

LORD of All the Nations

Zephaniah 2:1-15; 3:8-11



Zephaniah 2:1-3

Gather yourselves together, yes, gather,
O nation without shame, before the decree takes effect —
The day passes like the chaff —
before the burning anger of the LORD comes upon you,
before the day of the LORD'S anger comes upon you.
Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth
who have carried out His ordinances;
Seek righteousness, seek humility.
Perhaps you will be hidden in the day of the LORD'S anger.

Zephaniah 2:4-7

For Gaza will be abandoned and Ashkelon a desolation; Ashdod will be driven out at noon and Ekron will be uprooted.

Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, the nation of the Cherethites! The word of the LORD is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines; and I will destroy you so that there will be no inhabitant. So the seacoast will be pastures, with caves for shepherds and folds for flocks. And the coast will be for the remnant of the house of Judah, they will pasture on it. In the houses of Ashkelon they will lie down at evening; for the LORD their God will care for them and restore their fortune.

Zephaniah 2:8-9

“I have heard the taunting of Moab and the revilings of the sons of Ammon, with which they have taunted My people and become arrogant against their territory.

Therefore, as I live,” declares the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, “Surely Moab will be like Sodom and the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah —

A place possessed by nettles and salt pits, and a perpetual desolation. The remnant of My people will plunder them and the remainder of My nation will inherit them.”

Zephaniah 2:10-11

This they will have in return for their pride, because they have taunted and become arrogant against the people of the LORD of hosts.

The LORD will be terrifying to them, for He will starve all the gods of the earth; and all the coastlands of the nations will bow down to Him, everyone from his own place.

Zephaniah 2:12-15

You also, O Ethiopians, will be slain by My sword.

And He will stretch out His hand against the north and destroy Assyria, and He will make Nineveh a desolation, parched like the wilderness. Flocks will lie down in her midst, all beasts which range in herds; both the pelican and the hedgehog will lodge in the tops of her pillars; birds will sing in the window, desolation will be on the threshold; for He has laid bare the cedar work. This is the exultant city which dwells securely, who says in her heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me." How she has become a desolation, a resting place for beasts! Everyone who passes by her will hiss and wave his hand in contempt."

Zephaniah 3:8-11

“Therefore wait for Me,” declares the LORD, “For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them My indignation, all My burning anger; for all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal. For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers,
My dispersed ones, will bring My offerings.

In that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds
by which you have rebelled against Me;

for then I will remove from your midst your proud, exulting ones,
and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain.”

Big Idea

God's command that there be no other gods before Him applies to all peoples of all nations, and He will purify the world and His people of all these so-called gods and their worshippers.



LORD of All the Nations

Who are the nations?

Who are the nations?

Philistia



Zephaniah 2:4-5

For Gaza will be abandoned and Ashkelon a desolation;
Ashdod will be driven out at noon and Ekron will be uprooted.

Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast,
the nation of the Cherethites!

The word of the LORD is against you,
O Canaan, land of the Philistines;
and I will destroy you so that there will be no inhabitant.

Zephaniah 2:4-5

For **Gaza** will be abandoned and **Ashkelon** a desolation;
Ashdod will be driven out at noon and **Ekron** will be uprooted.

Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast,
the nation of the Cherethites!
The word of the LORD is against you,
O Canaan, land of the Philistines;
and I will destroy you so that there will be no inhabitant.

Zephaniah 2:4-5

For Gaza will be abandoned **and Ashkelon a desolation;**
Ashdod will be driven out at noon and Ekron will be uprooted.

Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast,

the nation of the Cherethites!

The word of the LORD is against you,

O Canaan, **land of the Philistines;**

and I will destroy you so that there will be no inhabitant.



Who are the nations?

Philistia

Moab and Ammon



Zephaniah 2:8

“I have heard the taunting of Moab and the revilings of the sons of Ammon, with which they have taunted My people and become arrogant against their territory.”

Zephaniah 2:8

“I have heard the taunting of **Moab and** the revilings
of the sons of **Ammon**, with which they have taunted
My people and become arrogant against their territory.”

DIVIDED KINGDOMS AFTER SOLOMON AND OTHER KINGDOMS

- City
- ★ Capital city
- Political boundaries



MEDITERRANEAN SEA



How did these nations come to be?

Genesis 19:36-38

Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father.
The firstborn bore a son, and called his name Moab;
he is the father of the Moabites to this day.

As for the younger, she also bore a son, and called his name
Ben-ammi; he is the father of the sons of Ammon to this day.

Who are the nations?

Philistia

Moab and Ammon

Ethiopia





Zephaniah 2:12

You also, **O Ethiopians**, will be slain by My sword.





Ezekiel 30:4

A sword will come upon Egypt,
And anguish will be in Ethiopia;
When the slain fall in Egypt,
They take away her wealth,
And her foundations are torn down.

Who are the nations?

Philistia

Moab and Ammon

Ethiopia

Assyria

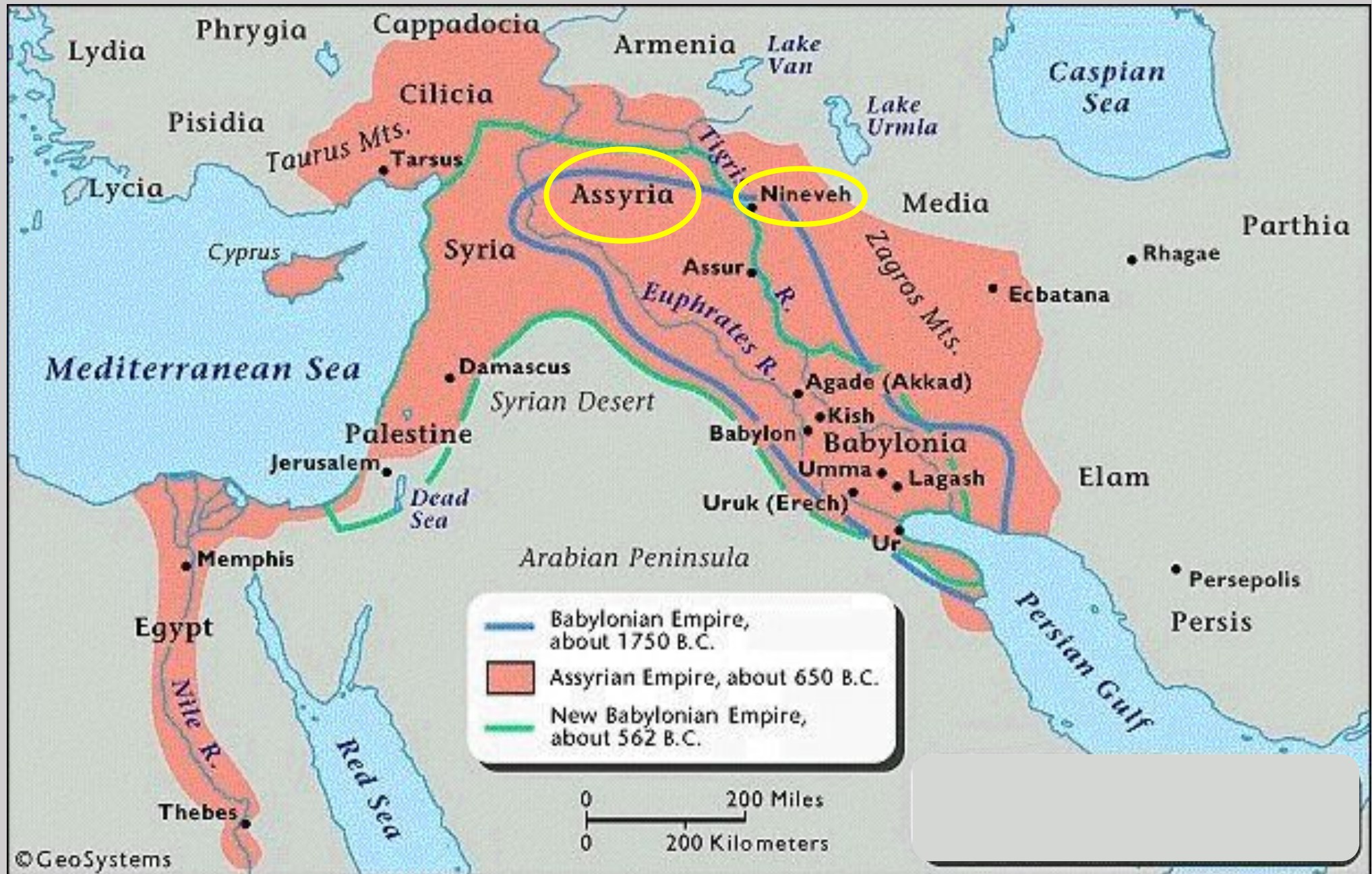
Zephaniah 2:13-15

And He will stretch out His hand against the north
and destroy Assyria, and He will make Nineveh a desolation,
parched like the wilderness.

Zephaniah 2:13-15

And He will stretch out His hand against the north

and destroy **Assyria**, and He will make **Nineveh** a desolation,
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Zephaniah 2:13-15

And He will stretch out His hand against the north

and destroy **Assyria**, and He will make **Nineveh** a desolation,
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Zephaniah 2:13-15

And He will stretch out His hand **against the north**
and destroy Assyria, and He will make Nineveh a desolation,
parched like the wilderness.

Zephaniah works his way geographically west to east, south to north as a way of communicating the universal judgment of God on all the nations of the world.

Yahweh is Lord of lords,
King of kings, and Judge of all!



LORD of All the Nations

Who are the nations?

What was their problem?

What was their problem?

Rejection of God
(Idolatry)



Zephaniah 2:11

The LORD will be terrifying to them,
for He will starve **all the gods of the earth.**

Judges 10:6

Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD,
served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, **the gods** of Aram,
the gods of Sidon, **the gods** of Moab, **the gods** of the sons
of Ammon, and **the gods** of the Philistines;
thus they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him.

Idolatry is a rejection of the LORD!

Zephaniah 2:11

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for He will starve all the gods of the earth.

Judges 10:6

Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD,
served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Aram,
the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the sons
of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines;

thus they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him.

The first of the Ten Words reveals the first and foremost problem among all the nations.

Deuteronomy 5:7

“You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Zephaniah 2:15

[*Nineveh*] is the exultant city which dwells securely,
who says in her heart,

I am, and there is no one besides me.”

Has the problem changed?

Romans 1:21-23

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

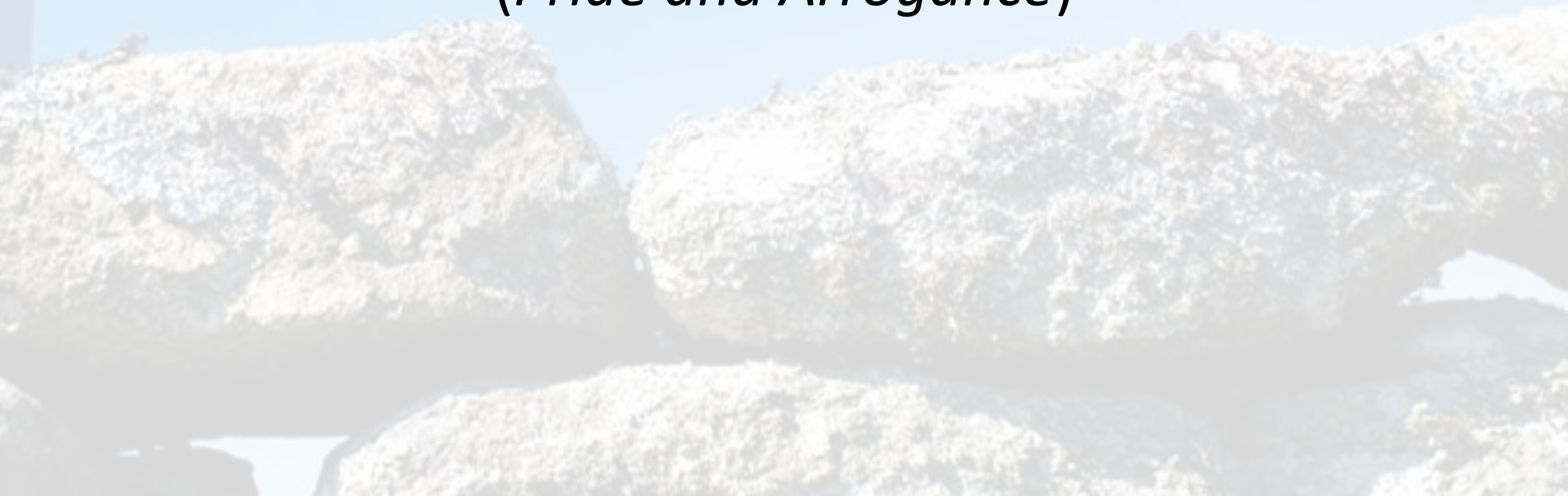
What are the idols of our day?

Because idolatry is pervasive
and because it is subtly deceptive,
we must practice a holy skepticism
toward the world's ways.

What was their problem?

Rejection of God

Rejection of God's people
(Pride and Arrogance)



Zephaniah 2:8

I have heard the taunting of Moab and the revilings of the sons of Ammon, with which they have taunted My people and become arrogant against their territory.

Zephaniah 2:8

I have heard the taunting of Moab and the revilings

of the sons of Ammon, with which **they have taunted**

My people and become arrogant against
their territory.

Zephaniah 2:10

This they will have in return for their pride, because they have taunted and become arrogant against the people of the LORD of hosts.

Zephaniah 2:10

This they will have **in return for their pride**, because
they have taunted and become arrogant against
the people of the LORD of hosts.

Zephaniah 2:10

This they will have in return for their pride, **because**
they have taunted and become
arrogant against
the people of the LORD of hosts.

What about now?

Romans 1:28-31

And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful.



Luke 6:22

Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you,
and insult you, and scorn your name as evil,
for the sake of the Son of Man.

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Though the world may arrogantly
ridicule, scorn, and even attack
Christians, their hatred is really
for God and His gospel.



LORD of All the Nations

Who are the nations?

What was their problem?

What is God's response?

What is God's response?

Purification of the earth



Remember Moses' exhortation to the people?

Deuteronomy 17:7 and others

So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

The people didn't do this,
but the LORD will!

Zephaniah 1:2-3

“I will completely remove all things
From the face of the earth,” declares the LORD.

I will remove man and beast;

I will remove the birds of the sky

And the fish of the sea,

And the ruins along with the wicked;

And I will cut off man from the face of the earth,”
declares the LORD.

Zephaniah 2:4-5

For Gaza will be abandoned and Ashkelon a desolation;
Ashdod will be driven out at noon and Ekron will be uprooted.
Woe to the inhabitants of the seacoast, the nation of the
Cherethites! The word of the LORD is against you,
O Canaan, land of the Philistines;
and I will destroy you so that there will be no inhabitant.

Zephaniah 2:9

Therefore, as I live,” declares the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, “Surely Moab will be like Sodom and the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah —
A place possessed by nettles and salt pits,
and a perpetual desolation.”

Zephaniah 2:13

And He will stretch out His hand against the north
and destroy Assyria, and He will make Nineveh a desolation,
parched like the wilderness.

Zephaniah 3:8-9

“Therefore wait for Me,” declares the LORD,
“For the day when I rise up as a witness.
Indeed, My decision is to gather nations,
to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them
My indignation, all My burning anger;
for all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal.”

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“Therefore wait for Me,” declares the LORD,
“For the day when I rise up as a witness.
Indeed, My decision is to gather nations,
to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them
My indignation, all My burning anger;

for **all the earth will be devoured
by the fire of My zeal.”**

The earth is the LORD's and all
that is in it, and He will purge
it of all its wickedness.

What is God's response?

Purification of the earth

Purification of His people



Zephaniah 3:9-11

For then I will give to the peoples purified lips,
that all of them may call on the name of the LORD,
to serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers,
My dispersed ones, will bring My offerings.

In that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds
by which you have rebelled against Me; for then
I will remove from your midst your proud, exulting ones,
and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain.

He will purge the evil from their midst!

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that all of them may call on the name of the LORD,
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From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers,
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In that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds
by which you have rebelled against Me; for then

I will remove from your midst your proud, exulting ones,

and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain.

He will purify His people

Zephaniah 3:9-11

For then **I will give to the peoples purified lips,**

that all of them may call on the name of the LORD,
to serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers,
My dispersed ones, will bring My offerings.

In that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds
by which you have rebelled against Me; for then
I will remove from your midst your proud, exulting ones,
and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain.

He will fit them for worship

Zephaniah 3:9-11

For then **I will give to the peoples purified lips,**

that all of them may call on the name of the LORD,
to serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers,

My dispersed ones, will bring My offerings.

In that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds
by which you have rebelled against Me; for then

I will remove from your midst your proud, exulting ones,
and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain.

He will forgive and cleanse them

Zephaniah 3:9-11

For then I will give to the peoples purified lips,
that all of them may call on the name of the LORD,
to serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers,
My dispersed ones, will bring My offerings.

In that day you will feel no shame because of all your deeds

by which you have rebelled against Me; for then
I will remove from your midst your proud, exulting ones,
and you will never again be haughty on My holy mountain.

How will He do this?

Titus 2:13-14

Christ Jesus...gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Christ *has* purified His people
and *is* purifying His people!



LORD of All the Nations

Who are the nations?

What was their problem?

What is God's response?

What is our response now?

What is our response now?
Call on the name of the Lord!



Zephaniah 3:9

“For then I will give to the peoples purified lips,
that all of them may **call on the name of the LORD...**”

Romans 10:12-13

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;
for the same Lord is Lord of all,
abounding in riches for all who call on Him;
for *“whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

Zephaniah 3:9

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that all of them may call on the name of the LORD...”

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Call on the LORD!

Zephaniah 3:9

“For then I will give to the peoples purified lips,
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Romans 10:12-13

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;
for the same Lord is Lord of all,
abounding in riches for all who call on Him;

for “***whoever will call on the name
of the Lord will be saved.***”

What is our response now?

Call on the name of the Lord!

Gather



Zephaniah 2:1 and 3

Gather yourselves together, yes, gather...

What should we do when we gather?

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth
who have carried out His ordinances;
Seek righteousness, **seek** humility.

What is our response now?

Call on the name of the Lord!

Gather

Go

Matthew 28:19-20

GO therefore and **make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Conclusion:

Are you calling on the name of the
Lord, Jesus Christ?

Are you gathering with your church
to humble yourself and seek Him?

Are you going?