

{36} Zephaniah

King James Version

(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.
 (12) Ye Ethiopians also, ye *shall be* slain by my sword.
 (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.
 (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.
 (15) This *is* the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I *am*, and *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.

Chapter 3

(1) Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!
 (2) She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God.

King James Paraphrase

(11) The LORD {Jehovah} *will be* terrible to them: because 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 ungodly nations.
 (12) You Ethiopians also, you *shall be* killed by My sword.
 (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.
 (14) And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the cormorant^a and the bittern^b shall lodge in its upper ledges; *their* voices shall sing in the windows; desolation *shall be* in the thresholds: because He shall uncover the cedar work.
 (15) This *is* the rejoicing city that lived carelessly, that said in her heart, I *am*, and *there is* no one besides me: how has she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passes by her shall hiss, *and* wag his hand.

Chapter 3

(1) Woe to her who is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!
 (2) She did not obey the voice; she did not receive correction; she did not trust in the LORD {Jehovah}; she did not draw near to her God.

2:14a - cormorant {קאָט} - some type of bird - some translations translate it as pelican, but the exact species of bird is unclear

2:14b - bittern {קפּיט} - wild bird, porcupine? hedge-hog? we're not sure what this animal is

Note: A lot of our knowledge of various species of plants and animals has been lost through the years so when it comes to translation unfortunately much guess work comes into play. Also, many of the various species have become extinct.

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King James Version

(3) Her princes within her *are* roaring lions; her judges *are* evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.

(4) Her prophets *are* light *and* treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

(5) The just LORD *is* in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

(6) I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that none passeth by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is none inhabitant.

(7) I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction; so their dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them: but they rose early, *and* corrupted all their doings.

(8) Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination *is* to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, *even* all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

King James Paraphrase

(3) Her princes within her *are* roaring lions; her judges *are* evening wolves; they do not gnaw the bones until the morning.

(4) Her prophets *are* light *and* treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

(5) The just LORD {Jehovah} *is* in the midst of it; He will not commit sin: every morning He brings His judgment to light, He does not fail; but the unjust know no shame.

(6) I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that no one passes by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is no inhabitant.

(7) I said, Surely you will fear Me, you will receive instruction; so their homes should not be cut off, however I punished them: but they rose early, *and* corrupted everything they did.

(8) Therefore wait upon Me, says the LORD {Jehovah}, until the day that I rise up to the prey: because My determination *is* to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them My indignation, *even* all My fierce anger: because all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy.

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(9) For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

(10) From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, *even* the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

(11) In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain.

(12) I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.

(13) The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make *them* afraid.

(14) Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

(15) The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, *even* the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.

(16) In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: *and to* Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.

King James Paraphrase

(9) Because then I will turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the Name of the LORD {Jehovah}, to serve Him with one consent.

(10) From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, *even* the daughter of My dispersed, shall bring My offering.

(11) In that day you shall not be ashamed because of everything you have done, in which you have sinned against Me: because then I will take away out of the midst of you those who rejoice in your pride, and you shall no more be arrogant because of My holy mountain.

(12) I will also leave in the midst of you an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the Name of the LORD {Jehovah}.

(13) The remnant of Israel shall not commit sin, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: because they shall feed and lie down, and no one shall make *them* afraid.

(14) Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

(15) The LORD {Jehovah} has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy: the king of Israel, *even* the LORD {Jehovah}, is in the midst of you: you shall not see evil any more.

(16) In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Do not fear: *and to* Zion, Do not let your hands be slack.

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(17) The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.
(18) I will gather *them that are* sorrowful for the solemn assembly, *who* are of thee, *to whom* the reproach of it *was* a burden.
(19) Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.
(20) At that time will I bring you *again*, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.

(17) The LORD {Jehovah} your God in your midst is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over you with joy; He will rest in His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.
(18) I will gather *those who are* sorrowful for the solemn assembly, *who* are yours, *to whom* its reproach *was* a burden.
(19) Look, at that time I will undo all who afflict you: and I will save her who is lame, and gather her who was driven out; and I will bring them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.
(20) At that time will I bring you *again*, even in the time that I gather you: because I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, says the LORD {Jehovah}.