### Zephaniah

## Chapter 2

1‘So, gather and be bound together,  
 You nation that can’t be taught,  
 2Before this day passes by like a blossom…  
 Before [God’s] wrath has come upon you…  
 Before the day of His anger and rage.  
  
 3‘So, seek Jehovah, you meek of the earth…  
 Seek what’s righteous and fair!  
 Give truthful answers to all,  
 And tell them to hide in the Day of God’s wrath.  
  
 4‘For, it’ll bring plundering to ‘For, it’ll bring plundering to <span class="placename">Gaza‘For, it’ll bring plundering to <span class="placename">Gaza</span>,  
 And And <span class="placename">AshKelon And <span class="placename">AshKelon</span> will be wiped away.  
 <span class="placename">AshDod <span class="placename">AshDod</span> will fall at mid-day,  
 And And <span class="placename">EkRon And <span class="placename">EkRon</span> will soon be uprooted.  
  
 5‘Woe to you in the lands by the sea…  
 All you who’ve [moved there] from All you who’ve [moved there] from <span class="placename">Crete All you who’ve [moved there] from <span class="placename">Crete</span>.  
 For the Word of Jehovah is coming against you  
 (You (You <span class="placename">Philistines (You <span class="placename">Philistines</span> within (You <span class="placename">Philistines</span> within <span class="placename">CanaAn (You <span class="placename">Philistines</span> within <span class="placename">CanaAn</span>’s land),  
 And I’ll destroy all the places where you dwell.  
  
 6‘[Your lands] will become pastures for flocks…  
 They’ll be safe havens for sheep.  
 7And the lands of those who dwell by the sea  
 Will be given to the remnants of Will be given to the remnants of <span class="placename">Judah Will be given to the remnants of <span class="placename">Judah</span>.  
  
 ‘ ‘<span class="placename">AshKelon ‘<span class="placename">AshKelon</span>’s homes will then become [pens]  
 Where sheep will rest [in the heat of the day].  
 Then the sons of Then the sons of <span class="placename">Judah Then the sons of <span class="placename">Judah</span>, Jehovah will visit,  
 And from captivity, return them.  
  
 8[‘For God says:]  
  
 ‘For I’ve heard the scorning of ‘For I’ve heard the scorning of <span class="placename">MoAb‘For I’ve heard the scorning of <span class="placename">MoAb</span>  
 And of their mistreatment by And of their mistreatment by <span class="placename">AmMonAnd of their mistreatment by <span class="placename">AmMon</span>’s sons  
 When they berated My people,  
 And forced themselves over My borders.  
  
 9‘Because of this, as I live;  
  
 ‘...says IsraEl’s God, Jehovah of Armies,  
  
 ‘‘<span class="placename">MoAb‘<span class="placename">MoAb</span> will soon be like ‘<span class="placename">MoAb</span> will soon be like <span class="placename">Sodom‘<span class="placename">MoAb</span> will soon be like <span class="placename">Sodom</span>,  
 And the sons of And the sons of <span class="placename">AmMonAnd the sons of <span class="placename">AmMon</span>, like And the sons of <span class="placename">AmMon</span>, like <span class="placename">GomorRahAnd the sons of <span class="placename">AmMon</span>, like <span class="placename">GomorRah</span>.  
  
 ‘‘<span class="placename">Damascus‘<span class="placename">Damascus</span> will also come to its end  
 And be heaps of salt throughout the age!  
 They’ll be plundered by what remain of My people…  
 They’ll be inherited by the remnant of My nation.’  
  
 10‘This will happen because of their insolent ways…  
 Because they berated [God’s people],  
 And because they put themselves higher  
 Than Jehovah, the Almighty God.  
  
 11‘Then before them, the Lord will appear  
 To destroy the gods of those nations and countries,  
 And thereafter, they’ll all bow before him…  
 Each man within his own land  
 And the gentiles that live in the islands.  
  
 12‘Then, the ‘Then, the <span class="placename">Ethiopian‘Then, the <span class="placename">Ethiopian</span> peoples;  
 I’ll put to death with my broadsword!  
 13And I’ll stretch out my hand towards the north,  
 Then the Then the <span class="placename">Assyrians Then the <span class="placename">Assyrians</span> too, will be wiped away…  
 I’ll turn I’ll turn <span class="placename">Nineveh I’ll turn <span class="placename">Nineveh</span> into a desert!  
  
 14‘Flocks will then feed in her midst  
 Beside the wild beasts of the land.  
 Chameleons and hedgehogs will live in her fretwork,  
 Wild beasts will roar in her ditches,  
 And crows will nest in her gates.  
  
 ‘But because she has been a tall cedar,  
 15This city that has paid no attention  
 Will still have hope that she can survive.  
  
 ‘For, she has said in her heart:  
  
 ‘[Here] I am, and after me, there’ll be no others!’  
  
 ‘But soon, she won’t be anymore…  
 She’ll be a place where wild beasts will dwell,  
 And all that thereafter go through her  
 Will whistle and just wring their hands.’