



Be Hopeful

Zephaniah

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
BibleStudyDownloads.org

Balance



Work & Home Life Balance



Eating Balance



The eatwell plate

Use the eatwell plate to help you get the balance right. It shows how much of what you eat should come from each food group.



Balance





Is your view of God balanced?



God is Judge





Hosea

Loyal

Joel

Amos

Just

Obadiah

Humble

Be...

Jonah

Caring

Micah

Generous

Nahum

Patient

Habakkuk

Isaiah

Hopeful

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

Zephaniah



Key Word

634
343

Day

Zephaniah

Zephaniah: **Day** of the LORD

634

Judgment

1:1–3:8

Day of Punishment

D-Day

Destruction

Ruin

God's Righteousness

Warning

Salvation

3:9-20

Day of Praise

V-Day

Deliverance

Restoration

God's Faithfulness

Encouragement

Earth
1:1-3

Judah
1:4–2:3

Nations
2:4-15

Jerusalem
3:1-7

Earth
3:8

Remnant
Regathered
3:9-10

Redeemed &
Restored
3:11-20

Judah, Nations, & the Whole Earth (about 630 BC)



Josiah

"The LORD gave this message to Zephaniah when **Josiah son of Amon was **king of Judah**" (Zephaniah 1:1a NLT).**

"The LORD gave this message to Zephaniah when Josiah son of Amon was king of Judah.
Zephaniah was the son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, **son of Hezekiah"**
(Zephaniah 1:1 NLT).



Zephaniah was of Royal Birth!

Hezekiah

King of Judah
(Line of David)

Sons who Ruled

*Sons who Did
Not Rule*

Manasseh

Amon

Josiah

Amariah

Gedaliah

Cushi

Zephaniah

Righteous in white; **Godless in yellow**

Placing the Prophets

Key Dates



Zephaniah preached just after Manasseh filled both courts with idols



Jerusalem's Fall

232
342
560

Key Dates

627

Jeremiah

605

Daniel

597

Ezekiel

Jerusalem's
Fall

Zephaniah

630

Habakkuk

606

Joel

590

586

Lamentations

538

How should we respond to the LORD's **balance**?



I. God's future judgment
warns us to **repent**.

Zephaniah 1:1–3:8

Zephaniah 1

Zephaniah: **Day** of the LORD

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Judah, Nations, & the Whole Earth (about 630 BC)

"I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth," says the LORD.

³"I will sweep away **people and animals** alike. I will sweep away the **birds of the sky** and the **fish in the sea**.

I will reduce the wicked to heaps of rubble, and I will wipe humanity from the face of the earth,' says the LORD" (Zeph. 1:2-3).



God's Creation...Day 6

**"So God created man in
his own image**

**in the image of God he
created him**

**male and female he created
them" (Gen. 1:27).**



and over the **birds**
of the air

and have dominion over the
fish of the sea

and over every living thing that
moves upon the earth'" (Gen. 1:28 NLT).

"And God
blessed them,
and God said to
them, 'Be
fruitful and
multiply, and fill
the earth and
subdue it;



"I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth," says the LORD.

³"I will sweep away people and animals alike. I will sweep away the birds of the sky and the fish in the sea.

I will reduce the wicked to heaps of rubble, and I will wipe humanity from the face of the earth,' says the LORD" (Zeph. 1:2-3).



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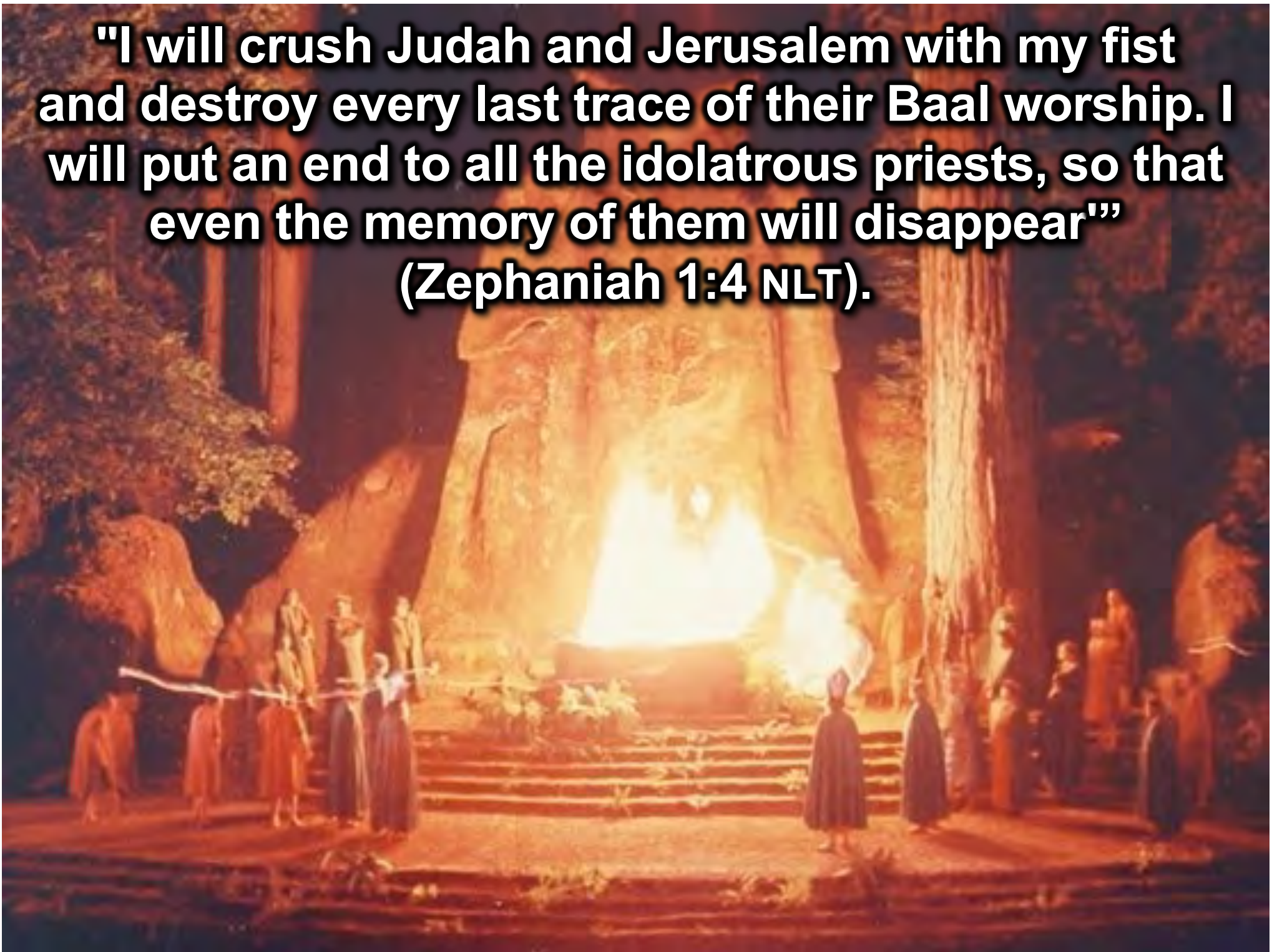
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3:8

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Restored
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Judah, Nations, & the Whole Earth (about 630 BC)

**"I will crush Judah and Jerusalem with my fist
and destroy every last trace of their Baal worship. I
will put an end to all the idolatrous priests, so that
even the memory of them will disappear"
(Zephaniah 1:4 NLT).**



**"For they go up to their roofs
and bow down to the sun, moon, and stars. They
claim to follow the LORD,
but then they worship Molech, too"
(Zephaniah 1:5 NLT).**



Pope Francis worshipping the sun god



False Prophets

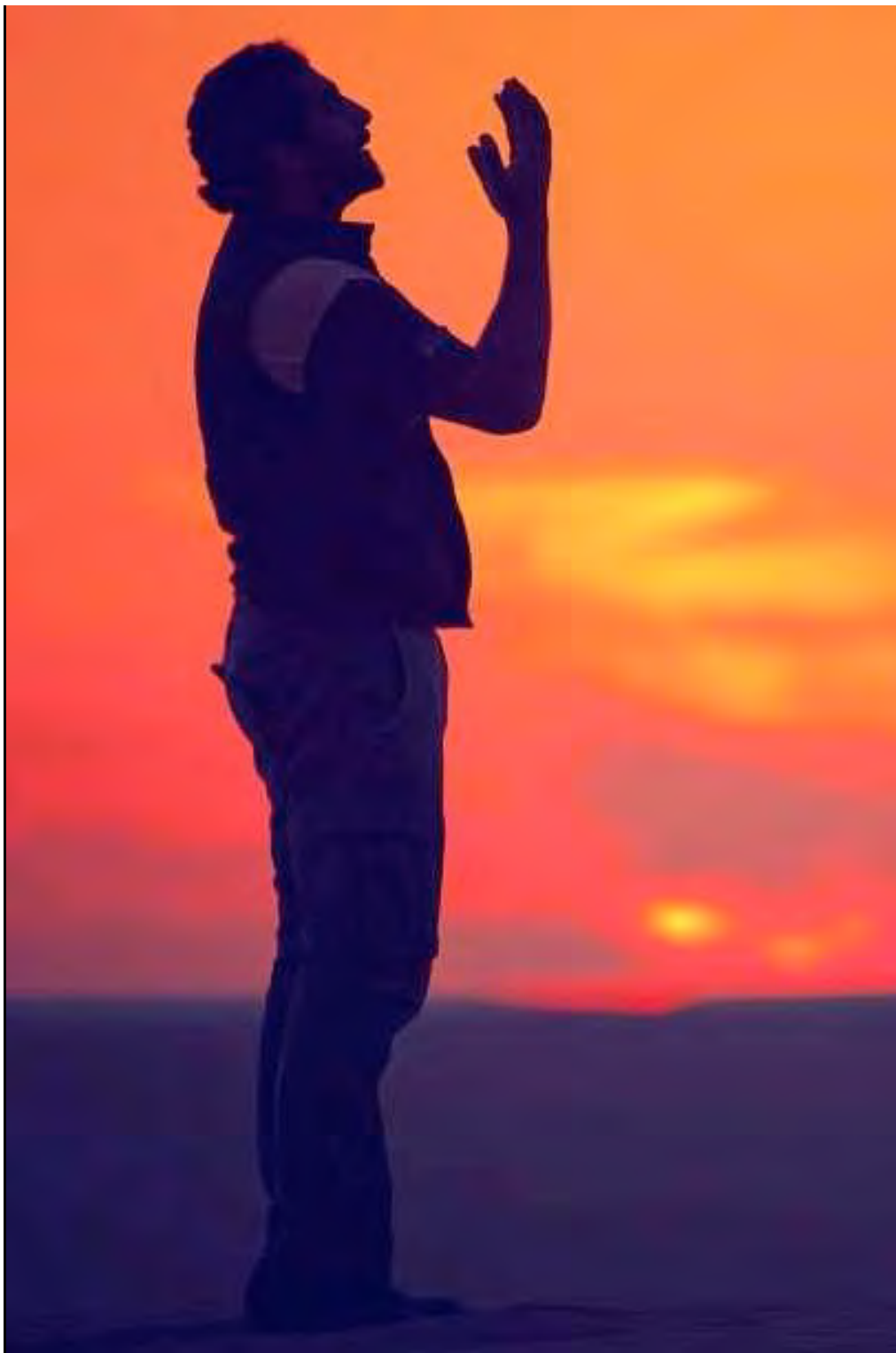
False Prophets

JOEL STANDS AGAINST APOSTLES



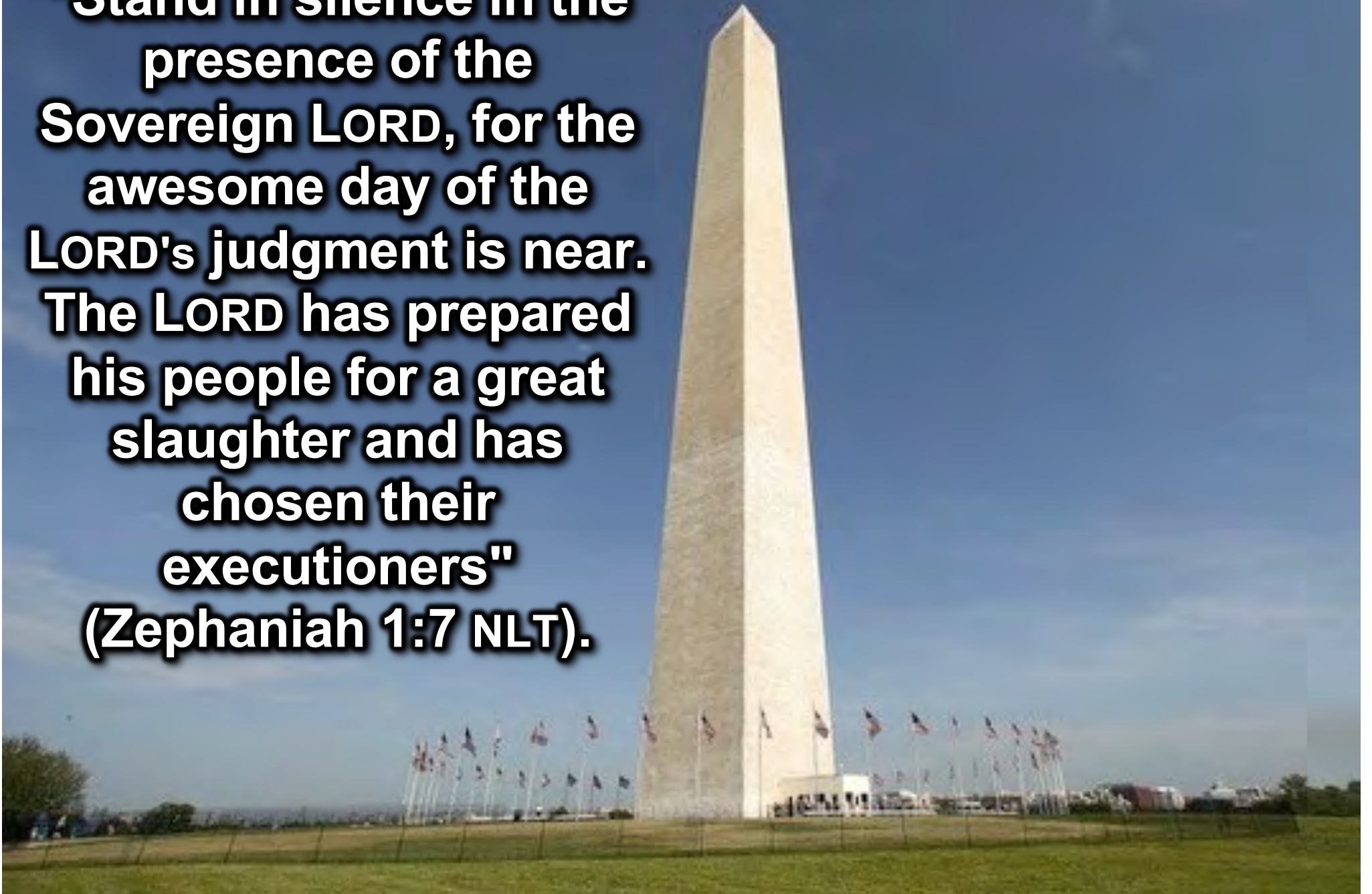


False Prophets



"And I will destroy those who used to worship me but now no longer do. They no longer ask for the LORD's guidance or seek my blessings" (Zephaniah 1:6 NLT).

**"Stand in silence in the
presence of the
Sovereign LORD, for the
awesome day of the
LORD's judgment is near.
The LORD has prepared
his people for a great
slaughter and has
chosen their
executioners"
(Zephaniah 1:7 NLT).**



**"'On that day of judgment,' says the LORD,
'I will punish the leaders and princes of Judah and
all those following pagan customs.
⁹Yes, I will punish those who participate in pagan
worship ceremonies, and those who fill their
masters' houses with violence and deceit"
(Zephaniah 1:8-9 NLT).**



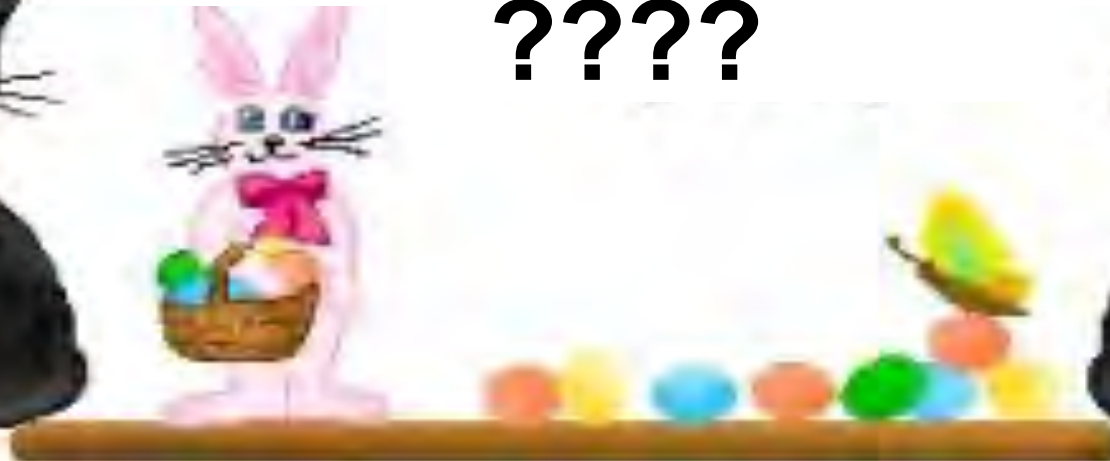


**"I will punish...all those
following pagan customs"**

Zephaniah 1:8 (NLT)



?????



"On that day,' says the LORD, 'a cry of alarm will come from the Fish Gate and echo throughout the New Quarter of the city. And a great crash will sound from the hills. ¹¹Wail in sorrow, all you who live in the market area, for all the merchants and traders will be destroyed" (Zephaniah 1:10-11 NLT).



**"I will search with lanterns in Jerusalem's
darkest corners
to punish those who sit complacent in their sins.
They think the LORD will do nothing to them,
either good or bad.**

**¹³So their property will be plundered,
their homes will be ransacked.**

**They will build new homes
but never live in them.**

**They will plant vineyards
but never drink wine from them"**

(Zephaniah 1:12-13 NLT).

"That terrible **day** of the LORD is near.

Swiftly it comes—

a **day** of bitter tears,

a **day** when even strong men will cry out.

¹⁵It will be a **day** when the LORD's anger is poured out—

a **day** of terrible distress and anguish,

a **day** of ruin and desolation,

a **day** of darkness and gloom,

a **day** of clouds and blackness,

¹⁶a **day** of trumpet calls and battle cries.

Down go the walled cities

and the strongest battlements!"

(Zephaniah 1:14-16 NLT).

day

**"Because you have sinned against the LORD,
I will make you grope around like the blind.**

**Your blood will be poured into the dust,
and your bodies will lie rotting on the ground.**

**¹⁸Your silver and gold will not save you
on that day of the LORD's anger.**

**For the whole land will be devoured
by the fire of his jealousy.**

**He will make a terrifying end
of all the people on earth"**

(Zephaniah 1:17-18 NLT).



Earthquakes



Zephaniah 2

**"Gather together—yes, gather together,
you shameless nation.**

**²Gather before judgment begins,
before your time to repent is blown away like chaff.
Act now, before the fierce fury of the LORD falls
and the terrible day of the LORD's anger begins.**

**³Seek the LORD, all who are humble,
and follow his commands.**

**Seek to do what is right and to live humbly.
Perhaps even yet the LORD will protect you—
protect you from his anger on that day of
destruction" (Zephaniah 2:1-3 NLT).**

Zephaniah: **Day** of the LORD

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Judah, Nations, & the Whole Earth (about 630 BC)

Judgment of the Nations (Zephaniah 2:4-15)

637



Judgment of Philistia (Zephaniah 2:4-7)

637



**"Gaza and Ashkelon will be abandoned,
Ashdod and Ekron torn down.**

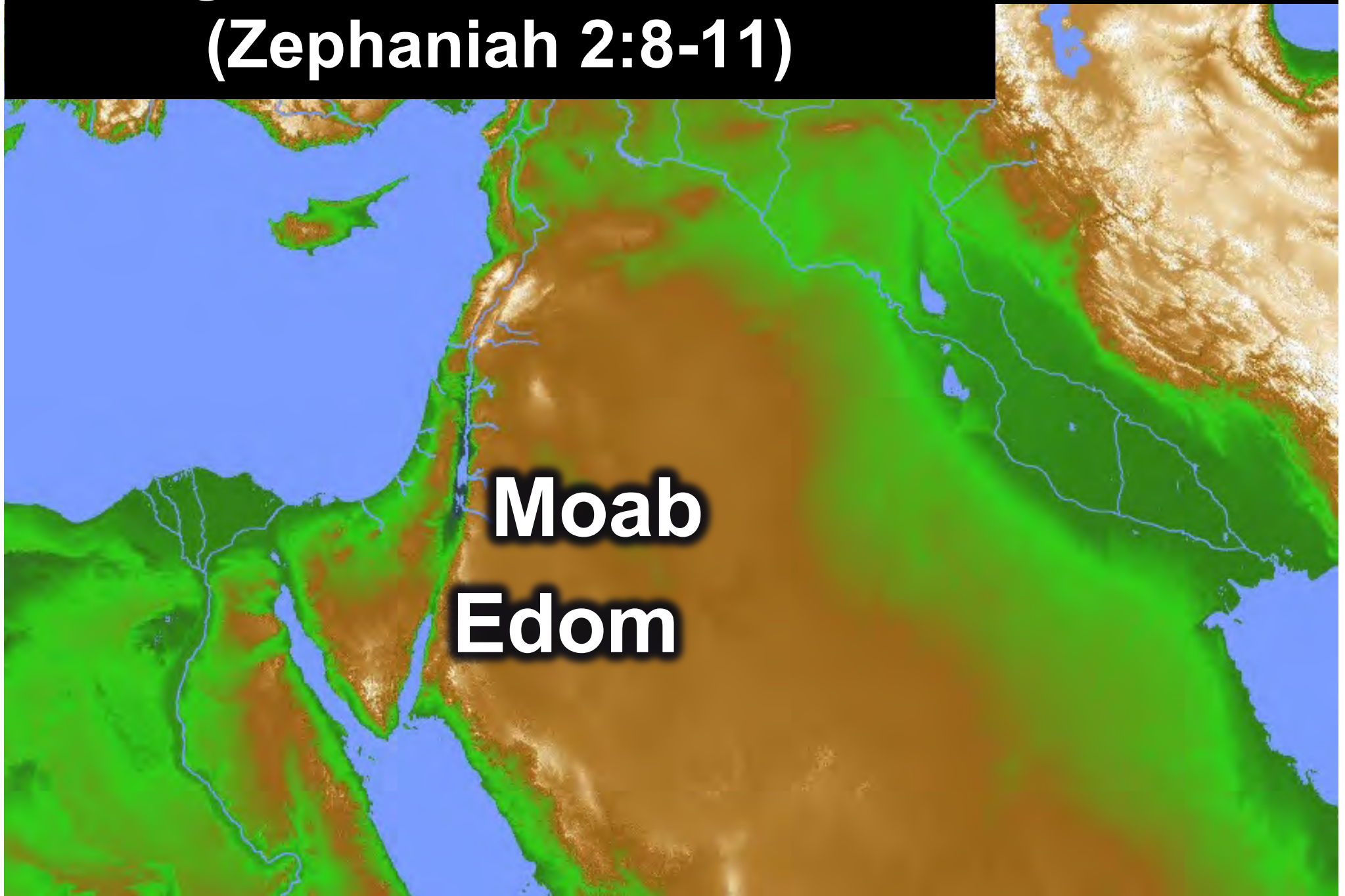
**⁵And what sorrow awaits you Philistines
who live along the coast and in the land of Canaan,
for this judgment is against you, too!
The LORD will destroy you
until not one of you is left.**

**⁶The Philistine coast will become a wilderness
pasture, a place of shepherd camps
and enclosures for sheep and goats.**

**⁷The remnant of the tribe of Judah will pasture there.
They will rest at night in the abandoned houses in
Ashkelon. For the LORD their God will visit his
people in kindness and restore their prosperity
again" (Zephaniah 2:4-7 NLT).**

Judgment of Moab & Edom (Zephaniah 2:8-11)

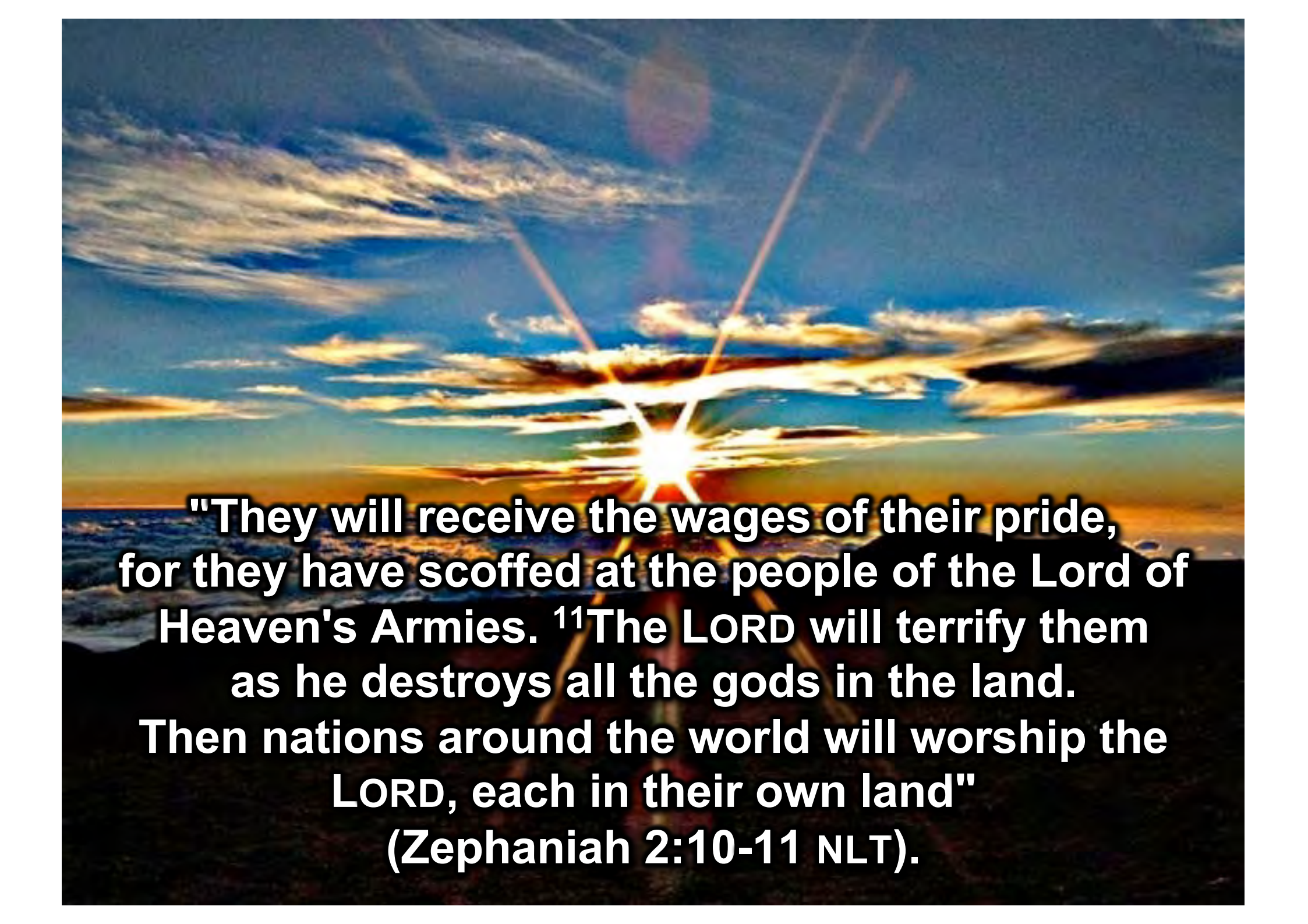
637



**"I have heard the taunts of the Moabites
and the insults of the Ammonites,
mocking my people and invading their borders.**

**⁹Now, as surely as I live,'
says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel,
'Moab and Ammon will be destroyed—
destroyed as completely as Sodom and Gomorrah.
Their land will become a place of stinging nettles,
salt pits, and eternal desolation.
The remnant of my people will plunder them
and take their land'"**

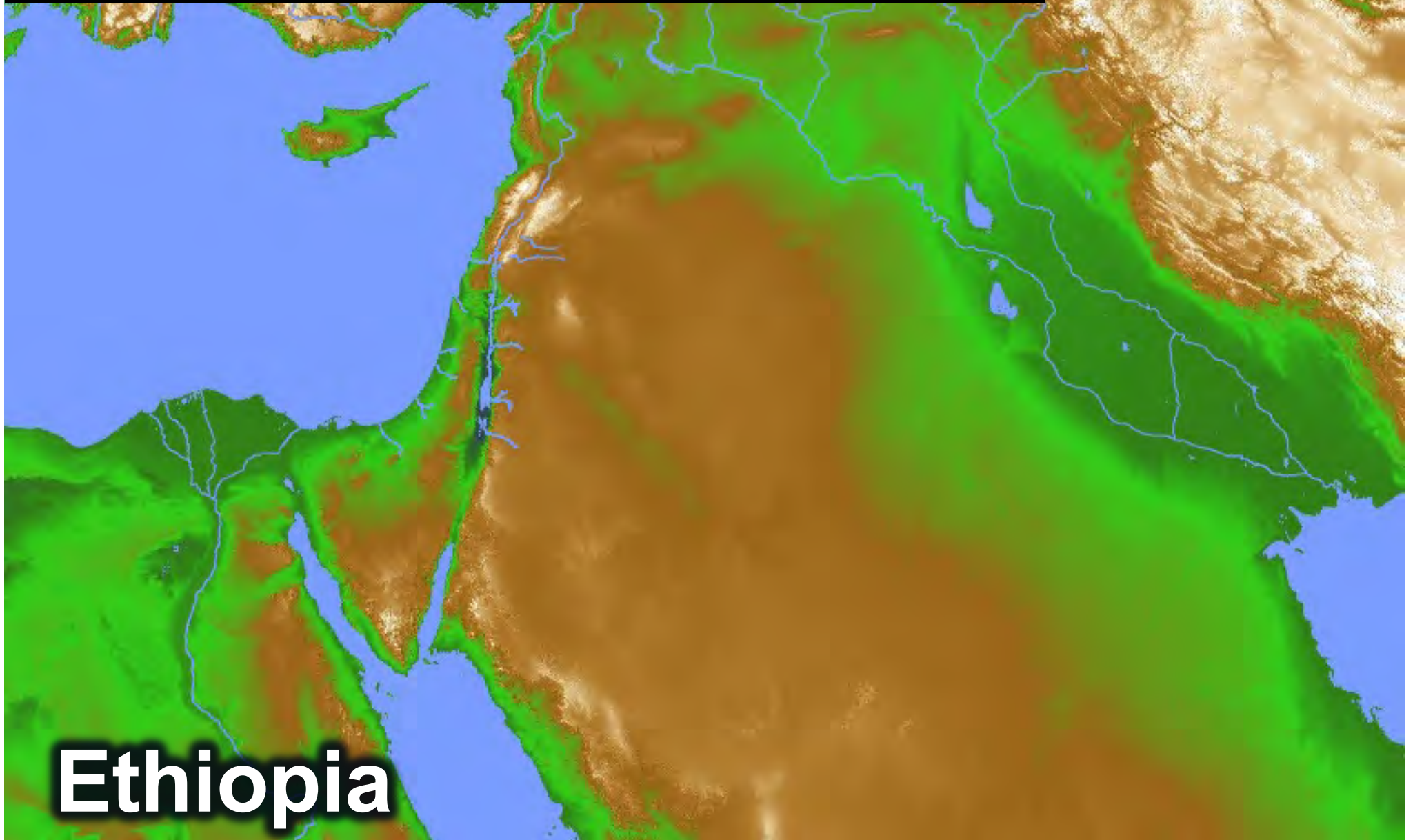
(Zephaniah 2:8-9 NLT).



**"They will receive the wages of their pride,
for they have scoffed at the people of the Lord of
Heaven's Armies. ¹¹The LORD will terrify them
as he destroys all the gods in the land.
Then nations around the world will worship the
LORD, each in their own land"
(Zephaniah 2:10-11 NLT).**

Judgment of Ethiopia (Zephaniah 2:12)

637



**"'You Ethiopians will also be slaughtered
by my sword,' says the LORD"
(Zephaniah 2:12 NLT).**



Judgment of Assyria (Zephaniah 2:13-15)

637



"And the LORD will strike the lands of the north with his fist, destroying the land of Assyria.

He will make its great capital, Nineveh, a desolate wasteland, parched like a desert.

¹⁴ The proud city will become a pasture for flocks and herds, and all sorts of wild animals will settle there.

The desert owl and screech owl will roost on its ruined columns, their calls echoing through the gaping windows.

Rubble will block all the doorways, and the cedar paneling will be exposed to the weather" (Zephaniah 2:13-14 NLT).

Nineveh's Water System Destroyed

- *"And He will stretch out His hand against the north and destroy Assyria, and He will make Nineveh a desolation, parched like the wilderness" (Zeph. 2:13)*
- The prophesied destruction of Nineveh (Zeph. 2:13), the capital of Assyria in what is now Iraq, fell in 612 BC into the hands of the neighboring Babylonians, with the whole empire taken by 605 BC. The prediction that God would leave Nineveh "dry as a desert" is remarkable in view of the fame of the city's great irrigation system.

The Assyrian Threat



Tiglath-Pileser

Assyria Strong

ASSYRIA

100 Years

Later...

Jonah 760

Israel's Fall 722

Nahum 660

Zephaniah 630

Nineveh's Fall 612

0011

900

850

800

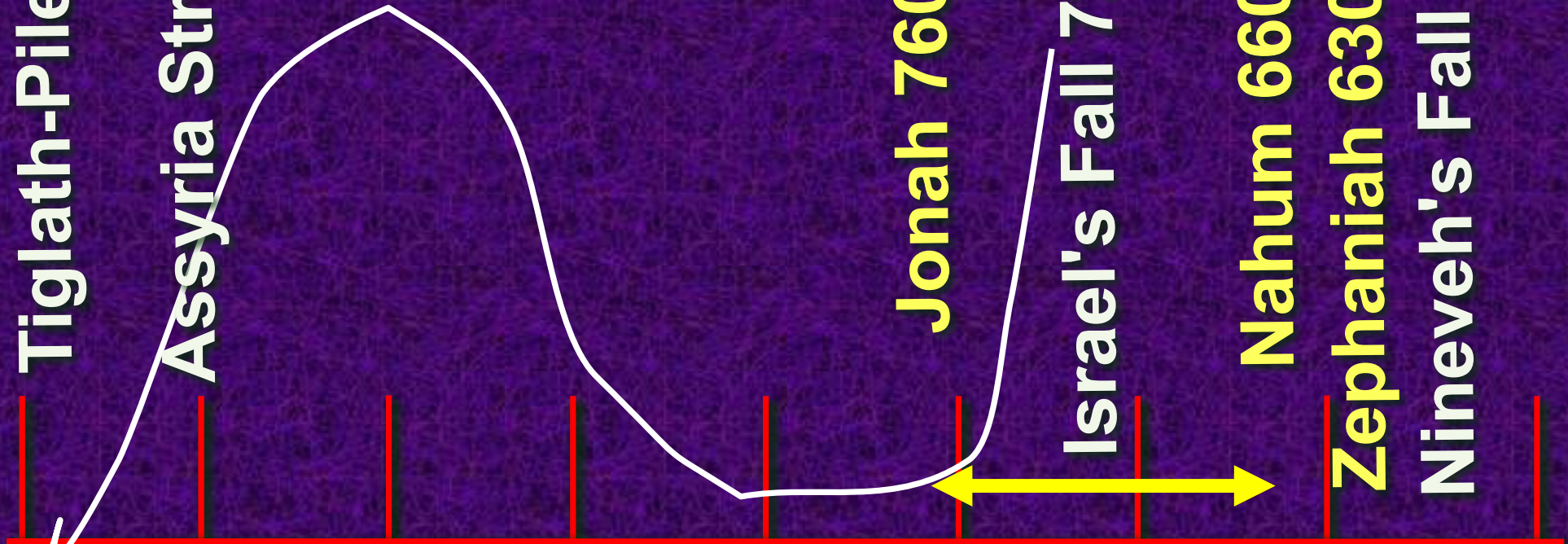
750

700

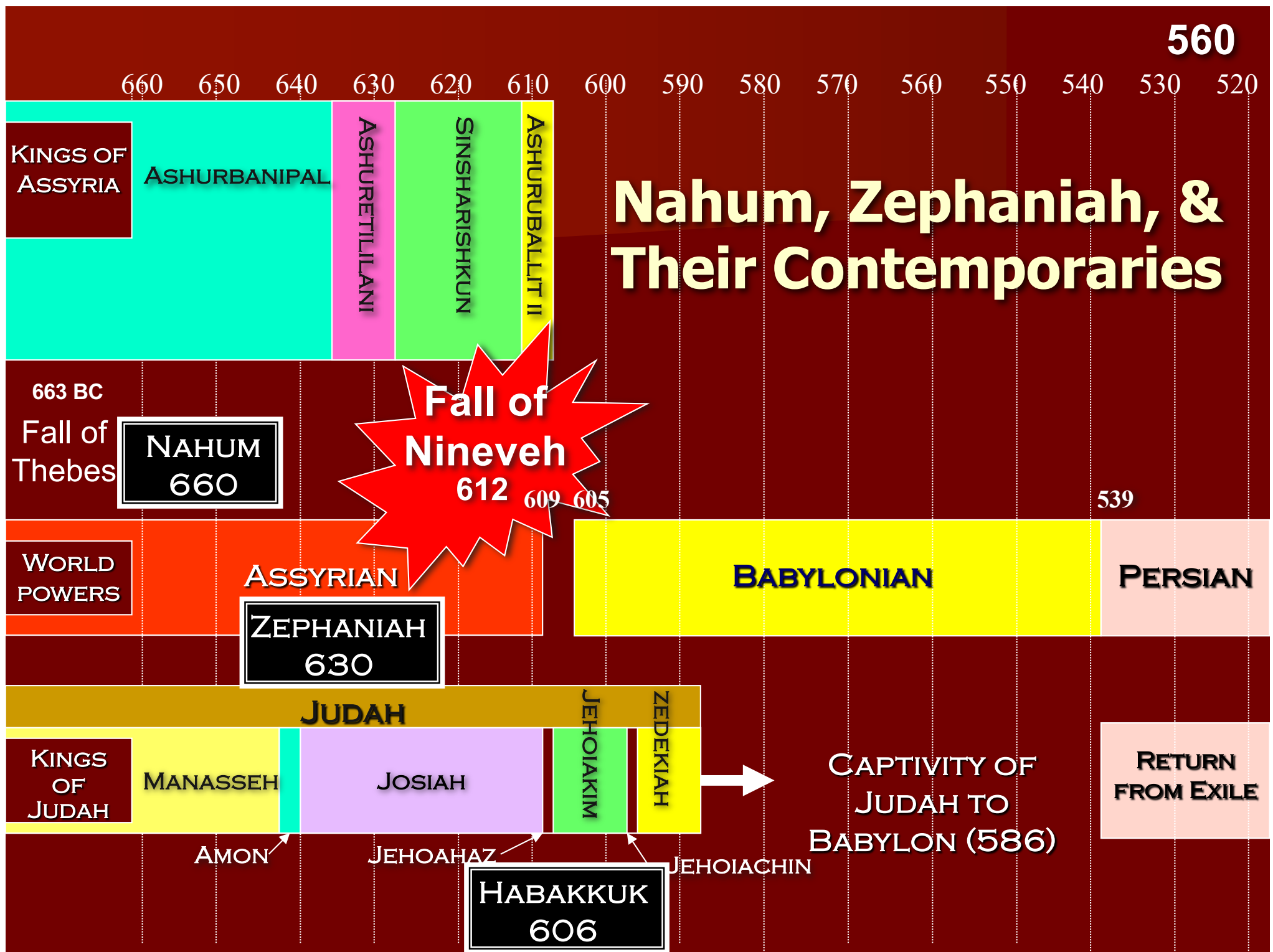
650

600

Nineveh's
Relapse



Nahum, Zephaniah, & Their Contemporaries





Nineveh:

Destroyed by Flood and Fire

An aerial satellite image of Mosul, Iraq, showing the Tigris River winding through the city. The river is a prominent feature, curving from the bottom left towards the right. The surrounding area is densely packed with buildings and infrastructure, typical of a large urban center. The image is taken from a high angle, providing a clear view of the city's layout and the river's path.

Modern Map

**Mosul, Iraq, surrounds
Nineveh's ancient ruins**

Google Earth

**"This is the boisterous city,
once so secure.**

'I am the greatest!' it boasted.

'No other city can compare with me!'

**But now, look how it has become an utter ruin,
a haven for wild animals.**

**Everyone passing by will laugh in derision
and shake a defiant fist"**

(Zephaniah 2:15 NLT).



Zephaniah: **Day** of the LORD

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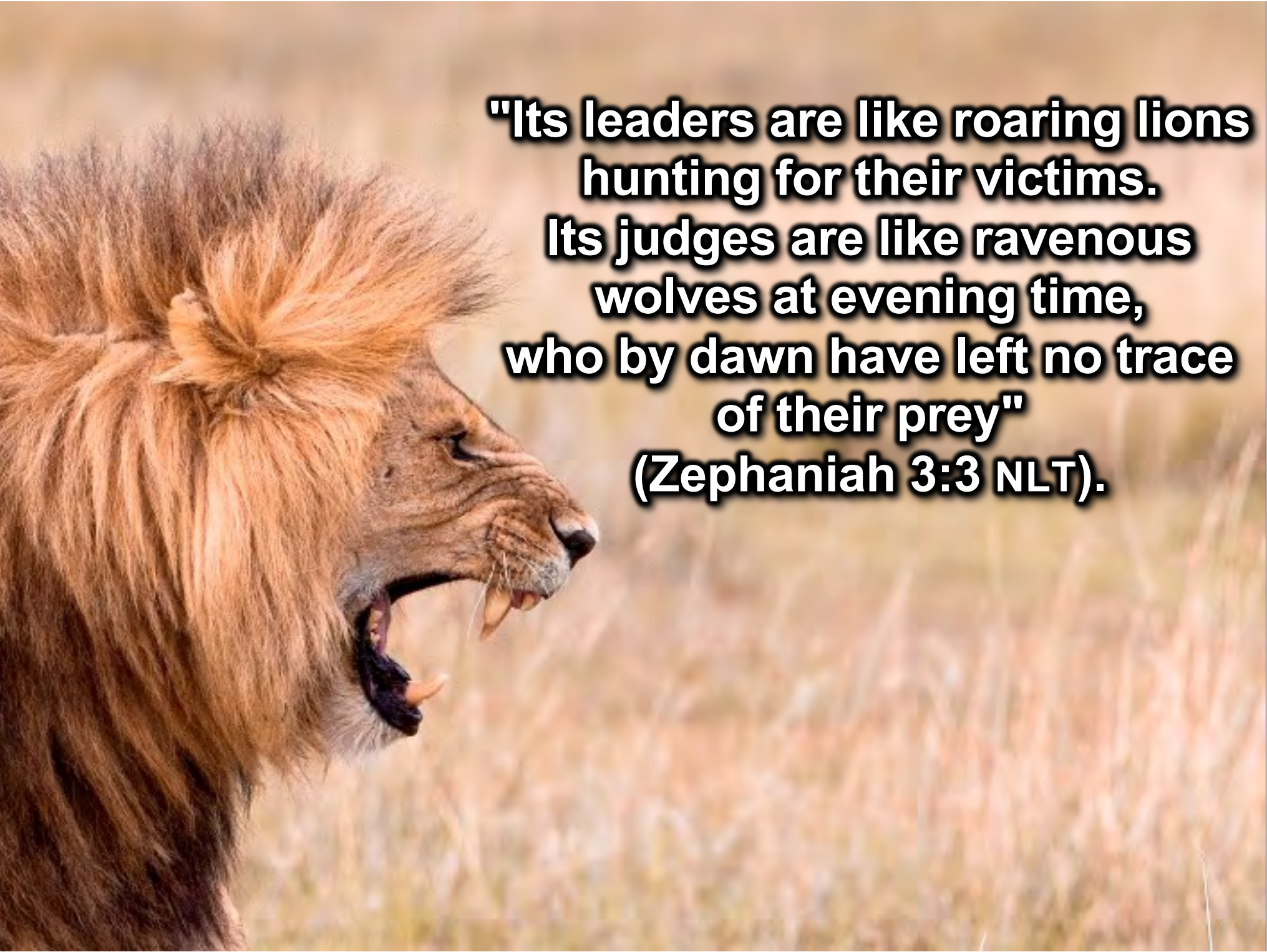
Redeemed &
Restored
3:11-20

Judah, Nations, & the Whole Earth (about 630 BC)

Zephaniah 3

**"What sorrow awaits rebellious, polluted Jerusalem,
the city of violence and crime!
²No one can tell it anything; it refuses all correction.
It does not trust in the LORD or draw near to its God"
(Zephaniah 3:1-2 NLT).**





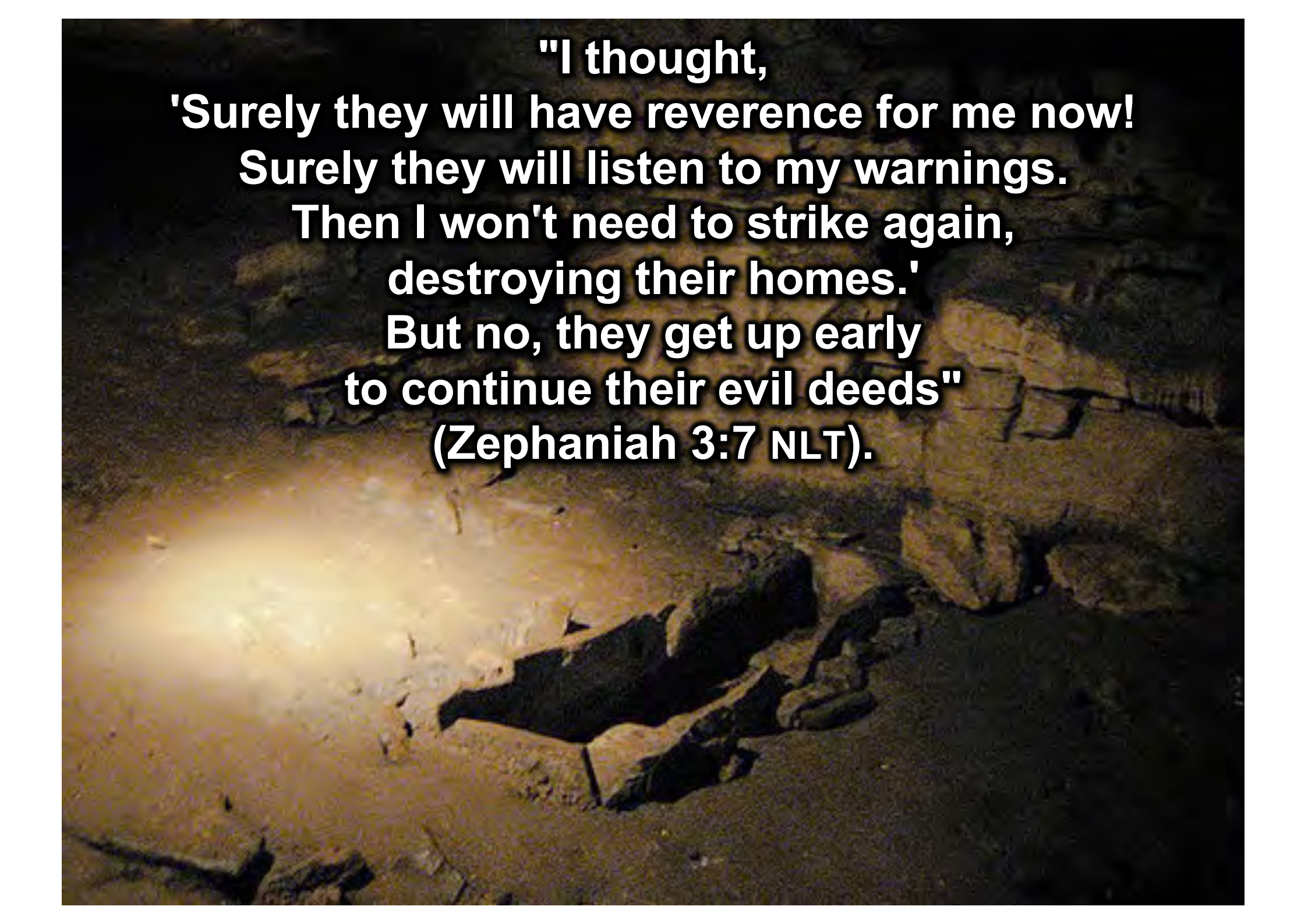
**"Its leaders are like roaring lions
hunting for their victims.
Its judges are like ravenous
wolves at evening time,
who by dawn have left no trace
of their prey"
(Zephaniah 3:3 NLT).**

**"[Jerusalem's] prophets
are arrogant liars
seeking their own gain.
Its priests defile the
Temple by disobeying
God's instructions.
⁵But the LORD is still
there in the city,
and he does no wrong.
Day by day he hands
down justice,
and he does not fail.
But the wicked know no
shame"
(Zephaniah 3:4-5 NLT).**



**"I have wiped out many nations,
devastating their fortress walls and towers.
Their streets are now deserted;
their cities lie in silent ruin.
There are no survivors—none at all"
(Zephaniah 3:6 NLT).**



The background of the image is a dark, rocky landscape at night. A bright, glowing light source, possibly a fire or a lantern, is visible on the left side, casting a warm, yellowish light across the scene. The rocks are dark and jagged, with some lighter patches where the light hits. The overall atmosphere is somber and dramatic.

**"I thought,
'Surely they will have reverence for me now!
Surely they will listen to my warnings.
Then I won't need to strike again,
destroying their homes.'
But no, they get up early
to continue their evil deeds"
(Zephaniah 3:7 NLT).**

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Judah, Nations, & the Whole Earth (about 630 BC)

**"Therefore, be patient,' says the LORD.
'Soon I will stand and accuse these evil nations.
For I have decided to gather the kingdoms of the
earth and pour out my fiercest anger and fury on
them. All the earth will be devoured
by the fire of my jealousy"
(Zephaniah 3:8 NLT).**



**PEOPLE ON
EARTH**

HATE TO HEAR THE WORD

REPENT!

THOSE IN

HADES

WISH THEY COULD

HEAR IT

JUST ONCE MORE

How should we respond to the LORD's **balance**?



II. God's future deliverance encourages us to **hope**.



Zephaniah 3:9-20

Ethiopia Worship (Zephaniah 3:9-11)

Israel

Ethiopia

"Then I will purify the speech of all people, so that everyone can worship the LORD together. ¹⁰My scattered people who live beyond the rivers of Ethiopia will come to present their offerings. ¹¹On that **day** you will no longer need to be ashamed, for you will no longer be rebels against me. I will remove all proud and arrogant people from among you. There will be no more haughtiness on my holy mountain."

**"Those who are left will be the lowly and humble,
for it is they who trust in the name of the LORD.**

**¹³The remnant of Israel will do no wrong;
they will never tell lies or deceive one another.**

**They will eat and sleep in safety,
and no one will make them afraid"
(Zephaniah 3:12-13 NLT).**



**"Sing, O daughter of Zion;
shout aloud, O Israel!**

**Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!**

**¹⁵For the LORD will remove his hand of judgment
and will disperse the armies of your enemy.**

**And the LORD himself, the King of Israel,
will live among you!**

**At last your troubles will be over,
and you will never again fear disaster"**

(Zephaniah 3:14-15 NLT).

**"On that day the announcement to Jerusalem
will be,**

'Cheer up, Zion! Don't be afraid!

¹⁷For the LORD your God is living among you.

He is a mighty savior.

He will take delight in you with gladness.

With his love, he will calm all your fears.

He will rejoice over you with joyful songs"

(Zephaniah 3:16-17 NLT).



THE LORD YOUR GOD
IS WITH YOU
HE IS MIGHTY TO SAVE

*He will take great delight over you
He will quiet you with His love
He will rejoice over you with
singing*

Zephaniah 3:17

**"I will gather you who mourn for the appointed
festivals;**

you will be disgraced no more.

**¹⁹And I will deal severely with all who have
oppressed you.**

I will save the weak and helpless ones;

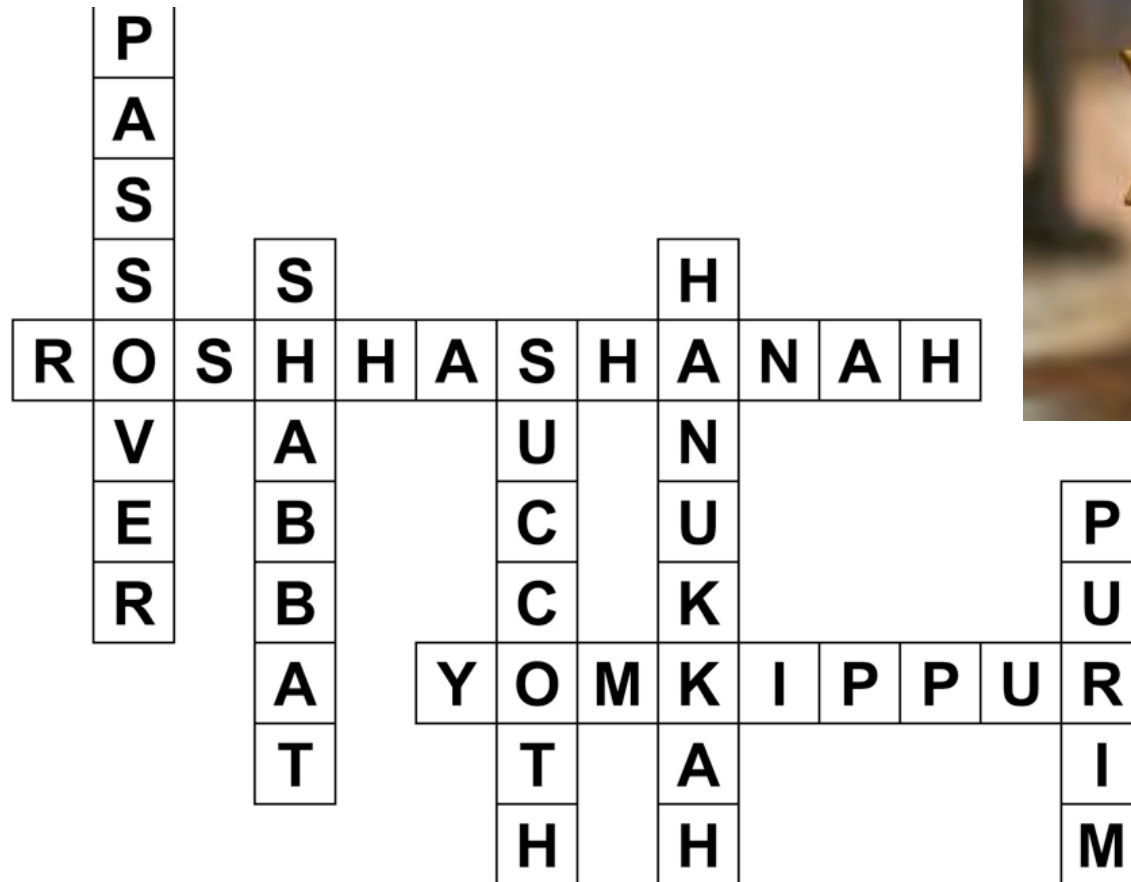
I will bring together

those who were chased away.

**I will give glory and fame to my former exiles,
wherever they have been mocked and shamed"**
(Zephaniah 3:18-19 NLT).

**"I will gather you who mourn for the appointed
festivals; you will be disgraced no more"
(Zeph. 3:18 NLT).**

Jewish Festivals



**Should we follow the festivals
or Colossians 2:16-17?**

Jewish: The Law is Good



but...

No Legalism!



"So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. ¹⁷For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality" (Col. 2:16-17 NLT)

**"On that day I will gather you together
and bring you home again.
I will give you a good name, a name of distinction,
among all the nations of the earth,
as I restore your fortunes before their very eyes.
I, the LORD, have spoken!"
(Zephaniah 3:20 NLT).**

Hope



PHOTO VIA TWITTER @POTUS

Judgment!





Blessing!

The Day of the LORD

638-639

Judgment +

Blessing

Tribulation

Millennium

Rev. 6–19

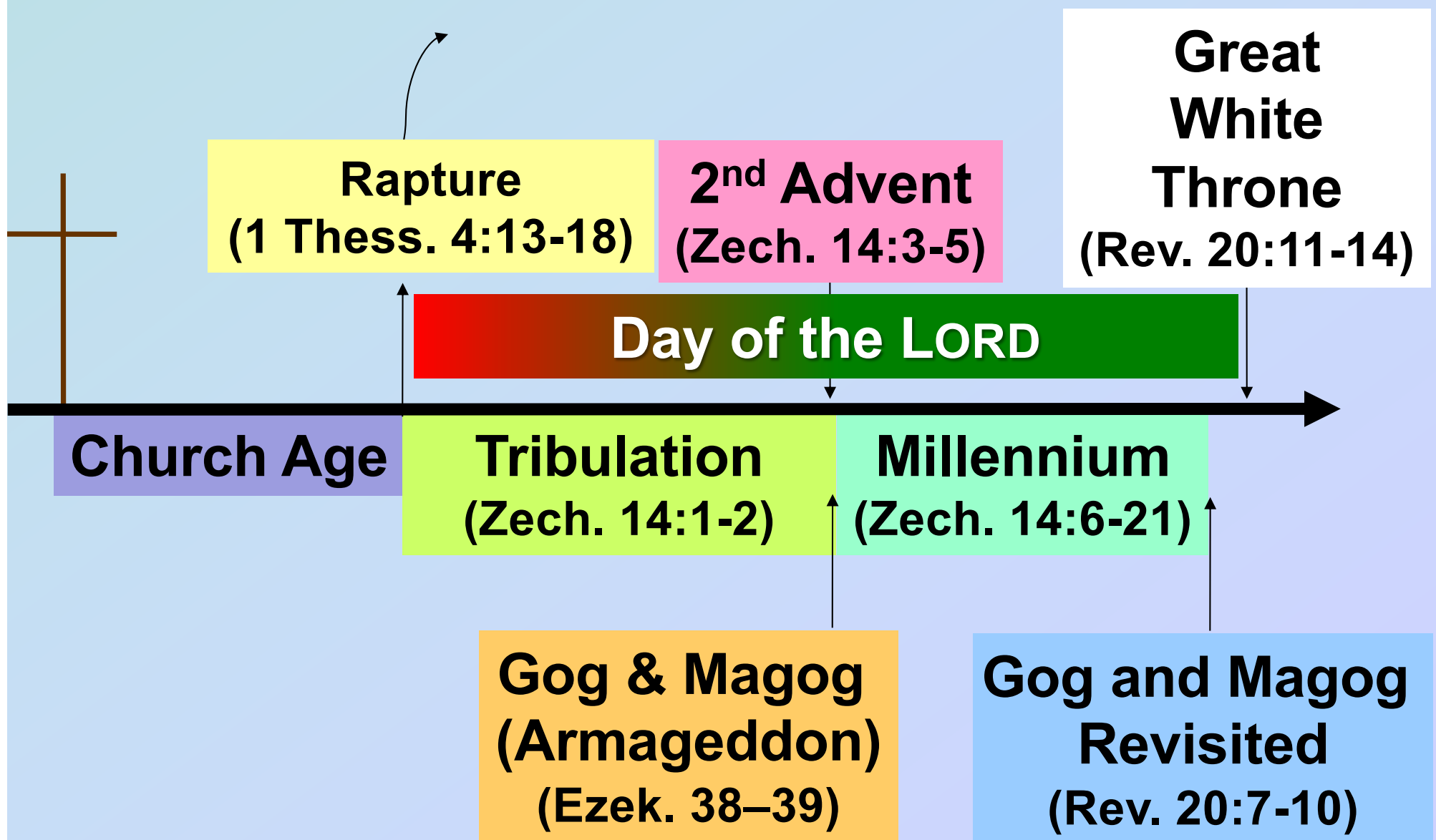
Rev. 20


7 years

1000 years

A Timeline of the Future

437



A photograph of a sunset over a beach. The sun is a bright yellow orb on the right side of the horizon, casting a long, shimmering reflection across the water and the wet sand. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, with some light clouds. The beach in the foreground is dark and wet, with the sand reflecting the golden light of the sun. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

Zephaniah

The Day of the LORD

Key Word

634
343

Day

Zephaniah

How should we respond to the LORD's **balance**?



Main Idea

Be hopeful yet **repentant**.



Zephaniah

Zephaniah Kingdom Statement

343

Judah should repent because of a future **day of judgment (1:1–3:8) and blessing (3:9-20) on the whole earth caused by God as King.**



Zephaniah Summary Statement

Zephaniah prophesies the **day of the LORD judgment upon Judah, the surrounding nations, and the entire earth to exhort Judah to repent due to God's righteousness and His promise of a remnant in a national restoration.**

I. God's future judgment
warns us to **repent**.

Zephaniah 1:1–3:8

II. God's future deliverance encourages us to **hope**.




Zephaniah 3:9-20

Key Verse

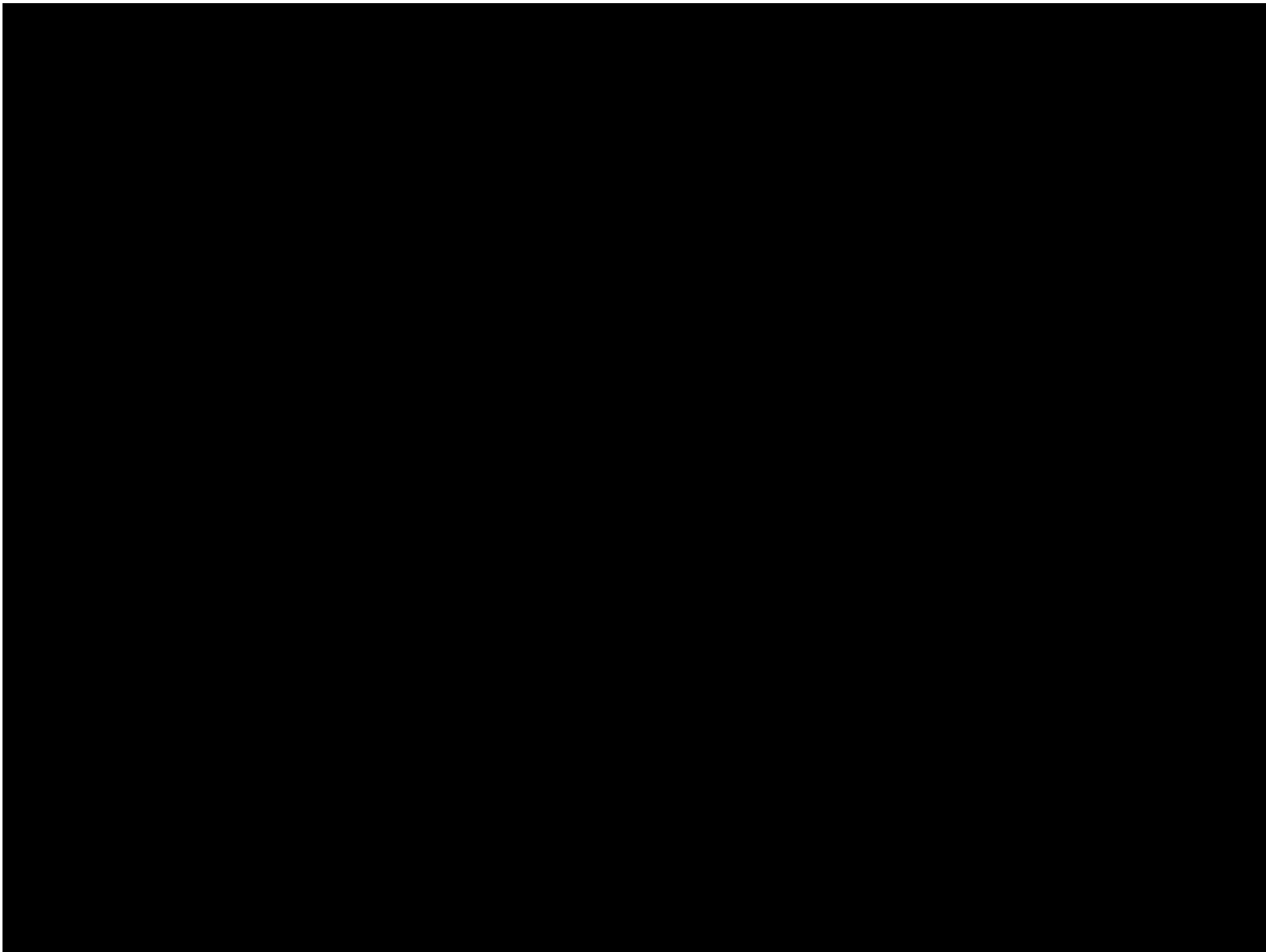
634

"Gather together...before the **day of the LORD's wrath comes upon you. Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the **day** of the LORD's anger" (Zephaniah 2:1-3).**

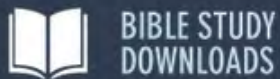
Zephaniah



**"The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing"
(Zephaniah 3:17)**




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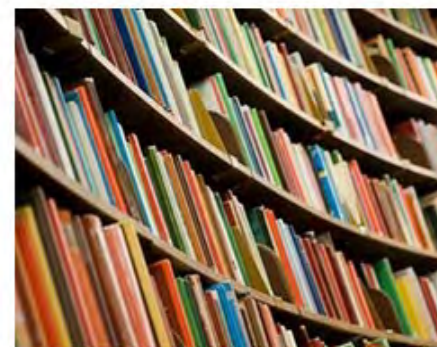
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