ashdod's people shall be driven out  
at noon,  
and Ekron shall be uprooted.  
O you inhabitants of the sea-  
coast,  
you nation of the Cher'ethites!  
The word of the LORD is against you,  
Canaan, land of the Philistines;  
I will destroy you till no in-  
habitant is left.  
You, O sea coast, shall be  
windows for shepherds  
folds for flocks.

12 You also  
shall  
13 And he  
the  
and d  
and he v  
a dry  
14 Herds

# Zephaniah



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# JUDGEMENT

IS NOT THE END WORD

Zephaniah 1:1-2:3

## Zephaniah 1:1 (NIV)

The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, during the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah:

# INTRODUCTION TO ZEPHANIAH

1. Two eventful years to remember—  
722 BC and 586 BC
2. The last good king was Hezekiah,  
who died about 50 years before the  
enthronement of Josiah
3. List of genealogy – longest amongst  
the prophetic books

# FOCUS OF OUR MESSAGE

## 1. The reason for judgement

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2. The impact of idolatry

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3. The Day of the Lord

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1. The reason for judgement
2. The impact of idolatry
3. The Day of the Lord
4. Practical implications



# IDOLATROUS ACTIONS

## 1. Worship of Baal (v. 4)

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2. Worship of starry host (v. 5)
3. Swear by Molek, the Ammonite deity (v. 5)
4. Those who turn away from the Lord (v.6)

# IMPACT OF IDOLATRY

## 1. The structure of chapter 1

## Exodus 19:5–6 (NIV)

Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

# IMPACT OF IDOLATRY

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2. The religious, the powerful, the rich – the movers and shakers (vv. 8-11)

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1. The structure of chapter 1
2. The religious, the powerful, the rich – the movers and shakers (vv. 8-11)
3. The complacent people (v. 12)



# THE DAY OF The LORD

1. Local and immediate fulfilment, and distant fulfilment

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1. Local and immediate fulfilment, and distant fulfilment
2. When the kingship of God is consummated
3. Misunderstanding of the Israelites

## **Amos 5:18-20 (NIV)**

Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD!

Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light.

<sup>19</sup>It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him.

<sup>20</sup>Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

# PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS

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2. It is more about knowing one's place within the workings of the world and trusting God to fulfill God's role within the world.
3. Who do you really worship? If it's not God, then it's idolatry.