### Zephaniah

## Chapter 1

1The Word of Jehovah came to ZephaniAh (son of Cushi, grandson of GedaliAh, and great-grandson of AmariAh, son of HezekiAh) in the days of JosiAh (son of Amon) the king of Judah, and said:  
  
 2‘When it comes to being in want,  
 Let all on the face of the earth be in want,’ said the [messenger of the] Lord!  
 3‘Let men and their cattle all be in want;  
 Let things that fly in the sky be in want,  
 As well as the fish in the seas.  
  
 ‘May the irreverent all become ill  
 Because of their lawless deeds;  
 For, from the land, I’ll remove them,’ said the [messenger of the] Lord.  
  
 4‘Then over Judah and JeruSalem  
 I’ll stretch out my hand,  
 And the name of the BaAl, I’ll remove from this place,  
 Along with the names of his priests  
 And the things dedicated [to him].  
  
 5‘[I’ll remove] all those who bow on their roofs  
 Before the [stars] in the skies,  
 As well as those who bow low  
 And swear their oaths by their masters,  
 Or those who swear oaths by their king.  
 6For, they’ve all turned from Jehovah,  
 And they’re not seeking their Lord…  
 [To Him], they haven’t stuck closely.  
  
 7‘So be cautious before Jehovah [your] God,  
 For the Day of the Lord is at hand!  
 Jehovah has readied His [great] sacrifice,  
 And made His Chosen One holy.  
  
 8‘For the day of sacrifice will arrive  
 When I’ll take vengeance upon all their rulers,  
 As well as on the house of their king,  
 And on those who wear foreign clothes.  
  
 9‘When I take vengeance, you’ll see it;  
 For, it’ll come to the gates in that day  
 Of those filling the House of Jehovah  
 With their treacherous, ungodly ways.  
  
 10‘And in that day,’ said the [messenger of the] Lord,  
 ‘There’ll come the sounds of cries from the gates…  
 [The sounds] of people who are being stabbed through.  
 And from the second quarter, the screams of the women,  
 As the battles rage on in the hills.  
  
 11‘So wail, all you who dwell in this place  
 That soon will be cut to pieces.  
 For [as happened] to the people of CanaAn;  
 Those who carry silver will be slaughtered!  
  
 12‘And in that day;  
 I’ll search JeruSalem through with a lamp  
 And take vengeance upon all the people  
 Who’ve paid no attention to my orders,  
 And on those who’ve said in their hearts:  
  
 ‘Jehovah will do neither evil nor good!’  
  
 13‘Then I’ll give them the power to ravage  
 And ruin all of your houses.  
 So, you’ll build homes in which you won’t live,  
 And plant vineyards, from which you won’t drink the wine.  
  
 14‘For the Day of the Lord has approached…  
 Yes, it’ll come very soon!  
 And the sounds of the Day of the Lord  
 Are ordered to be bitter and harsh.  
  
 15‘It’ll be a day of His rage;  
 A day of distress and affliction;  
 A day of misery and extinction;  
 A day of dimness and darkness;  
 A day of clouds and [thick] fog.  
  
 16‘It’ll be a day when the trumpets are blown,  
 And cries will arise from all your walled cities,  
 As well as from your high towers.  
 17For, I’ll squeeze out the people,  
 And then they’ll walk like the blind  
 Because of their sins against [God].  
  
 ‘I’ll pour their blood out in the dust,  
 And I’ll [pour] their flesh out like dung.  
 18Then their silver and gold won’t save them  
 In the Day of the Rage of Jehovah.  
 For the fire of His zeal will consume the whole land.  
  
 ‘In a diligent way, He will bring it  
 Upon all those who dwell in this land.’