

# Zephaniah 2:1-4

- The opening section (1:4-2:3) is completed with call to the believers to prepare themselves before the decree of judgment takes place.
  - There is no changing the degree of judgment. It has been pronounced.
  - There is an appeal to those who fear the Lord to:
    - Seek the Lord
    - Seek righteousness
    - Seek humility
  - This is a call to prepare their souls so that they are not crushed in their minds (soul, emotions, faith, hope, character, etc.) on the day of judgment.
  - This is not necessarily a promise of physical deliverance, but direction on how to avoid compromise in the midst of the fire.
    - 2 Timothy 4:16-18 – “At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.”
      - Paul was not physically delivered from death, but he was delivered from fear of the world
      - Paul did not compromise or falter. Paul completed his mission and proclaimed the Truth to the end.
- Judah’s hope is NOT in deliverance from national judgment, but from losing their souls and their hope because they did not understand.
  - 1 Peter 1:13 – “Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”
- Verses 2:1-3 contain:
  - Five admonitions
  - These five admonitions include three temporal clauses which focus on the urgency of these five admonitions

Zephaniah 2:1 – “Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation,”

	3700 [e]	3808 [e]	1471 [e]		7197 [e]		7197 [e]
	nik·sāp̄.	lō	hag·gō·w		wā·qō·wōš·šū;		hit·qō·wō·šə·šū
—	נְכַסְפִּי׃	לֹא	הַגּוֹי	וְ	וַיִּקְוּשׁוּ	וְ	הִתְקוּשְׁבוּ 1
	undesirable	not	nation	and yes gather together	Gather yourselves together		
	V-Nifal-Perf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt	Art   N-ms	Conj-w   V-Qal-Imp-mp			V-Hitpael-Imp-mp

1. This verse is calling the nation shameless and commanding them to gather together like stubble to be burned. Yet, in verse three the humble stubble is admonished to prepare themselves.
2. Zephaniah calls the nation, or, at least the believers, to a national assembly to get their minds focused on the Lord before the decreed judgment is to begin.
3. Zephaniah is appealing to the faithful remnant of Judah
4. “gather together” uses the verb *qasas* which refers to gathering stubble or sticks for burning
  - a. As in 1 Kings 17:10, 12 – “So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks...“As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.”

2:2 – “before the decree takes effect — before the day passes away like chaff — before there comes upon you the burning anger of the Lord, before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the Lord.”

5921 [e]	935 [e]	3808 [e]	2962 [e]	3117 [e]	5674 [e]	4671 [e]	2706 [e]	3205 [e]	2962 [e]
'ā·lê·kem,	yā·bō·w	lō-	bə·te·rem	yō·wm;	'ā·bar	kə·mōš	hōq,	le·deṭ	bə·te·rem
עֲלֵיכֶם	יָבֹוא	לֹא-	בְּתֵרֵם	יּוֹם	עֵבֶר	כְּנֹז	חֹק	לְדֵת	בְּתֵרֵם 2
upon you	comes	not	Before [Or] the day	passes	like chaff	the decree	is issued	Before	
Prep   2mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt	Prep-b   Adv	N-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3ms	Prep-k   N-ms	N-ms	V-Qal-Inf	Prep-b   Adv

3068 [e]	639 [e]	3117 [e]	5921 [e]	935 [e]	3808 [e]	2962 [e]	3068 [e]	639 [e]	2740 [e]
Yah·weh.	'āp-	yō·wm	'ā·lê·kem,	yā·bō·w	lō-	bə·te·rem	Yah·weh,	'āp-	hā·rō·wn
יְהוָה׃	אַף-	יּוֹם	עֲלֵיכֶם	יָבֹוא	לֹא-	בְּתֵרֵם	יְהוָה	אַף-	חַרוֹן
of Yahweh	of the anger	the day	upon you	comes	not	Before	of Yahweh	anger	the fierce
N-proper-ms	N-msc	N-msc	Prep   2mp	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt	Prep-b   Adv	N-proper-ms	N-msc	N-msc

1. “Decree” is *choq* meaning “something prescribed, something owed or a statute.”
2. The Lord is going to collect the debt that is owed. This is an absolute certain event. Judgment is not avoidable.
3. Notice the people are to “gather” like stubble and the “decree” will “pass like chaff” and will be “the burning anger of the Lord.”

2:3 – “Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.”

1245 [e]	6466 [e]	4941 [e]	834 [e]	776 [e]	6035 [e]	3605 [e]	3068 [e]	853 [e]	1245 [e]			
baq·qə·šū-	pā·'ā·lū;	miš·pā·ṭōw	'ā·šer	hā·'ā·reš,	'an·wê	kāl-	Yah·weh	'et-	baq·qə·šū			
בְּקִשׁוֹ	פָּעְלוּ	—	מִשְׁפָּטוֹ	אֲשֶׁר	וְ	הָאֲרֶץ	עֲנִי	כָּל-	יְהוָה	אֶת-	בְּקִשׁוֹ	3
Seek	have upheld		His justice	who		of the earth	you meek	all	Yahweh	-	Seek	
V-Piel-Imp-mp	V-Qal-Perf-3cp		N-msc   3ms	Pro-r		Art   N-fs	Adj-mpc	N-msc	N-proper-ms	DirObjM	V-Piel-Imp-mp	

3068 [e]	639 [e]	3117 [e]	5641 [e]	194 [e]	6038 [e]	1245 [e]	6664 [e]
Yah·weh.	'ap-	bə·yō·wm	tis·sā·tə·rū,	'ū·lay	'ā·nā·wāh,	baq·qə·šū	še·deq
יְהוָה:	אַף-	בְּיוֹם	תִּסְתָּרוּ	אוּלַי	עֲנִיָּה	בְּקִשׁוֹ	צְדָקָה
of Yahweh	of the anger	in the day	you will be hidden	It may be that	humility	seek	righteousness
N-proper-ms	N-msc	Prep-b   N-msc	V-Nifal-Imperf-2mp	Adv	N-fs	V-Piel-Imp-mp	N-ms

1. “may be hidden” – **tissateru** – from the Hebrew word sathar /saw-thar/ meaning “to hide, conceal”
  - a. The title of the book comes from the name of the author, "Zephaniah" – **Tsephanyah** - which means:
    - i. "Yahweh Hides
    - ii. “Yahweh has Hidden"
    - iii. “Yahweh has protected”
    - iv. "Hidden in Yahweh"
2. The nation is seen as two groups of people:
  - a. those who are going to perish physically and spiritually
  - b. those who are going to perish physically, but are spiritually humble. This second group is told to prepare themselves
  - c.

2:4 – “For Gaza shall be deserted, and Ashkelon shall become a desolation; Ashdod's people shall be driven out at noon, and Ekron shall be uprooted.”

6672 [e]	795 [e]	8077 [e]	831 [e]	1961 [e]	5800 [e]	5804 [e]	3588 [e]	
baš·šā·ho·ra·yim	'aš·dō·wd,	liš·mā·māh;	wə·'aš·qə·lō·wn	ṭih·yeh,	'ā·zū·bāh	'az·zāh	kī	
בְּצַהֲרַיִם	אַשְׁדּוֹד	—	לְשִׁמְמָה	וְאַשְׁקֵלוֹן	תְּהִיָּה	עֲזוּבָה	עֲזָה	כִּי
at noonday	Ashdod		desolate	and Ashkelon	shall be	forsaken	Gaza	For
Prep-b, Art   N-mp	N-proper-fs		Prep-l   N-fs	Conj-w   N-proper-fs	V-Qal-Imperf-3fs	V-Qal-QalPassPrtpcl-fs	N-proper-fs	Conj

  

	6131 [e]	6138 [e]	1644 [e]
s	tê·'ā·qêr.	wə·'eq·rō·wn	ye·gā·rə·šū·hā,
ס	תַּעֲקֹר:	וְעִקְרוֹן	יִגְרְשׁוּהָ
-	shall be uprooted	and Ekron	they shall drive out
Punc	V-Nifal-Imperf-3fs	Conj-w   N-proper-fs	V-Piel-Imperf-3mp   3fs