

Zephaniah

Tzephanyah: Introduction

Tzephanyah

The meaning of the name of this prophet is he whom Yahuwah has hidden. The significance of this name can be directly related to the primary theme of the material recorded in this book: the Day of Yahuwah a time when survival will greatly depend on receiving merciful assistance and protection from Yahuwah.

Focus

Contained within this book that primarily describes the destruction directly associated with the Day of Yahuwah are prophecies dealing with events that precede and follow it. Included in the description of preceding events is instruction directed to Yahuwah's Assembly. The post-apocalyptic prophecies focus on the extension of Yahuwah's mercy and blessing.

Timeframe

The exact date of composition is not given; we are only told that it occurred during the reign of Josiah (640-609 B.C.). Some speculate, from 2:13, that it was prior to the fall of Nineveh in 612 B.C., but how many years earlier is not known.

Tzephanyah: Chapter 1

1:1 The word of Yahuwah which came to Tzephanyah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Yahuwdah.

Tzephanyah's Lineage

In view of the lengthy genealogy given, it is most likely that Tzephanyah's great-great-grandfather was King Hezekiah. This means that not only was Tzephanyah a Yahuwdite, but also descended from the house of David.

1:2 I will utterly consume [REB: destroy] all things from the face of the land [TNK: earth], says Yahuwah;

Utterly Consume

As pointed out in HAB 3:6, Yahuwah's ways are everlasting. His method of dealing with sin is always the same: He must exact the penalty of destruction. The term all things from the face of the earth is inclusive of everything man has made or manipulated; it also includes many things created by Yahuwah, such as forests. This verse describes the appearance of the earth after Yahuwah completes the unleashing of His wrath exactly what Yirmeyahu witnessed in vision.

JER 4:23 I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; and the heavens, they had no light.

Despite the desolation predicted, Yahuwah will not bring about total annihilation of mankind, because of a small group of specially selected individuals who will be living at the close of the age.

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MAT 24:21-22 For there will be trouble then worse than there has ever been from the beginning of the world until now, and there will be nothing like it again! Indeed, if the length of this time had not been limited, no one would survive; but for the sake of those who have been chosen, its length will be limited. (JNT)

1:3 I will consume man and beast; I will consume the birds of the heavens, the fish of the sea,...

This is a synopsis of the outcome of the plagues of the Day of Yahuwah. The first four Trumpet Plagues will cause the deaths of one-third of humanity and other living creatures. The war depicted by the Sixth Trumpet will terminate the lives of another third of all living beings. The Bowl Plagues will be responsible for consuming by death all but one-tenth of the final third of humanity that survives the earlier destructions.

1:3 (cont.) ...and the stumbling blocks [KJV margin, MOF: idols] along with the wicked. I will cut off man from the face of the land [TNK: earth], says Yahuwah.

Stumbling Blocks

The term stumbling blocks refers to anything that causes people to trip and fall so that they no longer walk with Yahuwah; idols were Yisra'el's major stumbling blocks. Yahuwah's method of removing idolatry is a two-fold process: destroying every unrepentant idolater will terminate the practice of worshipping idols; destroying every manmade object means that there will be nothing left to worship of the things fashioned by the hand of man.

1:4 I will stretch out My hand against Yahuwah, and against all the inhabitants of Yerushalayim....

Ground Zero

Yahuwah will begin His intervention at Yerushalayim against the only people on earth who claim to be connected to Yahuwah through the covenant made at Sinai. He will take action against them to punish them for their failure to represent Him as the true Aluhym for their failure to fear Him and diligently obey Him.

ISA 10:5-6 Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation. I will send him against an unrighteous [KJV: hypocritical] nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.

Amanuwal, in describing this event, points out that once the city is conquered, it will then be overrun by foreigners; REV 11:2 shows this foreign occupation will last for three and a half years.

LUK 21:20-24 But when you see Yerushalayim surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those in Yahuwah flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe to those who are pregnant

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and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Yerushalayim will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

The king of the north, the Beast, will establish his residence in Yerushalayim, making it the city from which Babylon the Great will be ruled.

DAN 11:45 And he shall plant the tents of his palace between the seas and [KJV: in] the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and no one will help him.

Yahuwah will allow him, as the Anti-Ha'Mashyach, to make Yerushalayim the hub of the idolatrous, pagan religion of Babylon the Great (REV 17:1-7). It is important to remember this in order to understand correctly the latter part of 1:4 and the two verses that follow it.

The Next Step

Once Yahuwah has finished using the Beast in punishing the hypocritical Jewish nation, He will then stretch out His hand against the Beast and all of the followers of the Beast who will inhabit Yerushalayim.

ISA 10:12 Therefore it shall come to pass, when Yahuwah has performed all His work on Mount Zion and on Yerushalayim, that He will say, I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his haughty looks.

1:4 (cont.)-5 ...I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place, the names of the idolatrous priests with the pagan priests—those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops; those who worship and swear oaths by Yahuwah, but who also swear by Milcom;

In order for Yerushalayim to be a set-apart city, it must be purged of every trace of the defilement of idolatry. Therefore, the idols, the memory of the idols and those who promote idolatry must all be destroyed. Included in those who promote idolatry are those who profess to serve the true Aluhym but are, in fact, teaching a false mighty one. Such will be the case with the False Prophet and all those who serve the religion of Babylon the Great.

ZEC 13:2 It shall be in that day, says Yahuwah of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered. I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land.

1:6 and those who have forsaken Yahuwah, and those who have not sought Yahuwah and have not turned to Him. (TNK)

As well as destroying those who are actively involved in promoting the worship of idols, Yahuwah will also purge His Set-Apart city of any who fall into these three categories:

1. Those who have forsaken Yahuwah, the ones who have known of Him and turned away.
2. Those who have not sought Him, the ones who have never understood their need for Him.

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3. Those who have not turned to Him, the ones who refuse to repent and surrender to Him when they are shown the need to do so - such as those who curse and blaspheme Yahuwah after the Sixth Trumpet and during the Bowl Plagues.

The only ones who will be allowed to remain in the Set-apart city are those who acknowledge and follow Yahuwah.

1:7 Be silent in the presence of Yahuwah Aluhym; for the day of Yahuwah is at hand,...

Be Silent

According to the sequence of events in John's vision, after the heavenly signs of the Sixth Seal occur, an announcement will be made regarding the Day of Yahuwah.

REV 6:17 —For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?

However, just before He begins the outpouring of His wrath there will be a period of silence.

REV 8:1-2 When He opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before Yahuwah, and to them were given seven trumpets.

1:7 (cont.) ...for Yahuwah has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.

A Prepared Sacrifice

Just as silence begins the Day of Yahuwah's wrath, a sacrifice will end it. Yahuwah has already selected the location and the sacrifice that will be consumed by slaughter; the sacrifice will be the guests He invites.

JOE 3:9-12 Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, I am strong. ' Assemble and come, all you nations, and gather together all around. Cause Your mighty ones to go down there, O YAHUWAH. Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations.

1:8 And it shall be, in the day of Yahuwah's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes and the king's children [REB: the royal house and its chief officers], and all such as are clothed with foreign apparel.

This establishes the time when the royal house of the king of the north and all of his minions foreigners who will control Yerushalayim and the land of Yisra'el for three and a half years will be destroyed.

REV 19:19-21 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast

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alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

As REV 19 indicates, in addition to the foreigners under the Beast's control, there will be other foreigners who enter the land of Yisra'el to attack the Beast. They are pointed out in the next verse.

1:9 In the same day I will punish all those who leap over the threshold, who fill their masters' houses [NRS: master's house] with violence and deceit.

Leap Over the Threshold

Those who leap over the threshold are invaders who move swiftly to conquer and subdue. This is descriptive of the movement of the massive armies from the east and the north (DAN 11:44) into the land of Yisra'el (REV 16:12-16).

JOE 2:2-4, 9 ...A people come, great and strong, the like of whom has never been; nor will there ever be any such after them, even for many successive generations. A fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns; the land is like the Garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; surely nothing shall escape them. Their appearance is like the appearance of horses; and like swift steeds, so they run...They run to and fro in the city, they run on the wall; they climb into the houses, they enter at the windows like a thief.

1:10 And there shall be on that day, says Yahuwah, The sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate, a wailing from the Second Quarter, and a loud crashing from the hills.

Locations

The Fish Gate and Second Quarter were located on the north side of Yerushalayim. The location of the hills is not specified. This could describe the reaction of the followers of the Beast in Yerushalayim at the time they become aware of the hordes moving toward them from the east and the north: they become fearful, yet are ordered to move north to engage forces that greatly outnumber them. Their fear will be realized when they and their opponents become a river of blood (REV 14:20) flowing from the Jezreel Valley.

1:11 Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh! For all the merchant people are cut down; all those who handle money are cut off.

Maktesh

The Hebrew Maktesh is translated hollow place in JDG 15:19. Since the rise of the Beast power is from a hollow place or abyss (REV 17:8), this probably refers to those who have taken the mark of the Beast and mourn over the destruction of their material goods and the Babylonian system that made their physical wealth possible (REV 18:9-19).

1:12 And it shall come to pass at that time that I will search Yerushalayim with lamps, and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, Yahuwah will not do good, nor will He do evil.'

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Search and Punish

Searching with lamps indicates a thorough cleansing of all foreigners from the city. At the time the Beast conquers Yerushalayim, he will believe himself to be invincible, and will boast that his dominion is established for all time. The devil will convince him that Yahuwah will take no action. However, Yahuwah will act and do exactly what He has already prophesied.

ISA 10:12-14 Therefore it shall come to pass, when Yahuwah has performed all His work on Mount Zion and on Yerushalayim, that He will say, I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his haughty looks. For he says: By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I am prudent; also I have removed the boundaries of the people, and have robbed their treasuries; so I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man. My hand has found like a nest the riches of the people, and as one gathers eggs that are left, I have gathered all the earth; and there was no one who moved his wing, nor opened his mouth with even a peep.

1:13 Therefore their goods shall become booty [TNK: wealth shall be plundered], and their houses a desolation; they shall build houses, but not inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine.

Despite the assurance of a millennial Utopia that the Beast, the Anti-Mashyach, gives to his followers, the reality will be very different as indicated in build...but not inhabit and plant... but not drink. Their control of Yerushalayim will last only three and a half years, after which they will be overthrown.

JER 50:35-37 A sword is against the Chaldeans, says Yahuwah, Against the inhabitants of Babylon, and against her princes and her wise men. A sword is against the soothsayers, and they will be fools. A sword is against her mighty men, and they will be dismayed. A sword is against their horses, against their chariots, and against all the mixed peoples who are in her midst; and they will become like women. A sword is against her treasures, and they will be robbed.

1:14 The great day of Yahuwah is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of Yahuwah is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out.

The Great Day

The Day of Yahuwah is described as great because of the magnitude of all that will happen during that day. It's coming is certain and the close of the sixth day of 1,000 years is near at hand. All of humanity will experience great fear and sorrow, even the most calloused—those who are represented by the term mighty men. No nation will be spared—not even those descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

JER 30:7 Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.

1:15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

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That Day

It is called the Day of Yahuwah because it is the time when He executes His wrath on a rebellious, wicked and arrogant world.

REV 6:17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?

The devastation on that day will leave the earth in a condition similar to the state it was in prior to its re-creation (GEN 1:2; JER 4:23). Due to volcanic activity, the burning of forests and cities, nuclear warfare and several supernatural interventions including when the Fourth Trumpet Plague cuts off one-third of the light from the sky every day (REV 8:12), and when the Fifth Bowl Plague causes darkness to fill the kingdom of the Beast (REV 16:10) darkness will be a major factor during the time Yahuwah pours out His wrath on the nations.

1:16 a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers.

The Hebrew for trumpet is shofar, a ram's horn blown to warn of coming conflict or war.

JER 4:19 O my soul, my soul! I am pained in my very heart! My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because you have heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.

The Day of Yahuwah is divided into seven periods of major conflict; at the beginning of each an alarm will be sounded by the blast of a trumpet (REV 8:6).

1:17 I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against Yahuwah;...

Because of the instability of the ground due to severe earthquakes, and the emotional shock experienced in the aftermath of various plagues of destruction, most survivors will be reaching out for something stable that will make them feel safe but to no avail.

1:17 (cont.) ...their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse [TNK: dung].

This is descriptive of the incomprehensible number of people that will be slaughtered during the destructive events announced by the seven trumpets of the Day of Yahuwah.

JER 25:33 And at that day the slain of Yahuwah shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground.

This is also a vivid description of the results of the destruction of the remaining armies of humanity that oppose Amanuwal at His coming.

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REV 14:20 And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs.

1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of Yahuwah's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy [TNK: passion], for He will make speedy riddance [TNK: a terrible end] of all those who dwell in the land.

Nothing will buy protection from the plagues of the Day of Yahuwah.

EZE 7:19 They will throw their silver into the streets, and their gold will be like refuse; their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of Yahuwah; they will not satisfy their souls, nor fill their stomachs, because it became their stumbling block of iniquity.

After pointing out that protection cannot be bought with any amount of money, Yahuwah goes on (in a parenthetical insertion of the next three verses) to reveal that there is a way that protection can be had.

Tzephanyah: Chapter 2

2:1 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation,

Safety

To understand this passage correctly, it is necessary to identify the nation addressed. In Matthew 21:43, Amanuwal clearly identified His disciples, those who follow Him, as a nation to whom the Kingdom of Yahuwah would be given. He also stressed that, due to the allegiance of His spiritual nation in pursuing the Kingdom of Yahuwah, it would be hated and undesirable in the eyes of the world.

JOH 15:19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

MAT 24:9 Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. The spiritual nation of Amanuwal's disciples is instructed to gather together on two separate occasions. Amanuwal clearly identifies one of those occasions in the Olivet Prophecy.

2:2 before the decree is issued [NAS: takes effect], before the day passes like chaff, before Yahuwah's fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of Yahuwah's anger comes upon you!

In the context of the chronological development of the outline of prophecy in Revelation, the only decree mentioned is the requirement imposed on all people to take the mark of the Beast, or be forbidden to buy or sell.

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REV 13:16-17 And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Once this decree is issued travel will be highly restricted for any without the mark; and once the mark is fully instituted, the use of major modes of transportation over great distances will be impossible for them. Those who hold back and fail to gather at the indicated time and place will face the same dire consequences as those whose gold and silver will not buy protection from the plagues of the Day of Yahuwah. The opportunity to participate in the first gathering will be very brief and limited; it is compared to throwing chaff into the wind once it is gone there is no bringing it back.

2:3 Seek Yahuwah, all you humble of the land [NKJ: meek of the earth] who have fulfilled His law; seek righteousness, seek humility. Perhaps you will find shelter [NKJ: be hidden] on the day of Yahuwah's anger. (TNK)

Refuge during the Day of Yahuwah is directly associated with seeking Yahuwah. There can be no doubt that the primary manner of seeking Yahuwah is to seek His righteousness by humbly drawing close to Him, so that His light reveals what needs to be changed in our lives, and we can refine our conduct so that all of our actions reflect His mind and manner.

ISA 33:14-17 The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, he who despises the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil: he will dwell on high; his place of defense will be the fortress of rocks; bread will be given him, his water will be sure. Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; they will see the land that is very far off.

Another aspect of seeking Yahuwah in order to receive refuge involves seeking His guidance through His Word so that we can comprehend what action He expects us to take and when He expects us to take it as prophecy unfolds. Amanuwal indicated this is indeed our personal responsibility.

MAT 24:15-16 Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, ' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the set-apart place (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those that are in Yahuwdah flee to the mountains.

Amanuwal made it clear that we need to carefully consider the passage about the abomination of desolation. In reading what Yahuwah inspired to be recorded by Daniel the prophet, we are made aware of the connection of animal sacrifices to that key end-time event.

DAN 12:11-12 From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there shall be 1290 days. Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1335 days. (NIV)

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This passage gives us two spans of time: 1290 and 1335 days. The span of 1290 days begins with the armies of the Beast surrounding Yerushalayim and stopping the continual burnt offering. All that is said about the span of 1335 days is that those who wait for it to begin and who reach the end of its span are blessed. According to verse 13 both spans of time end at the same time: that is, when Daniel rises from the dead at the end of the days at the end of both spans at the First Resurrection. Since they both end at the same time, the span of 1335 days will begin 45 days prior to the start of the 1290-day period, that is, 45 days before the arrival of the armies that surround Yerushalayim.

We must keep two important facts in mind in order to understand the significance of the 1335 days:

1. The daily sacrifices previously required under the Levitical system have not yet been resumed since their sudden ending with the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70.
2. Amanuwal emphasizes the need to carefully consider and understand the meaning of this passage in relation to the time of fleeing.

It seems clear that the daily sacrifice will begin to be offered 45 days prior to the time that it will be forcibly abolished. Those who understand the connection between the timing that Daniel specifies and the link that Amanuwal establishes between the arrival of the armies and the second gathering to flee will be watching for the beginning of the daily sacrifice, so as to know when they must prepare to leave, which is the first step toward the place of refuge.

Yahuwah has established that a place of refuge will be available for His people during the Day of Yahuwah.

REV 12:14 But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

This admonition is directed to those who have been chosen by Yahuwah, and who are living at the close of the age. However, Yahuwah does not guarantee shelter to all, as He indicates by the use of perhaps in 2:3. The only ones who will receive protection are those who not only seek Yahuwah in humility, but also find Him and acquire His righteousness. Yahuwah knew at the time of this prophecy that the spiritual state of the majority of the Assembly at the close of the age would be reprehensible, and that therefore not every member would be deserving of refuge.

REV 3:16-20 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth. Because you say, I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing 'and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

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It is because this condition of spiritual complacency afflicts so many that Amanuwal warned in the Olivet Prophecy of the need to stay alert and not fall prey to Satan's pursuit.

MAT 24:10-13 And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

Those who do endure, who humble themselves and truly seek Yahuwah and His righteousness have been promised protection during the time of Yahuwah's anger.

REV 3:10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Those who fail to endure—who succumb to being offended, who betray others and nurture hatred—will not receive any special consideration during that time.

REV 12:17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of Yahuwah and have the testimony of Amanuwal Ha'Mashyach.

Verse 3 ends the parenthetical insertion. The next verse resumes with a description of events directly related to the time of the outpouring of Yahuwah's wrath during the Day of Yahuwah. At this point, Yahuwah emphasizes that the devastation will be global. He does this by listing specific judgments on areas to the west, east, south and north of the land of Yisra'el.

2:4 For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon desolate; they shall drive out Ashdod at noonday, and Ekron shall be uprooted.

Yahuwah's Wrath

Yahuwah begins listing His judgment of destruction with the coastal plain west of Yerushalayim the territory which was controlled primarily by the Philistines.

A wordplay technique in the Hebrew, similar to the one used in Micah 1:10-15, is employed here with the names of Gaza (strong) and Ekron (deep-rooted). Gaza, the strong, will be totally weakened when it is forsaken by the removal of its population and Ekron, the deep-rooted, will be completely up-rooted when the sites of those areas experience the devastation of the Day of Yahuwah. Ashkelon's fate during that time is straightforward: it will be desolated. The connection of Ashdod's destiny to midday emphasizes that its eradication will come unexpectedly.

2:5 Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, the nation of the Cherethites! The word of Yahuwah is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines: I will destroy you; so there shall be no inhabitant.

Yahuwah's judgment against those who will dwell in the ancient territory of the Philistines during the Day of Yahuwah will be for cause.

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EZE 25:15-17 Thus says Yahuwah Aluhym: Because the Philistines dealt vengefully and took vengeance with a spiteful heart, to destroy because of the old hatred, therefore thus says Yahuwah Aluhym: I will stretch out My hand against the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethites and destroy the remnant of the seacoast. I will execute great vengeance on them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am Yahuwah, when I lay My vengeance upon them.

During the time that the land of Yisra'el will be under the rule of the Beast, once the Yahuwdim are removed (JOE 3:2, 6), the old hatred possessed by those living in that area will probably be the hatred that has been passed down through the generations of Esau, indicating that it will be descendants of Esau that take possession of the seacoast territory.

EZE 35:5, 9 Because you harbored an ancient hatred and handed the people of Yisra'el over to the sword in their time of calamity, the time set for their punishment...I will make you a desolation for all time; your towns shall never be inhabited. And you shall know that I am Yahuwah. (TNK)

2:6-7 The seacoast shall be pastures, with shelters for shepherds and folds for flocks. The coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Yahuwdah; they shall feed their flocks there; in the houses of Ashkelon they shall lie down at evening. For Yahuwah their Aluhym will intervene for them, and return their captives [TNK: restore their fortunes].

The devastation will be so extreme that, during the initial repopulating of the tribal land of Yahuwdah at the beginning of Amanuwal's reign, the area will primarily be used as pastureland.

2:8 I have heard the reproach [TNK: insults; NAS: taunting] of Moab, and the revilings of the people of Ammon, with which they have reproached My people, and made arrogant threats against their borders [NIV: land].

The territory east of the land of Yisra'el now becomes the area of focus of Yahuwah's wrath. As is the case with all of the nations whose borders touch the part of the land of Yisra'el that is controlled by the descendants of Yahuwdah at the close of the age, those who live on the eastern borders, in the ancient territories of Moab and Ammon, have not only voiced their objections to the presence of the Yahuwdim: they have also joined with others in repeated attempts to drive them out of the land in 1948, 1967 and 1973.

2:9 Therefore, as I live, says Yahuwah of hosts, the Aluhym of Yisra'el, —Surely Moab shall be like Sodom, and the people of Ammon like Gomorrah—overrun with weeds and saltpits, and a perpetual desolation;...

At the time the Beast invades the land of Yisra'el and takes control of Yerushalayim, the territories of Moab and most of Ammon will not yet be subjugated.

DAN 11:41 he will invade the beautiful land, too, and many will fall, but these will escape his clutches: Edom, Moab, and the chief part of the Ammonites. (TNK)

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Their land will be left alone and not invaded until the closing days of the outpouring of Yahuwah's wrath. After being pummeled like every other nation during the Trumpet Plagues, some of the territory of Ammon and Moab will be crossed by some of the armies from beyond the Euphrates, which begin moving toward the land of Yisra'el from the north and east. The destruction these armies will inflict is vividly described by Joel, and Yahuwah's judgment upon them, by Ezekiel:

JOE 2:3 A fire devours before them, and behind them a flame burns; the land is like the Garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; surely nothing shall escape them.

EZE 25:3-4, 6-11 Say to the Ammonites, Hear the word of Yahuwah Aluhym! Thus says Yahuwah Aluhym: Because you said, Aha!' against My sanctuary when it was profaned, and against the land of Yisra'el when it was desolate, and against the house of Yahuwdah when they went into captivity, indeed, therefore, I will deliver you as a possession to the men of the East, and they shall set their encampments among you and make their dwellings among you; they shall eat your fruit, and they shall drink your milk... 'For thus says Yahuwah Aluhym: Because you clapped your hands, stamped your feet, and rejoiced in heart with all your disdain for the land of Yisra'el, indeed, therefore, I will stretch out My hand against you, and give you as plunder to the nations; I will cut you off from the peoples, and I will cause you to perish from the countries; I will destroy you, and you shall know that I am Yahuwah. Thus says Yahuwah Aluhym: Because Moab and Seir say, Look! The house of Yahuwdah is like all the nations,' therefore, behold, I will clear the territory of Moab of cities... To the men of the East I will give it as a possession, together with the Ammonites, that the Ammonites may not be remembered among the nations. And I will execute judgments upon Moab, and they shall know that I am Yahuwah.

Like Sodom... and Gomorrah

The total annihilation of Moab and Ammon is compared to the judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah in regard to the permanent removal of the peoples who inhabit those territories at the close of the age; it does not suggest that the land itself will remain an apocalyptic wasteland throughout the Millennium.

2:9 (cont.) ...the residue of My people shall plunder them, and the remnant of My people shall possess them.

The descendants of the tribes of Yisra'el will take the ancient territories of Moab and Ammon and incorporate them into Yisra'el's territory, just as they will take possession of Esau's land (OBA 19) probably at the time they ask Yahuwah to expand their borders:

ISA 49:19-20 Though you were ruined and made desolate and your land laid waste, now you will be too small for your people, and those who devoured you will be far away. The children born during your bereavement will yet say in your hearing, This place is too small for us; give us more space to live in.' (NIV)

2:10 This they shall have for their pride, because they have reproached and made arrogant threats against the people of Yahuwah of hosts.

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2:10 This will be retribution for their pride because they have insulted the people of Yahuwah of hosts and encroached upon their land. (REB)

Yahuwah will see to it that the desires of those who dwell in the areas of Moab and Ammon national destruction and annihilation of a people will be accomplished; however, not of Yisra'el, but of them.

PSA 83:1-7, 17-18 Do not keep silent, O Yahuwah! Do not hold Your peace, and do not be still, O Yahuwah! For behold, Your enemies make a tumult; and those who hate You have lifted up their head. They have taken crafty counsel against Your people, and consulted together against Your sheltered ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation, that the name of Yisra'el may be remembered no more. For they have consulted together with one consent; they form a confederacy against You: the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites; Moab... Ammon... Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; yes, let them be put to shame and perish, that men may know that You, whose name alone is Yahuwah, are the Most High over all the earth.

2:11 Yahuwah will be awesome [NAS: terrifying] to them when He destroys all the idols of the land. The nations on every shore will worship Him, everyone in its own land. (NIV)

Peace At Last

The time that Yahuwah has appointed for His rendering of judgment on the areas of Moab and Ammon is the same time that He will eradicate the idols created by man: both will occur in the final stages of the outpouring of His wrath. Once the physical objects and mental concepts that have led men to transgress the First and Second Commandments have been demolished and Amanuwal has established His throne in Yerushalayim all nations will at last come to know the true Yahuwah and worship only Him. They will finally understand that Yahuwah is the Aluhym of all nations; that they all belong to Him.

PSA 24:1 The earth is Yahuwah's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

Although Amanuwal will be in Yerushalayim, and the nations will be required to go there from year to year to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (ZEC 14:16), for the rest of the year the Yahuwah of all the earth will be worshipped by all people from wherever they dwell on earth. This fact is in keeping with what Amanuwal told the Samaritan woman at the well:

JOH 4:19-24 The woman said to Him, Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Yahuwdim say that in Yerushalayim is the place where one ought to worship. Amanuwal said to her, Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Yerushalayim, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Yahuwdim. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. Yahuwah is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

2:12 —You Ethiopians also, you shall be slain by My sword.

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Yahuwah's Wrath Continued

The focus of Yahuwah's wrath is now directed to the area south of the land of Yisra'el. The area of Egypt, Ethiopia and the rest of the continent of Africa will feel the effect of Yahuwah's sword when His wrath is unleashed.

EZE 30:2-5 Son of man, prophesy and say, Thus says Yahuwah Aluhym: Wail, Woe to the day! For the day is near, even the day of Yahuwah is near; it will be a day of clouds, the time of the Gentiles. The sword shall come upon Egypt, and great anguish shall be in Ethiopia, when the slain fall in Egypt, and they take away her wealth, and her foundations are broken down. Ethiopia, Libya, Lydia, all the mingled people, Chub, and the men of the lands who are allied, shall fall with them by the sword.

2:13 And He will stretch out His hand against the north, destroy Assyria, and make Nineveh a desolation, as dry as the wilderness [NRS: a dry waste like the desert].

The focal point of Yahuwah's wrath now shifts to the area north of the land of Yisra'el. This verse is generally viewed, not in its prophetic context, but in a historical context; hence most scholars date the composition of this prophecy prior to the annihilation of Nineveh and overthrow of the Assyrian Empire.

Just as the king of Assyria in ISA 10 represents the Beast, the destruction of ancient Nineveh was a type of the judgment Yahuwah has decreed on Babylon the Great at the close of the age. These events are the ultimate fulfillment of this prophecy of Yirmeyahu:

JER 50:18 Therefore thus says Yahuwah of hosts, the Aluhym of Yisra'el: Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria.

2:14 Flocks and herds will lie down there, creatures of every kind. The desert owl and the screech owl will roost on her columns [NKJ: the capitals of her pillars]. Their calls will echo through the windows, rubble will be in the doorways, the beams of cedar [NKJ: cedar work] will be exposed. (NIV)

Like the comparison of the end-time destruction of Moab and Ammon to the ancient destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (verse 9), this terminology is idiomatic of total obliteration. Not only was the Assyrian Empire destroyed for all time anciently, but Babylon the Great, of which it was a type, will also be eradicated for all time at the close of the age.

2:15 This is the exultant city which dwells securely, who says in her heart, —I am, and there is no one besides me [REB: I and I alone am supreme].... (NAS)

This description can be directly applied to Babylon—both ancient and end-time Babylon:

ISA 47:1, 7-8 Go down, sit in the dust, Virgin Daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, Daughter of the Babylonians. No more will you be called tender or delicate... You said, I will continue forever—the eternal queen! But you did not consider these things or reflect on what might happen. Now then, listen, you wanton creature, lounging in your security and saying to

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yourself, I am, and there is none besides me. I will never be a widow or suffer the loss of children. (NIV)

Yahuwah inspired the apostle John to refer to this passage:

REV 18:7 Give her as much torment and sorrow as the glory and luxury she gave herself! For in her heart she says, I sit a queen I am not a widow, I will never see sorrow. (JNT)

2:15 (cont.) ...How she has become a desolation, a resting place for beasts!... (NAS)

Many passages attest to the complete obliteration of Babylon. Only by its total annihilation can the world be assured that it can never be revived.

JER 51:29 And the land will tremble and sorrow; for every purpose of Yahuwah shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without inhabitant.

JER 50:39-40 So desert creatures and hyenas will live there, and there the owl will dwell. It will never again be inhabited or lived in from generation to generation. As Yahuwah overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah along with their neighboring towns, declares Yahuwah, so no one will live there; no man will dwell in it. (NIV)

REV 18:21 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again. (NIV)

2:15 (cont.) ...Everyone who passes by her will hiss and wave his hand in contempt [REB: jeer and gesture]! (NAS)

Jeer and Gesture

Once the minds of humanity are opened and everyone learns the truth about the wicked Babylonian system that had enslaved the world, they will be grateful for being freed from its grip, and will have no regrets concerning its destruction.

NAH 3:19 Nothing can heal your wound; your injury is fatal. Everyone who hears the news about you claps his hands at your fall, for who has not felt your endless cruelty? (NIV)

Tzephanyah: Chapter 3

3:1 Woe to her who is rebellious and polluted, to the oppressing city!

Woe

The focus now returns to Yerushalayim, the capital city of the nation which was to represent Yahuwah to all the nations of humanity. In this and the following three verses, Yahuwah summarizes the reasons why He allows His holy city to undergo the calamities of the close of the age.

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3:2 She has not obeyed His voice [TNK: been disobedient], she has not received correction; she has not trusted in Yahuwah, she has not drawn near to her Yahuwah.

Yahuwah addresses the people as a whole, pointing out the core reasons for their destined judgment.

3:3-4 Her princes in her midst are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave not a bone till morning. Her prophets are insolent [TNK: reckless], treacherous people; her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law [TNK: give perverse rulings].

Yahuwah now very pointedly lists the failings of every level of leadership. Despite experiencing multiple exiles, the nation descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the nation whose capital was Yerushalayim has failed to learn the need to receive and act upon the correction Yahuwah has allotted it. At the time of the end, the descendants of Yisra'el who control Yerushalayim those who use the name that means prevailer with Yahuwah refuse to submit fully to Him. Therefore, He will use the Beast to punish them for their hypocrisy (ISA 10:5-6).

3:5 Yahuwah is righteous, He is in her midst, He will do no unrighteousness. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He never fails, but the unjust knows no shame.

Righteous Judge

In spite of the failure of the descendants of the Patriarchs, Amanuwal Ha'Mashyach will remain faithful to the promises that He, as the Word, personally made to the Patriarchs (GEN 28:13-15). Just as surely as the sun rises every morning, so Amanuwal can be trusted to administer righteous justice.

ISA 11:1-5 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of Yahuwah shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yahuwah. His delight is in the fear of Yahuwah, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.

His righteousness will entail after the Day of Yahuwah removing from the land of Yisra'el all of those who are not descended from Jacob.

3:6 I have cut off nations, their fortresses are devastated; I have made their streets desolate, with none passing by. Their cities are destroyed; there is no one, no inhabitant.

The descendants of Jacob in the end time who identify themselves as the people of Yahuwah have had the benefit of the witness of secular history that records the reasons for the fall of nations and empires. They have in their possession the Holy Scriptures that chronicle the history of the fall of both the Northern Kingdom of Yisra'el and the Southern Kingdom of Yahuwah,

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and the reasons for their fall. They have experienced multiple exiles, when the land was left virtually empty of inhabitants.

3:7 And I thought that she would fear Me, would learn a lesson [REB: take My instruction to heart], and that the punishment I brought on them would not be lost on her. Instead, all the more eagerly they have practiced corruption in all their deeds. (TNK)

Although armed with historical proof and experience, which should have compelled them to turn fully to Yahuwah, those who claim to be His people have continued to choose the way of this kosmos.

3:8 Therefore wait for Me, says Yahuwah, for the day when I arise as a witness [NKJ: for plunder]. For My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them My indignation, all the heat of My anger; for in the fire of My passion all the earth shall be consumed. (NRS)

The day when Yahuwah finally arises as a witness and takes the action necessary to convince the descendants of Yisra'el of their need to surrender themselves in obedience to Him will be the Day of Yahuwah, which was described at the outset of this prophetic book. He will first gather the nations to punish the hypocritical nation of Yahuwdah (ZEC 14:2). Then, three and a half years later, He will assemble the armies of the rulers of the rest of the nations in the Jezreel Valley, where He will destroy them (JOE 3:11-14; ZEC 14:3). Between those two events, His wrath will be unleashed through calamities that will follow the blasts of seven sequential trumpets (REV 8:6).

3:9 For then I will restore [NAS: give] to the peoples a pure language [TNK: make the peoples pure of speech], that they all may call on the name of Yahuwah, to serve Him with one accord.

Restoration

Once Yahuwah concludes pouring out His indignation and Amanuwal establishes the dominion of the Kingdom of Yahuwah from Yerushalayim, one of the first actions taken will involve communication. Although the TNK and several other translations leave the impression that multiple languages will exist in a purified form, the NKJ is correct in emphasizing that there will be one language, which will be cleansed of all words that give recognition to idolatry.

ISA 19:18 In that day five cities in Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to Yahuwah Almighty... (NIV)

The language of Canaan refers to the language that will be spoken from the world capital of Yerushalayim in the land of Yisra'el. Yahuwah multiplied languages in order to separate the nations. This was necessary to prevent rebellious collaboration that would lead to a premature termination of human civilization.

GEN 11:6-9 And Yahuwah said, Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

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Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So Yahuwah scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there Yahuwah confused the language of all the earth; and from there Yahuwah scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

Just as Yahuwah divided humanity through multiple languages, so He will unite mankind with one language. This miracle will allow everyone to communicate with each other about Yahuwah without confusion and pursue Yahuwah with the same understanding.

The purification of that language is revealed in other passages to be the removal of the names of idols created by humanity, including the various names of days and months that now exist around the world.

ISA 26:13-14 O Yahuwah our Aluhym, other masters besides You have had dominion over us; but by You only we make mention of Your name [TNK: but only Your name shall we utter]. They are dead, they will not live; they are deceased, they will not rise. Therefore You have punished and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish.

HOS 2:17 For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, and they shall be remembered by their name no more.

ZEC 13:2 It shall be in that day, says Yahuwah of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered...

3:10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia shall they bring My suppliants, even the daughter of My dispersed [NIV: My scattered people], as Mine offering. (JPS)

Once Yahuwah's punishment ends, He will immediately begin assembling the remnant of the descendants of Yisra'el in the land of Yisra'el.

ISA 11:11-12 It shall come to pass in that day that Yahuwah shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea. He will set up a banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Yisra'el, and gather together the dispersed of Yahuwdah from the four corners of the earth.

Yahuwah will stir up the survivors of the rest of the nations to assist the exiled and scattered survivors of the tribes of Yisra'el to journey to the Land of Promise.

ISA 49:22-23 Thus says Yahuwah Aluhym: Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, and set up My standard for the peoples; they shall bring your sons in their arms, and your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders; kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers; they shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth, and lick up the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am Yahuwah, for they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.

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3:11 In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds in which you transgress against Me;...

This could refer to the extension of Yahuwah's grace to Yisra'el so that no sin is imputed to them; it could also refer to the assessment of Yisra'el's conduct historically. When Yahuwah opens the minds of humanity to comprehend His plan and purpose when they understand the powerful deception Satan has cast over all nations and when they realize how every prophecy of Yahuwah pertaining to events throughout history to their time has been meticulously fulfilled no one will be able to rightfully impute condemnation or shame to the descendants of Yisra'el.

3:11 (cont.)-12 ...for then I will take away from your midst those who rejoice in your [NIV: their] pride, and you shall no longer be haughty in My holy mountain. I will leave in your midst a meek and humble people, and they shall trust in the name of Yahuwah.

Carnal minds will be replaced with spiritually oriented minds when Yahuwah concludes His gathering of all Yisra'el.

ZEC 8:7-8 Thus says Yahuwah of hosts: Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Yerushalayim. They shall be My people and I will be their Yahuwah, in truth and righteousness.'

3:13 The remnant of Yisra'el will do no wrong [NKJ: unrighteousness]; they will speak no lies, nor will deceit be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid. (NIV)

Finally, wayward Yisra'el will never again wander away from Yahuwah. They will obey the Ten Commandments (PSA 119:172) and trust Yahuwah for protection. They will never again compromise Yahuwah's Law out of fear.

3:14-15 Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Yisra'el! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Yerushalayim! Yahuwah has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy....

Yahuwah pronounced several judgments against Yisra'el: some pertained to the tribes of the Northern Kingdom, some to the Southern Kingdom and others to the descendants of both Kingdoms. The descendants of the Northern Kingdom have been required to remain in exile from the land until the end of the present age (HOS 1:6-11). Most of the descendants of the Southern Kingdom who have returned to the land of Yisra'el will be removed and scattered when the Beast invades and establishes the seat of his government in Yerushalayim (ZEC 14:2; JOE 3:6). Descendants of both Kingdoms will be required to suffer the wrath of Yahuwah (JER 30:7) along with all other nations. All of the survivors will join in celebration because their enemy will have been removed. Their enemy will include the Beast and his followers, the armies of the nations who invade the land to attack the Beast, and Satan the devil.

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3:15 (cont.) ...The King of Yisra'el, Yahuwah, is in your midst; you shall see disaster no more.

The presence of the glorified Savior in Yerushalayim will be by far the greatest reason for rejoicing. His presence will ensure safety and prosperity, as attested by numerous scriptures, such as these:

JOE 3:17 So you shall know that I am Yahuwah your Yahuwah, dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Yerushalayim shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again.

ISA 60:18 No longer will violence be heard in your land, nor ruin or destruction within your borders... (NIV)

3:16 In that day it shall be said to Yerushalayim: Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak.

Fear can cause paralysis; those who are fearful cannot be wholehearted. When Yahuwah, who is love, dwells in Yerushalayim, all fear shall be cast out; for perfect love casts out fear (1JO 4:18).

3:17 Yahuwah your Aluhym in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet [TNK: soothe; NRS: renew] you in His love, He will rejoice over you with singing

3:18 as on a festal day.... (REB)

This will be the time when Yahuwah re-claims His people for Himself.

HOS 1:10 Yet the number of the children of Yisra'el shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, You are not My people, ' there it shall be said to them, You are the sons of the living Aluhym.' This event will be very special to Yahuwah.

ISA 62:5 For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you; and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your Aluhym rejoice over you.

3:18 (cont.) ...I shall take away your cries of woe and you will no longer endure reproach. (REB)

3:19 At that time I will deal with all who oppressed [NKJ: afflict] you;... (NIV)

Immediately preceding the time of rejoicing, Amanuwal will take action against all of those who have oppressed or afflicted His people—against the Beast and against the house of Esau.

3:19 (cont.) ...I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered.... (NIV)

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Yahuwah will step in and deliver the spiritually lame among Yisra'el from their carnality, and will physically gather together the exiled descendants of Yisra'el into the Land of Promise.

MIC 4:6-7 In that day, says Yahuwah, I will assemble the lame, I will gather the outcast and those whom I have afflicted; I will make the lame a remnant, and the outcast a strong nation; so Yahuwah will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on, even forever.

3:19 (cont.) ...I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. (NIV)

Before the descendants of Yisra'el can be honored, the nations will need to be educated as to the reason why honor should be conferred upon them.

EZE 39:23-29 And the nations will know that the people of Yisra'el went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to Me. So I hid My face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses, and I hid My face from them. Therefore this is what the Sovereign Yahuwah says: I will now bring Jacob back from captivity and will have compassion on all the people of Yisra'el, and I will be zealous for My holy name. They will forget their shame and all the unfaithfulness they showed toward Me when they lived in safety in their land with no one to make them afraid.

When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will show Myself holy through them in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am Yahuwah their Aluhym, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. I will no longer hide My face from them, for I will pour out My Spirit on the house of Yisra'el, declares the Sovereign Yahuwah. (NIV)

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Once the minds of all people are opened to the truth of Yahuwah and they understand the role of Yisra'el in Yahuwah's plan, they will show honor by assisting the descendants of Yisra'el in migrating to the land of Yisra'el (ISA 49:22-23).

3:20 At that time I will bring you back [TNK: home], even at the time I gather you; for I will give you fame [NIV: honor] and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I return your captives [TNK: restore your fortunes] before your [TNK: their] eyes,|| says Yahuwah.

The honor granted to Yisra'el will be the role of being the model nation for the rest of the nations to emulate. When the nations observe how Yahuwah blesses His model nation they will respond by heaping praise on Yisra'el.

ISA 61:5-7, 9 Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the foreigner shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But you shall be named the Priests of Yahuwah, men shall call you the Servants of our Yahuwah. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be theirs...Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the posterity whom Yahuwah has blessed.