

1:1

[1] (the) word of YHWH which **was** to Zephaniah ["YHWH has **hidden**"]
 [2-5] **son** of Cushi, **son** of Gedaliah, **son** of Amariah, **son** of Hezekiah,
 in (the) **days** of Josiah,
 [6-7] **son** of Amon, **king** of Judah
 [1-2] **to remove**, I **will remove** everything from upon (the) faces of the earth –
 [3] **(is)** (the) utterance of YHWH
 [4-5] I **will remove** **man** and **beast**
 [6-7] I **will remove** (the) **bird** of the heavens and (the) **fish** of the sea
 [8] and the **stumbling-blocks** with the wicked
 [9] and I **will cut off** the man from upon (the) faces of the earth
 [10] **(is)** (the) utterance of YHWH
 [1] and I **will stretch out** My hand over Judah –
 [8] and over all the, (those) **inhabiting** Jerusalem –
 [2-3] and I **will cut off** from the **place**, the **that** –
 [9] the **remnant** of Baal,
 [10] (the) **name** of the **[idol]** priests with the priests
 [1] and the, (those) **bowing** upon the roofs to (the) host of the
 heavens
 [2] and the, (those) **bowing**,
 [3] the, (those) **swearing** to YHWH
 [4] and the, (those) **swearing** by Milcom [*or, "by their king"*]
 [5] and the, (those) **turning back** from after YHWH
 [6] and which, they **do not seek** YHWH
 [7] and they **do not inquire** of Him
 [8-9] (**let there be**) silence from before my **Lord, YHWH!**
 [10] for near **(is)** (the) **day** of YHWH
 [4] for (there) **has prepared**, YHWH, a sacrifice
 [5] He **has consecrated** –
 [1] His, (those) **being called**
 [2] and it **will be**, in (the) **day** of (the) sacrifice of YHWH –
 [6] and I **will punish** –
 [3-4] upon the **chiefs** and upon (the) **sons** of the king
 [5-6] and upon all the, (those) **wearing attire**, **foreign**
 [7] and I **will punish** –
 [7-8] over every, the, (him) **leaping** over the threshold in (the) **day**,
 the **that**
 [9-10] the, (those) **filling** (the) house of their masters (with) **violence**
 and **deceit**

--- minor paragraph break¹ ---

120 element reflection

This is a translation and a study of the Book of Zephaniah. This work presents the possible presence of a literary numbering system in Zephaniah. Following the PebbleCounting hypothesis, this numbering system appears to be inherent in the Ancient Hebrew and consistently used throughout Zephaniah, as it is in other books of Scripture.

This study is freely available at www.pebblecounting.com, along with studies/translations of other books of Scripture. If you haven't had a chance, the "Intro to PebbleCounting" PDFs are a good place to begin. © Steve, 2026. Update: August 5, 2026.

Zephaniah's name means "YHWH has hidden." A reflection point may exist at the center of a 240-element span that encompasses 1:1–3:8. At the reflection point (2:3), Zephaniah casts a vision for the meek of the earth, to seek the Lord and to be "hidden" from God's wrath in the day of judgment. This is Zephaniah's vision for a path through the coming adversity – an adversity that has proximate relevance for Ancient Israel, but ultimate relevance for the global community (so, 3:8).

In comparison, see Daniel 10:4 and the comments about the measure 240 as a measure for vision (end of Daniel study, table and comments). See also the possibility of the same measure as a measure for vision, Esther 10. Here in Zephaniah, the measure is divided into 120-fold reflections.

This major section sets the stage for what follows: the Lord turning back the hearts of His people and delivering them from judgment. See the comments and literary measure from this turning point, at the end of the study.

- [1-] and (there) **will be**, in (the) **day**, the **that** –
 [8] **(is)** (the) utterance of YHWH
 [-2] a voice of outcry from (the) gate of the fish
 [3] and a **howl** from the second-quarter
 [4-5] and a **crash**, **great**, from the hills!
 [6-7] (you) **howl**, (you), **inhabiting** the Mortar
 [8] because (there) **are undone**, all (the) people of Canaan
 [9-10] (there) **are cut off**, all (those **being**) laden with silver
 [1-2] and it **will be**, in (the) **time**, the **that** –
 [9] I **will search out** Jerusalem with lamps
 [10] and I **will punish** –
 [3-4] over the **men**, the, (**those**) **congealing** over their wine-dregs
 [5] the, (**those**) **saying** in their heart
 [1-2] (there) **will not do good**, YHWH; and He **will not do harm**
 [1-2] and (there) **will become**, their **wealth**, to **spoil**
 [3-4] and their **houses**, to a **desolation**
 [5-6] and they **will build houses**, and they **will not inhabit**
 [7-8] and they **will plant** vineyards, and they **will not drink** their wine
 [9-10] near **(is)** (the) **day** of YHWH, the **great**!
 [1] (it **is**) near
 [2-3] and **to hasten**, **very**!
 [4] (the) sound of (the) **day** of YHWH **(is)** bitter
 [5] (there **is**) **crying out**, there, (the) mighty-man
 [1-2] a **day** of wrath **(is)** the **day**, the **that**
 [3-4] a **day** of **distress** and **anguish**
 [5-6] a **day** of **devastation** and **desolation**
 [7-8] a **day** of **darkness** and **gloominess**
 [9-10] a **day** of **cloud** and **thick-darkness**
 [1] a **day** of trumpet-blast
 [2-3] and a shout upon the **cities**, the **inaccessible**
 [4-5] and upon the **corners** [*battlements*], the **high**
 [3] and I **will cause distress** to mankind
 [1] and they **will go**, as blind
 [2] because toward YHWH, they **have sinned**
 [3] and (there) **shall be poured out**, their **blood**, like dust
 [4] and their **flesh**, like dung [*balls*]

[5-6] also their silver, also their gold, will not be able, to deliver them
 in (the) day of (the) wrath of YHWH
 [7] and in (the) fire of His jealousy, (there) will be eaten [consumed],
 all the earth
 [8] because a complete-destruction –
 [9] surely, (it) being terrifying –
 [4] He will make –
 [10] all (the), (those) inhabiting the earth

1:18

--- minor paragraph break² ---

[1-2] (you) gather yourselves –
 [3-4] yes, (you) gather, O nation, not being ashamed
 [5] from before (there), to give birth, a decree
 [6] as chaff, (there) passes by, (the) day
 [7] from before (there) comes upon you, (the) fury of (the) wrath of YHWH
 [8] from before (there) comes upon you, (the) day of (the) wrath of
 YHWH!

2:1

[9-10] (you) seek YHWH, all [you] meek of the earth –

[1] which, His judgment, they do –

[2-3] seek righteousness; seek meekness

[4] perhaps you will be hidden in (the) day of (the) anger of YHWH

[5] for Gaza, being forsaken, will be

[6-7] and Ashkelon (will become), to a desolation

[8-9] Ashdod – at noontimes, they will drive her out

[10] and Ekron will be uprooted

--- minor paragraph break³ ---

[1-2] woe (be) (to) (you), inhabiting (the) region of the sea, [O] nation
 of (the) Cherethites

[3-5] (the) word of YHWH (is) against you, [O] Canaan, land of (the)
 Philistines

[5] and I will destroy you

[6] until there is not, (he) inhabiting

[7-8] and (there) will become, (the) region of the sea, pastures

[9] of shelters of (those) shepherding

[10] and sheepfolds of sheep

[1] and (there) will be [belong], (the) region, to (the) remnants of
 (the) house of Judah

[2] upon them, they will graze

[3] in (the) houses of Ashkelon, at evening, they will lie down

120 element reflection

120 element reflection

- [1-2] because (there) **has visited** them, **YHWH**, their **God**
 [3] and He **has turned back** their captivity
 [4-5] I **have heard** (the) **taunt** of Moab and (the) **revilings** of (the) sons of Ammon
 [4] which, they **have taunted** My people
 [5] and **have made magnified** against their border
 [1-3] to thus – alive (**am**) I [*as I live*] – (**is**) (the) utterance of **YHWH, Hosts**, (the) **God** of Israel, that –
 [6] **Moab**, like Sodom, **will be**
 [7] and (the) **sons** of Ammon, like Gomorrah
 [8-9] a **possession** of (the) nettle, and a **pit** of salt
 [10] and a **desolation** as far as, **everlasting**
 [1] (the) remnant of My people **will plunder** them
 [2] and (the) remainder of My nation **will possess** them
 [3] this (**will be**) for them, instead of their pride
 [4-5] because they **have taunted** and **boasted** against (the) people of **YHWH, Hosts!**
 [4] **being** dreadful, (there **will be**), **YHWH** upon them
 [5] for He **will make famished**, all (the) gods of the earth
 [1-2] and (there) **will prostrate themselves** to Him – a man, from his place – all (the) **coastlands** of the nations
 [3-4] also **you**, [O] **Cushites** –
 [5] (the) slain of My sword, **they (will be)**
 [6] and **let** (Him) **will stretch out** His hand upon (the) north
 [7] and **let** (Him) **destroy** Assyria
 [8] and **let** (Him) **make Nineveh** –
 [1-2] to a **desolation**; a **waste**, like wilderness
 [3] and (there) **will lie down** in her midst, **flocks**
 [4] (the) **beast** of every nation
 [5-6] also (the) **pelican**, also (the) **hedgehog**, among her capitals, **will lodge**
 [7] a voice **sings** [*hoots*] in a window
 [8] drought (**will be**) on (the) threshold
 [9] because (the) cedar-work **is laid bare**
 [10] this (**is**) the **city** –
 [1-2] the **exultant**, the, (**she**) **dwelling** in security –
 [3] the, (**she**) **saying** in her heart
 [4] I (**am**)
 [5] and my end (**is**) still [*there is none besides me*]!

[1-2] how **she has become**, to a **desolation**
 [3] a **lair** for (the) beast
 [4-5] everyone **passing by**, upon her, **will whistle**
 [6] he **will shake** his hand [*fist*]

2:15

--- minor paragraph break⁴ ---

[7-8] woe (**be**) (to) (her), **rebell**
 [9] and (to) (her), **being defiled**
 [10] the **city** –

3:1

[1] the, (**she**) **oppressing**!
 [2] she **does not listen** at a voice
 [3] she **does not accept** discipline
 [4] in YHWH, she **does not trust**
 [5] to her God, she **does not draw near**

[1-2] her officials in her midst (**are**) lions, of **roaring**
 [3-4] her, (those) **judging**, (**are**) wolves of **evening**
 [5] they **do not reserve**, to **morning**

[1-2] her prophets, **being reckless**, (**are**) men of treacheries
 [3] her priests **profane** (the) holy
 [4] they **do violence** (to) (the) law

[9] YHWH (**is**) righteous in her midst

[10] He **does not do** iniquity

[1-2] in (the) **morning**, in (the) **morning**, His judgment, He **gives**

[3] to light [*daylight*], (He **is**) **not failing**

[5] and [*yet*] (there) **is not knowing**, (the) unjust, shame

[4] I **have cut off** nations

[1] (there) **are desolate**, their corners [*battlements*]

[5] I **have dried up**, their streets

[2] from want of, (him) **passing through**

[3] (there) **are laid waste**, their cities, from want of a man

[4] from, **there is not**, (he) **inhabiting**

[6] I **have said**

[5] surely, you **will fear** Me!

[6] you **will accept** discipline

[7] and (there) **will not be cut off**, her habitation –

[7] all which I **have appointed** against her

[8-9] however, they **rose early**, they **corrupted** all their deeds!

[10] to thus, **wait** for Me –

[8] (**is**) (the) utterance of YHWH –

[9] for (the) **day** of My, **to arise** for prey

120 element reflection

[10] for My judgment (is) to gather nations –

[1-2] My, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them:

[1-2] My indignation, all (the) fury of My anger

[3] because in (the) fire of My jealousy, (there) will be eaten [consumed],
all the earth!



[3-4] for then, I will turn about, to peoples, a speech [lip], pure

[4] to call – all of them – upon (the) name of YHWH

[5] to serve Him (with) a shoulder, one

[6-7] from beyond to (the) rivers of Cush, My worshippers – (the) daughter
of My, (those) being scattered – will bring My offering

[8-9] in (the) day, the that, you will not be ashamed from all your deeds

[10] which, you have rebelled against Me

[5] for then, I will turn aside from your midst, (the) exultant [people] of your pride

[1-2] and you will not do again, to be haughty, still, in (the) mountain of
My holiness

[6] and I will leave in your midst a people –

[3-4] humble and lowly

[5] and they will take refuge in (the) name of YHWH

[6] (the) remnant of Israel will not do iniquity

[7] and they will not speak falsehood

[8] and (there) will not be found in their mouth, a tongue of deceit

[9-10] because they will pasture and will lie down

[1] and there will not be, (he) terrifying

--- minor paragraph break⁵ ---

[2-3] (you) sing-for-joy, [O] daughter of Zion!

[4-5] (you) shout, [O] Israel

[6-7] (you) rejoice and exult with all (the) heart, [O] daughter of Jerusalem

[7] (there) has turned aside, YHWH, your judgments

[8] He has turned away your enemy

[9-10] (the) King of Israel, YHWH, (is) in your midst

[8] you will not fear evil again

[9-10] in (the) day, the that, (there) will be said to Jerusalem

[1] let (there) not fear, [O] Zion

[2-3] let (there) not droop, your hands (two)

[1-2] YHWH, your God, (is) in your midst,
 [3] mighty
 [4] He will deliver
 [5] He will rejoice over you with joy
 [6] He will make quiet in His love
 [7] He will exult over you with a joyful-shout
 [4] (those) being grieved –
 [8] from (the) appointed-time, I will gather from you
 [5-6] they will become a gift upon her –
 [7] (the) reproach –
 [9-] behold, I (am) dealing (with) –
 [8] all (those) oppressing you –
 [-10] in (the) time, the that
 [1] and I will deliver –
 [9] the, (her) limping
 [10] and the, (her) being banished –
 [2] I will gather
 [3] and I will set them –
 [1-2] to a praise and to a name in all the land –
 [3] their shame –
 [4-5] at (the) time, the that, I will bring you
 [6] and at (the) time (of) My, to gather you
 [7] because I will make you –
 [4-5] to a name and to a praise among all peoples of the earth
 [8-9] in My, to turn back your captivities before your eyes (two) –
 [10] (there) has said, YHWH

3:20

Zephaniah may feature a 70-fold literary time conversion value, using the values observed elsewhere in Scripture:

(20x) "day"	→	20-fold
(1x) "days"	→	3-fold
(4x) "times"	→	40-fold
(1x) "appointed-time"	→	1-fold
(1x) "noontimes"	→	1.5-fold
(2x) "evening"	→	1.0-fold
(3x) "morning"	→	1.5-fold
Literary (2x) "daylight"*	→	2-fold
Total:		70-fold

*The word "daylight" ("light") is placed in relation to the doubled instance of "in (the) morning, in (the) morning" (3:5). It appears Zephaniah intended for the literary conversion of "daylight," which is valued at 1.0 here (like "day"), to be doubled by literary design. See a similar finding at Mark 6:40, where special numbers 50 and 100 are doubled by literary design.

If this finding is accurately modeled, the 70-fold is divided about the same doubled value for "daylight" at 3:5. This device is the mirroring point for the 70-fold time conversion value.

If this finding is accurately modeled, the 70-fold time conversion value also corresponds with the 70-fold literary measure shown in gold, which encompasses God's "turning about" and restoring His people from the times of judgment. Where a 70-fold of judgment may be on the near horizon, a 70-fold reflection of mercy will follow.