


# unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

v92

**Zephaniah**

*unfoldingWord® Translation Questions*

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# unfoldingWord® Translation Questions

# Zephaniah

## Zephaniah 1

### Zephaniah 1:3

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *“I will take away man and beast; I will take away the birds of the skies and the fish of the sea and the stumbling blocks with the wicked, and I will cut off man from upon the face of the ground” —the declaration of Yahweh.* | *Yahweh says, “I am going to destroy the people and animals that live on the earth. I am going to destroy the birds that fly in the sky and the fish that swim in the sea. I am going to destroy the idols that represent false gods, and I am going to destroy the people who worship those idols. I will do this so that there will not be wicked people on the earth.* |

**What did Yahweh say he would do to man, beast, the birds of the skies, and the fish of the sea?**

God said He would destroy them and cut them off.

### Zephaniah 1:4

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *“And I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all of the ones living in Jerusalem, and I will cut off from this place the remnant of Baal, the name of the idol-priests with the priests,* | *I am going to punish the people who live in the city of Jerusalem and in other places in the kingdom of Judah. I am going to destroy everything in Jerusalem that is related to the worship of the false god Baal. No one will even remember that there used to be priests of Baal in Jerusalem. And no one will remember the priests descended from Aaron who helped people worship Baal.* |

**Yahweh said he would cut off every remnant of a certain false god. What false god did he name?**

He would cut off every remnant of Baal.

## Zephaniah 1:5

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *and the ones bowing down on the housetops to the army of the skies, and the ones bowing down, swearing to Yahweh but swearing by their king,* | *I am going to punish the people who have been going up onto the flat roofs of their houses in order to worship the sun, moon, and stars. I am also going to punish the people who claim to worship me but who swear oaths in the name of the false god Milcom.* |

**People were going up onto their housetops and bowing down to something. What was it?**

The ones on the housetops worship the heavenly bodies.

## Zephaniah 1:7

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *Hush from the face of Lord Yahweh, for the day of Yahweh is near. For Yahweh has prepared a sacrifice, he has sanctified his invited ones.* | *Yahweh is the God whom you should worship. Soon he will judge and punish people, so show your respect for him by keeping quiet. Be respectful, because Yahweh is getting ready to destroy the people of Judah. He has decided to allow the enemies of Judah to come and destroy them.* |

**What did Zephaniah tell the people to do in the presence (face) of Yahweh?**

They were to be silent in the presence of Yahweh.

## Zephaniah 1:9

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *and on that day I will visit upon all the ones leaping over the threshold, the ones filling the house of their lords with violence and fraud.* | *At that time, I will punish all the officials who force their way into people's homes and take away what they own in order to make themselves rich."* |

**What were the people doing whom Yahweh said he would "visit" (punish)?**

Yahweh will punish the princes and the king's sons, everyone dressed in foreign clothes, those who leap over the door sill, and those who fill their master's house with violence and deceit.

## Zephaniah 1:10

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *And it will happen on that day" —the declaration of Yahweh— "the sound of a cry from the Fish Gate and a wailing from the Second District and a great ruin from the hills.* | *Yahweh also says, "At the time when I destroy the kingdom of Judah, people will cry out in distress at the Fish Gate of Jerusalem. People will wail with sorrow in the Second Quarter of the city. People will hear a loud crash of buildings collapsing in the towns on the hills that surround the city.* |

**What sounds did Yahweh say would come up from the Fish Gate and the Second Quarter?**

A cry of distress, and wailing will come in that day.

## Zephaniah 1:11

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *Wail, inhabitants of the Maktesh, for all of the people of Canaan will be destroyed, all of the ones weighing silver will be cut off.* | *Your enemies are going to slaughter all those who buy and sell goods for money, so all you people who live in the market area of Jerusalem should wail.* |

**What did Yahweh say would happen to the "people of Canaan" (merchants)?**

They will be ruined, and all those who are weighed down with silver will be cut off.

## Zephaniah 1:12

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *And it will happen at that time, I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will visit upon the men thickening on their sediment, the ones saying in their heart, 'Yahweh will not do good, and he will not do bad,'* | *At that time, it will be as if I light lanterns and search even in the darkest places in Jerusalem to find wicked people and punish them. I am going to punish the people who do not even care that they are doing wicked things. They wrongly think that I, Yahweh, do not make people experience the consequences of their actions.* |

**What were some of the people saying about Yahweh?**

They said, "Yahweh will not do anything, either good or evil!"

## Zephaniah 1:14

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *The great day of Yahweh is near, near and hastening quickly! The sound of the day of Yahweh is bitter; the warrior cries out then!* | *It will soon be the terrible time when I, Yahweh, destroy the people who have sinned against me. Yes, I am going to do that very soon. The people of Judah will cry out in sorrow at that time. Then even the strong soldiers who are trying to defend them will wail in despair.* |

**Who will cry out on the great day of Yahweh?**

The great day of Yahweh will be a day of fury, anguish, and darkness.

## Zephaniah 1:17

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *For I will bring distress to man, and they will walk like the blind, for they have sinned against Yahweh. And their blood will be poured out like dust, and their innards like dung.* | *Because you have sinned against me, Yahweh, I am going to cause you people of Judah to suffer greatly. As I told the Israelites would happen if they sinned against me, 'You will wander around, not knowing where to go, as if you were blind.' Your enemies will stab you with their weapons so that your blood and your insides pour out in great quantities.* |

**What will happen to the blood and innards of people who have sinned against Yahweh?**

Those who have sinned against God.

## Zephaniah 1:18

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *Even their silver, even their gold, will not be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of Yahweh." For in the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed. For he will make all of the inhabitants of the earth a consummation, indeed, a hastened one.* | *At the time when I, Yahweh, show how angry I am with you, you will not be able to save yourselves by giving silver or gold to your enemies." Because Yahweh is very angry that people have worshiped false gods, he is going to destroy wicked people all over the world. Indeed, he is soon going to destroy wicked people no matter where they live in the world.* |

**What will not be able to deliver people from the wrath of Yahweh?**

Their silver and their gold will not be able to save them.

# Zephaniah 2

## Zephaniah 2:3

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *Seek Yahweh, all the humble of the earth who do his justice. Seek righteousness. Seek humility. Perhaps you will be hidden on the day of the nose of Yahweh.* | *All of you people in Judah who are willing to humble yourselves, worship Yahweh and obey what he has commanded. Try to do what is right and make sure that you stay humble. If you do that, perhaps Yahweh will protect you when he punishes other people for their sins.* |

**Zephaniah says that people may be spared (hidden from) Yahweh's anger if they do something. What should they do?**

The people must seek righteousness and humility to avoid Yahweh's wrath.

## Zephaniah 2:4

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *For Gaza will become abandoned, and Ashkelon a ruin. Ashdod, they will expel her at noon, and Ekron will be uprooted.* | *When Yahweh punishes the Philistines, the cities of Gaza and Ashkelon will lose all of their inhabitants. An army will attack the city of Ashdod in broad daylight and drive away all of its people. An army will also drive away the people of the city of Ekron.* |

**What will happen to the cities of Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and Ekron?**

All peoples who will not heed the warning of Yahweh will be uprooted and destroyed.

## Zephaniah 2:9

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *Therefore, as I am alive"— the declaration of Yahweh of Armies, the God of Israel— "that Moab will become like Sodom, and the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah, a possession of the nettle and the pit of salt and a ruin forever. The remnant of my people will plunder them, and the remainder of my nation will occupy them."* | |

**What two cities will Moab and the sons of Ammon become like?**

Moab will become like Sodom, and the people of Ammon like Gomorrah.

## Zephaniah 2:14

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *And herds will lie down in its midst, every animal of the nation. Both the desert owl and the screech owl will lodge on its columns. A call will hoot in the window; devastation will be in the threshold, for the cedar-work will be bare.* | *Groups of many different kinds of wild animals will live where Nineveh used to be. Various kinds of owls will make their nests on top of the columns of its destroyed buildings. Those owls will sometimes perch on the sills of empty windows and hoot. Rubble will block the doorways. Rain and sunlight will ruin the valuable cedar wood that the Assyrians used to build their buildings.* |

**What kind of birds will nest in the top of Assyria's columns?**

Owls will nest in the tops of Assyria's pillars.

## Zephaniah 2:15

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *This is the exultant city, the one dwelling in security, the one saying in its heart, "I am, and besides me there is not another." How it has become a ruin, a lair for the beast! Every one passing by will hiss at it; he will shake his fist.* | *The people of Nineveh used to be proud. They thought that no other country could conquer them. They said to each other, "Our city is the greatest city! No other city is as great as ours!" But an enemy army will completely destroy Nineveh. It will become a place where wild animals make their dens. People who go by that area will often make hissing sounds and shake their fists to show how much they hated that city.* |

**What will people do who pass by "the exultant city" (Nineveh)?**

The exultant city will become a horror, a place for beasts to lie down in.

# Zephaniah 3

## Zephaniah 3:3

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *Her princes are roaring lions in her midst. Her judges are wolves of the evening; they do not gnaw in the morning.* | *The leaders of the city treat its people violently, like lions that roar as they attack their prey. Their judges are greedy. They are like wolves that have not eaten all day and so devour an entire animal that they kill.* |

**To what animals does Zephaniah compare these princes and judges?**

The princes of the violent city are like roaring lions.

## Zephaniah 3:5

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *Yahweh is righteous in her midst. He does not commit unrighteousness. In the morning, in the morning he gives his justice; at light he is not left out. Yet the unrighteous does not know shame.* | *But Yahweh is still in the city, and he always does what is right. He treats people justly, day after day, without fail. Still, wicked people are not ashamed when they do what is wrong.* |

**When does Yahweh give his justice?**

Yahweh will dispense justice from morning to morning.

## Zephaniah 3:7

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *I said, 'Surely you will fear me; you will take correction. Then her dwelling will not be cut off by all that I have visited upon her.' Nevertheless, they rose early, they corrupted all of their deeds.* | *I said to myself, 'The people of Jerusalem will certainly honor me and allow me to correct them. If they do that, I will not destroy their city. I will not do all the things that I said I would do to them.' But even though the people of Jerusalem knew that I had punished other nations, they eagerly did even more wrong things."* |

**What did Yahweh want the people to do?**

Yahweh hoped the people would fear him and accept correction.

## Zephaniah 3:8

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *Therefore, wait for me”—the declaration of Yahweh— “for the day of my arising to the prey. For my judgment is to gather nations, for me to assemble kingdoms, to pour out my indignation on them, all of the burning of my nose. For in the fire of my jealousy all of the earth will be consumed.* | *So this is what Yahweh declares: “You can confidently expect that an enemy army is going to conquer you and take away your possessions. I have decided to judge all of the people groups on the earth at the same time. I am going to punish them severely because I am very angry with them for being so wicked. Because I am very angry that people have worshiped false gods, I am going to destroy wicked people all over the world.* |

**What did Yahweh say his judgment (decision) was?**

Yahweh has decided to assemble the nations and pour out his anger and wrath on them.

## Zephaniah 3:9

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *Then I will surely give to the peoples a pure lip, for all of them to call upon the name of Yahweh, to serve him with one shoulder.* | *But after that, I will make the people groups do what is right and say what is right. That way all of them will worship me, Yahweh. I will be the only God whom any of them worship.* |

**What will the peoples do once Yahweh has given them a “pure lip”?**

Yahweh will call the people to serve him standing shoulder to shoulder.

## Zephaniah 3:13

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *The remnant of Israel will not commit unrighteousness and they will not speak a lie, and a tongue of deceit will not be found in their mouth. But they will graze and lie down, and there will be none frightening them.”* | *Then the people of Israel who survive will not do wicked things. They will not tell lies or say things to deceive others. They will not be afraid that an enemy army will conquer them, so they will be able to eat and sleep peacefully.”* |

**What things will the remnant of Israel no longer do?**

The remnant of Israel will no longer commit injustice and speak lies.

## Zephaniah 3:14-15

### Why should the “daughter of Jerusalem” (the people who live in Jerusalem) rejoice and exult?

Israel should sing and cheer because Yahweh has taken away their punishment.

## Zephaniah 3:19

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *Behold, I will be dealing with all of your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the cast-out one. And I will turn them into praise, and their shame into a name in all of the earth.* | *You can be certain that I will severely punish all those who oppressed you. When I do that, I will rescue those who had to make a long journey to go and live in other countries. They felt shame when they had to do that. But now I will make the people of those countries praise and honor them.* |

### Yahweh says that he will turn the shame of the Israelites into something else. Into what?

Yahweh will rescue the lame and gather together the outcast.

## Zephaniah 3:20

| ULT | UST |
| --- | --- |
| *At that time I will bring you in, yes, at the time of my gathering you. Then I will give you for a name and for praise among all of the peoples of the earth, in my restoring your fortunes before your eyes.” Yahweh has spoken.* | *When I act to help you, I will gather you together and bring you back home to Israel. Then I will cause all the people groups in the world to praise and honor you greatly. You will be able to see that I am making you rich again.” This is what Yahweh has promised!* |

### What will Yahweh restore to the Israelites?

All the nations will respect and praise Israel when they see that Yahweh has restored them.