

Zephaniah 3:1-8

Chapter 3 returns to focus on the city of Jerusalem and the nation of Judah.

Zephaniah 3:1 – “**Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, the oppressing city!**”

3238 [e]	5892 [e]	1351 [e]	4754 [e]	1945 [e]
hay·yō·w·nāh.	hā·'îr	wə·niġ·'ā·lāh;	mō·rə·'āh	hō·w
הַיּוֹנָה:	הָעִיר	וַנִּגְאַלָּהּ	מִרְאָה	וָהוּי 1
oppressing	the to city	and polluted	to her who is rebellious	Woe
Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-fs	Art N-fs	Conj-w V-Nifal-Prtcpl-fs	V-Qal-Prtcpl-fs	Interjection

1. Jerusalem (“Her”) is identified with three words:
 - a. Rebellious – *moreah* – /maw-raw/ - “flap” as in flap wings
 - i. Job 39:18 – “When she lifts herself on high...”
 - ii. Zephaniah 3:1
 - iii. This is in reference to rebelling against the Lord.
 - b. Polluted – *wenigalah* – /we-nig-aw-lah/ - “to defile”
 - i. Ezra 2:62 – “they could not be located; therefore they were considered unclean and excluded from the priesthood”
 - ii. Isaiah 59:3 – “For your hands are defiled with blood...”
 - iii. Daniel 1:8 – “in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion”
 - iv. Violating Law both morally and legally
 - c. Oppressing – *hayownah* - /hay-yo-yaw-naw/ - “to oppress”, “maltreat”, “suppress”, “repress”. In the NAS translation this is translated “the defiled, The tyrannical city!”
 - i. Exodus 22:21 – “You shall not wrong a stranger”
 - ii. Psalm 74:8 – “Let us completely subdue them”
 - iii. Ezekiel 18:12 – “oppresses the poor and needy....”
 - iv. Ezekiel 22:7 – “and the widow they have wronged in you.”
 - v. These are people who disregard the rights of the poor, the orphans and the widows

3:2 – “**She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God.**”

3068 [e]	4148 [e]	3947 [e]	3808 [e]	6963 [e]	8085 [e]	3808 [e]
Yah·weh	mū·sār;	lā·qə·hāh	lō	bə·qō·wī,	šā·mə·'āh	lō
— בַּיהוָה —	מוֹסֵר	לְקַחְתָּ	לֹא	— בְּקוֹל —	שָׁמְעָה	לֹא 2
in Yahweh	correction	she has received	not	[His] voice	she has obeyed	Not
Prep-b N-proper-ms	N-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3fs	Adv-NegPrt	Prep-b N-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3fs	Adv-NegPrt

7126 [e]	3808 [e]	430 [e]	413 [e]	982 [e]	3808 [e]
qā·rē·bāh.	lō	'ē·lō·he·hā	'el-	bā·ṭā·hāh,	lō
· קָרְבָּה:	לֹא	אֱלֹהֶיהָ	אֶל-	בְּטָחָה	לֹא
she has drawn near	not	her God	to	she has trusted	not
V-Qal-Perf-3fs	Adv-NegPrt	N-mpc 3fs	Prep	V-Qal-Perf-3fs	Adv-NegPrt

1. Three charges against Jerusalem:
 - a. She obeyed no one (including the Lord)
 - b. She did not trust the Lord
 - c. She did not draw near to the Lord
 - i. The Lord could provide correction and direction

3:3 – “Her officials within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave nothing till the morning.”

3:4 – “Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men; her priests profane what is holy; they do violence to the law.”

3808 [e]	6153 [e]	2061 [e]	8199 [e]	7580 [e]	738 [e]	7130 [e]	8269 [e]	
lō	'e·reb,	zə·'ê·bê	šō·pə·ʔe·hā	šō·'ā·gîm;	'ā·rā·yō·wî	bə·qir·bāh,	šā·re·hā	
לֹא	עָרַב	—	זֵאֲבִי	שֹׁפְטֵיהֶּ	—	אַרְיֹת	בְּקִרְבָּהּ	שָׂרֵיהֶּ 3
not	evening		wolves	Her judges [are]	roaring	lions	in her midst	Her princes [are]
Adv-NegPrt	N-ms		N-mpc	V-Qal-Prtcpl-mpc 3fs	V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	N-mpc	Prep-b N-msc 3fs	N-mpc 3fs

1242 [e]	1633 [e]
lab·bō·qer.	gā·rə·mū
לְבֹקֵר:	גִּרְמוֹ
till morning	that leave a bone
Prep-I, Art N-ms	V-Qal-Perf-3cp

6944 [e]	2490 [e]	3548 [e]	900 [e]	582 [e]	6348 [e]	5030 [e]
qō·deš,	hîl·lə·lū-	kō·hā·ne·hā	bō·gə·dō·wî;	'an·šê	pō·ḥā·zîm,	ne·bî·'e·hā
קֹדֶשׁ	חִלְלוּ-	כֹּהֲנֵיהֶּ	בְּגֵדוֹת	אֲנָשִׁי	פְּחָזִים	נְבִיאֵיהֶּ 4
the sanctuary	have polluted	Her priests	treacherous	people	insolent	Her prophets are
N-ms	V-Piel-Perf-3cp	N-mpc 3fs	N-fp	N-mpc	V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp	N-mpc 3fs

8451 [e]	2554 [e]
tō·w·rāh.	hā·mə·sū
תּוֹרָה:	חֲמָסוּ
the law	they have done violence to
N-fs	V-Qal-Perf-3cp

1. Four classes of leaders are identified to refer to the whole of the city’s leadership:
 - a. Officials” – *sarim* – the royal leaders
 - i. Called “roaring lions”
 1. Lions were used to characterize the kings and royalty of nations like Assyria and Judah and others
 - ii. These should be characterized by their justice and equity
 - iii. Instead they are known for their greed and avarice
 - b. “Rulers” – *sop̄tim* – civil magistrates

- i. Identified as “evening wolves who leave nothing for the morning”
 - 1. These men are predatory
 - 2. These men are beast-like
 - 3. These men are a match for the fourth generation identified in Proverbs 30:14:
 - “those whose teeth are swords
and whose jaws are set with knives
to devour the poor from the earth
and the needy from among mankind.”
- ii. These should set a public example of service for the rest of society
- c. “Prophets – *nebieyha* –
 - i. Identified as:
 - 1. Arrogant, insolent – *pachaz* - /paw-khaz/ - “wanton”, “reckless”
 - a. Used in Judges 9:4 alongside “worthless” as “worthless and reckless fellows”
 - 2. Treacherous – *bohgedoth* - most likely because they had turned on the Lord who had sent them. They had spoken treacherously against the Lord they should have served faithfully.
- d. “Priests” – *kohaneyha* – the religious leaders of the religious institutions
 - i. Two identifiers:
 - 1. Profane the sanctuary
 - 2. Violate the Law
 - ii. Their original purpose was to:
 - 1. Honorably officiate in the sanctuary upholding the meaning of the rituals
 - 2. Interpret and teach the Law

3:5 – “The LORD within her is righteous; he does no injustice; every morning he shows forth his justice; each dawn he does not fail; but the unjust knows no shame.”

4941 [e]	1242 [e]	1242 [e]		5766 [e]	6213 [e]	3808 [e]	7130 [e]	6662 [e]	3068 [e]
miš-pā-tōw	bab-bō-qer	bab-bō-qer	—	‘aw-lāh;	ya-‘ā-śeh	lō	bə-qir-bāh,	ṣad-dîq	Yah-weh
משפטו	בבקר	בבקר	—	עולה	יעשה	לא	בקרבה	צדיק	יהוה 5
His justice	every	morning		unrighteousness	He will do	no	in her midst	righteous	Yahweh [is]
N-msc 3ms	Prep-b, Art N-ms	Prep-b, Art N-ms		N-fs	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt	Prep-b N-msc 3fs	Adj-ms	N-proper-ms

	1322 [e]	5767 [e]	3045 [e]	3808 [e]	5737 [e]	3808 [e]	216 [e]	5414 [e]
	bō-šet.	‘aw-wāl	yō-w-dê-a’	wə-lō-	ne-‘dār,	lō	lā-‘ō-wr	yit-tên
	בשת:	עול	יודע	ולא	נעדר	—	לא	לאור
	shame	the unjust	knows	but no	He fails		never	to light
	N-fs	N-ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	V-Nifal-Perf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt	Prep-l, Art N-cs	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms

- 1. Opposite the leadership of the city the Lord’s character is total opposite:
 - a. He is within the city
 - b. He is righteous
 - c. He does no injustice
 - d. Consistent and faithful every day to act in justice
 - e. He does not fail

2. His leadership who serve his people is totally the opposite
 - a. They are unjust
 - b. They have no shame for the way they are
 - i. They are so ignorant and unaware of the Lord's presence they cannot even understand how embarrassing they are.
 - ii. Similar to the wrong self evaluation of Laodicea

3:6 – “I have cut off nations; their battlements are in ruins; I have laid waste their streets so that no one walks in them; their cities have been made desolate, without a man, without an inhabitant.

5674 [e]	1097 [e]	2351 [e]	2717 [e]	6438 [e]	8074 [e]	1471 [e]	3772 [e]
'ō-w·bêr;	mib·bə·lî	hū·šō·w·tām	he·hē·rab·tî	pin·nō·w·tām,	nā·šam·mū	gō·w·yim,	hiḵ·rat·tî
— עובר	מבלי	הוצותם	הקרבתי	פנותם	— נשמו	— גוים	הקבתי 6
passing by	with none	their streets	I have made desolate	their fortresses	are devastated	nations	I have cut off
V-Qal-Prtcptl-ms	Prep-m Adv	N-mpc 3mp	V-Hifil-Perf-1cs	N-fpc 3mp	V-Nifal-Perf-3cp	N-mp	V-Hifil-Perf-1cs

3427 [e]	369 [e]	376 [e]	1097 [e]	5892 [e]	6658 [e]
yō·wō·šêḇ.	mê·'ên	'îš	mib·bə·lî-	'ā·rê·hem	niš·dū
· יושב:	מאין	איש	מבלי	עריהם	נצדו
inhabitant	no	one	[There is] no	their cities	are destroyed
V-Qal-Prtcptl-ms	Prep-m Adv	N-ms	Prep-m Adv	N-fpc 3mp	V-Nifal-Perf-3cp

1. All around Jerusalem God has laid waste the rebellious nations, yet Jerusalem does not understand

3:7 – “I said, ‘Surely you will fear me; you will accept correction. Then your dwelling would not be cut off according to all that I have appointed against you.’ But all the more they were eager to make all their deeds corrupt.”

4585 [e]	3772 [e]	3808 [e]	4148 [e]	3947 [e]	853 [e]	3372 [e]	389 [e]	559 [e]
mə·'ō·w·nāh,	yik·kā·rêṭ	wə·lō-	mū·sār,	tiq·hî	'ō·w·tî	tî·rə·'î	'ak-	'ā·mar·tî
מְעוֹנָהּ	יִכָּרֵת	וְלֹא-	מוֹסָר	תִּקְחִי	אוֹתִי	תִּירְאִי	אַךְ-	אָמַרְתִּי 7
her dwelling	would be cut off	so that not	instruction	You will receive	Me	you will fear	surely	I said
N-msc 3fs	V-Nifal-Imperf-3ms	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	N-ms	V-Qal-Imperf-2fs	DirObjM 1cs	V-Qal-Imperf-2fs	Adv	V-Qal-Perf-1cs

5949 [e]	3605 [e]	7843 [e]	7925 [e]	403 [e]	5921 [e]	6485 [e]	834 [e]	3605 [e]
'ā·lî·lō·w·tām.	kōl	hiš·hî·tū,	hiš·kî·mū	'ā·kên	'ā·le·hā;	pā·qad·tî	'ā·šer-	kōl
· עלילותם:	כל	השחיתו	השקימו	אכן	עליה	פקדתי	אשר-	כל
their deeds	all	and corrupted	they rose early	but	her	I punished	for which	[Despite] everything
N-fpc 3mp	N-msc	V-Hifil-Perf-3cp	V-Hifil-Perf-3cp	Adv	Prep 3fs	V-Qal-Perf-1cs	Pro-r	N-ms

3:8 – “Therefore wait for me,” declares the LORD, “for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed.”

4941 [e]	3588 [e]	5706 [e]	6965 [e]	3117 [e]	3068 [e]	5002 [e]		2442 [e]	3651 [e]
miš·pā·ṭī	kî	le·'ad;	qū·mî	le·yō·wm	Yah·weh,	ne·'um-	lî	ḥak·kū-	lā·kên
מִשְׁפָּטִי	כִּי	—	לְעַד	קוּמִי	יְהוָה	נֹאמ־	לִי	חַכּוּ-	לִכְנֹן 8
My determination [is]	for	for plunder	I rise up	Until the day	Yahweh	says	for Me	wait	Therefore
N-msc 1cs	Conj	Prep-I N-ms	V-Qal-Inf 1cs	Prep-I N-msc	N-proper-ms	N-msc	Prep 1cs	V-Piel-Imp-mp	Adv

2740 [e]	3605 [e]	2195 [e]	5921 [e]	8210 [e]	4467 [e]	6908 [e]	1471 [e]	622 [e]
ḥā·rō·wn	kōl	za·'mî	'ā·lê·hem	liš·pōk	mam·lā·kō·wt,	le·qā·bē·šî	gō·w·yim	le·'ē·sōp
חָרוֹן	כָּל	זַעְמִי	עֲלֵיהֶם	לִשְׁפֹךְ	מַמְלָכוֹת	לְקַבְּצִי	גוֹיִם	לְאַסֹּף
fierce	all	My indignation	on them	to pour	of kingdoms	to My assembly	the nations	to gather
N-msc	N-msc	N-msc 1cs	Prep 3mp	Prep-I V-Qal-Inf	N-fp	Prep-I V-Qal-Inf 1cs	N-mp	Prep-I V-Qal-Inf

776 [e]	3605 [e]	398 [e]	7068 [e]	784 [e]	3588 [e]	639 [e]
hā·'ā·reš.	kāl-	tê·'ā·kêl	qin·'ā·tî,	bē·'êš	kî	'ap·pî,
הָאָרֶץ:	כָּל-	תֹּאכַל	קִנְאָתִי	בְּאֵשׁ	כִּי	אָפִי
the earth	all	Shall be devoured	of My jealousy	with the fire	for	My anger
Art N-fs	N-msc	V-Nifal-Imperf-3fs	N-fsc 1cs	Prep-b N-csc	Conj	N-msc 1cs

1. Interestingly the Lord does not refer to the judgment coming on Jerusalem...it is assumed and identified in chapter one
2. The Lord instead refers to the restoration and tells the faithful to wait for him when he rises against the nations and restores Israel.
3. Instead of “coming for prey” the Masoretic text says the Lord is “coming to testify”
 - a. As in: “Therefore: Wait for me, declares Yahweh, for the Day when I rise to testify. For my determination is to gather nations to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them my fury – all my burning wrath. For in the fire of my jealousy all the earth will be consumed.”