Zephaniah 3:1-8

Chapter 3 returns to focus on the city of Jerusalem and the nation of Judah.

Zephaniah 3:1 – "Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, the oppressing city!"

3238 [e]		5892 [e]		1351 [e]	4754 [e]	1945 [e]
hay·yō·w·nāh.		hā·'îr		wə∙niğ∙'ā∙lāh;	mō·rə·'āh	hō∙w
הַיּוֹנֶה:	!	הָּנְץִיר	•	וְנִגְאָלֶה	מֹרָאָה	1 קוֹי
oppressing		the to city		and polluted	to her who is rebellious	Woe
Art V-Qal-Prtcpl-fs		Art N-fs		Conj-w V-Nifal-Prtcpl-fs	V-Qal-Prtcpl-fs	Interjection

- 1. Jerusalem ("Her") is identified with three words:
 - a. Rebellious moreah /maw-raw/ "flap" as in flap wings
 - i. Job 39:18 "When she lifts herself on high..."
 - ii. Zephaniah 3:1
 - iii. This is in reference to rebelling against the Lord.
 - b. Polluted wenigalah /we-nig-aw-lah/ "to defile"
 - i. Ezra 2:62 "they could not be located; therefore <u>they were considered unclean</u> and excluded from the priesthood"
 - ii. Isaiah 59:3 "For your hands <u>are defiled</u> with blood..."
 - iii. Daniel 1:8 "in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion"
 - iv. Violating Law both morally and legally
 - c. Oppressing hayyownah /hay-yo-yaw-naw/ "to oppress", "maltreat", "suppress", "repress". In the NAS translation this is translated "the defiled, *The tyrannical* city!"
 - i. Exodus 22:21 "You shall not wrong a stranger"
 - ii. Psalm 74:8 "Let us completely *subdue* them"
 - iii. Ezekiel 18:12 "oppresses the poor and needy...."
 - iv. Ezekiel 22:7 "and the widow they have wronged in you."
 - v. These are people who disregard the rights of the por, the orphans and the widows

3:2 – "She listens to no voice; she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD; she does not draw near to her God."



7126 [e] qā·rê· bāh.	3808 [e] lō	430 [e] 'ĕ·lō·he·hā	413 [e] 'el-	982 [e] bā·ṭā·ḥāh,	3808 [e] lō
- קַרֶבָה:	לָא	אֱלֹהֶיהָ	-אֶל		לָא
she has drawn near	not	her God	to	she has trusted	not
V-Qal-Perf-3fs	Adv-NegPrt	N-mpc 3fs	Prep	V-Qal-Perf-3fs	Adv-NegPrt

- 1. Three charges against Jerusalem:
 - a. She obeyed no one (including the Lord
 - b. She did not trust the Lord
 - c. She did not draw near to the Lord
 - i. The Lord could provide correction and direction
- 3:3- "Her officials within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave nothing till the morning."
- 3:4 "Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men; her priests profane what is holy; they do violence to the law."

lab·bō·ger. gā·rə·mū till morning that leave a bone Prep-I, Art | N-ms V-Qal-Perf-3cp 6944 [e] 2490 [e] 3548 [e] 900 [e] 582 [e] 6348 [e] 5030 [e] hil·lə·lū- kō·hă·ne·hā bō·gə·dō·wt; qō·deš, 'an·šê pō ha zîm, nə·bî·'e·hā בַּגַדְוֹת the sanctuary have polluted treacherous insolent Her prophets are Her priests people V-Piel-Perf-3cp N-ms N-mpc | 3fs N-fp N-mpc V-Qal-Prtcpl-mp N-mpc | 3fs

8451 [e] 2554 [e] tō·w·rāh. ḥā·mə·sū

. :תְּלֶקְהָ

the law they have done violence to

N-fs V-Qal-Perf-3cp

1242 [e]

1633 [e]

- 1. Four classes of leaders are identified to refer to the whole of the city's leadership:
 - a. Officials" sarim the royal leaders
 - i. Called "roaring lions"
 - 1. Lions were used to characterize the kings and royalty of nations like Assyria and Judah and others
 - ii. These should be characterized by their justice and equity
 - iii. Instead they are known for their greed and avarice
 - b. "Rulers" soptim civil magistrates

- i. Identified as "evening wolves whol leave nothing for the morning"
 - 1. These men are predatory
 - 2. These men are beast-like
 - 3. These men are a match for the fourth generation identified in Proverbs 30:14:

"those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives to devour the poor from the earth and the needy from among mankind."

- ii. These should set a public example of service for the rest of society
- c. "Prophets nebieyha
 - i. Identified as:
 - 1. Arrogant, insolent pachaz /paw-khaz/ "wanton", "reckless"
 - a. Used in Judges 9:4 alongside "worthless" as "worthless and reckless fellows"
 - 2. Treacherous bohgedoth most likely because they had turned on the Lord who had sent them. They had spoken treacherously against the Lord they should have served faithfully.
- d. "Priests" kohaneyha the religious leaders of the religious institutions
 - i. Two identifiers:
 - 1. Profane the sanctuary
 - 2. Violate the Law
 - ii. Their original purpose was to:
 - 1. Honorably officiate in the sanctuary upholding the meaning of the rituals
 - 2. Interpret and teach the Law

3:5 – "The LORD within her is righteous; he does no injustice; every morning he shows forth his justice; each dawn he does not fail; but the unjust knows no shame."

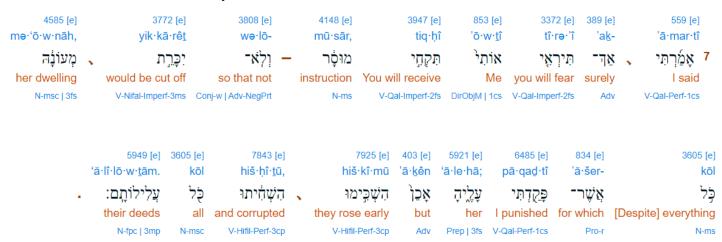
4941 [e] mi š·pā· ţōw	1242 [e] bab·bō·qer	1242 [e] bab·bō·qer		5766 [e] aw·lāh;	6213 [e] ya·'ă·śeh	3808 [e] lō	7130 [e] bə·qir·bāh,		3068 [e] Yah·weh
מִשְׁפָּטוֹ His justice	בַּבֿקֶר every	morning בַּבַּקר	unrighteo	עַוְלֵּה usness	יַעֲשֶׂה He will do	לָא no	בְּקְרְבָּה in her midst	צַדִּיקׂ righteous	יְהְוָהָ 5 Yahweh [is]
N-msc 3ms	Prep-b, Art N-ms	Prep-b, Art N-ms		N-fs V-	Qal-Imperf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt	Prep-b N-msc 3fs	Adj-ms	N-proper-ms
	1322 bō·š		3045 [e] yō·w·dê·a'		808 [e] v ə·lō-	5737 [e] ne'·dār,	3808 [e] Tō	216 [e] lā·'ō·wr	5414 [e] yit·tên
	. : "ע shar	עַוּל בְּיֹ ne the uniust	יוֹבֶעַ knows		וְלְאׁ־ out no	נְעְלָּר – He fails	ר לְאָׁ never	לָאוֹר to light	וֹתָּן: He brings
		I-fs N-ms	V-Qal-Prtcpl-ms			I-Perf-3ms	Adv-NegPrt	0	V-Qal-Imperf-3ms

- 1. Opposite the leadership of the city the Lord's character is total opposite:
 - a. He is within the city
 - b. He is righteous
 - c. He does no injustice
 - d. Consistent and faithful every day to act in justice
 - e. He does not fail

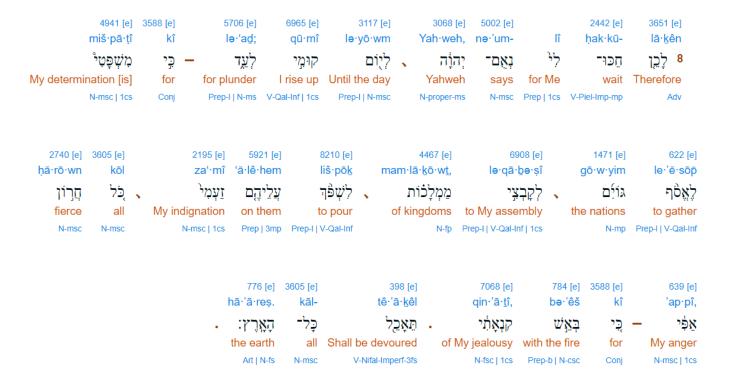
- 2. His leadership who serve his people is totally the opposite
 - a. They are unjust
 - b. They have no shame for the way they are
 - i. They are so ignorant and unaware of the Lord's presence they cannot even understand how embarrassing they are.
 - ii. Similar to the wrong self evaluation of Laodicea
- 3:6-"I have cut off nations; their battlements are in ruins; I have laid waste their streets so that no one walks in them; their cities have been made desolate, without a man, without an inhabitant.



- 1. All around Jerusalem God has laid waste the rebellious nations, yet Jerusalem does not understand
- 3:7 "I said, 'Surely you will fear me; you will accept correction. Then your dwelling would not be cut off according to all that I have appointed against you.' But all the more they were eager to make all their deeds corrupt."



3:8 – "Therefore wait for me," declares the LORD, "for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed."



- 1. Interestingly the Lord does not refer to the judgment coming on Jerusalem...it is assumed and identified in chapter one
- 2. The Lord instead refers to the restoration and tells the faithful to wait for him when he rises against the nations and restores Israel.
- 3. Instead of "coming for prey" the Masoretic text says the Lord is "coming to testify"
 - a. As in: "Therefore: Wait for me, declares Yahweh, for the Day when I rise to testify. For my determination is to gather nations to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them my fury – all my burning wrath. For in the fire of my jealousy all the earth will be consumed."