

An Hour with Zephaniah

Panorama of Jacob's Troubles &
the Kingdom



Zephaniah is an OT Book

Old Testament			
	Page		Page
Genesis	1	Ecclesiastes	1016
Exodus	87	Song of Songs	1032
Leviticus	157	Isaiah	1044
Numbers	206	Jeremiah	1148
Deuteronomy	273	Lamentations	1249
Joshua	331	Ezekiel	1261
Judges	372	Daniel	1343
Ruth	414	Hosea	1373
1 Samuel	422	Joel	1392
2 Samuel	476	Amos	1400
1 Kings	521	Obadiah	1415
2 Kings	574	Jonah	1419
1 Chronicles	625	Micah	1425
2 Chronicles	668	Nahum	1436
Ezra	720	Habakkuk	1442
Nehemiah	738	Zephaniah	1449
Esther	763	Haggai	1456
Job	777	Zechariah	1460
Psalms	830	Malachi	1477
Proverbs	966		

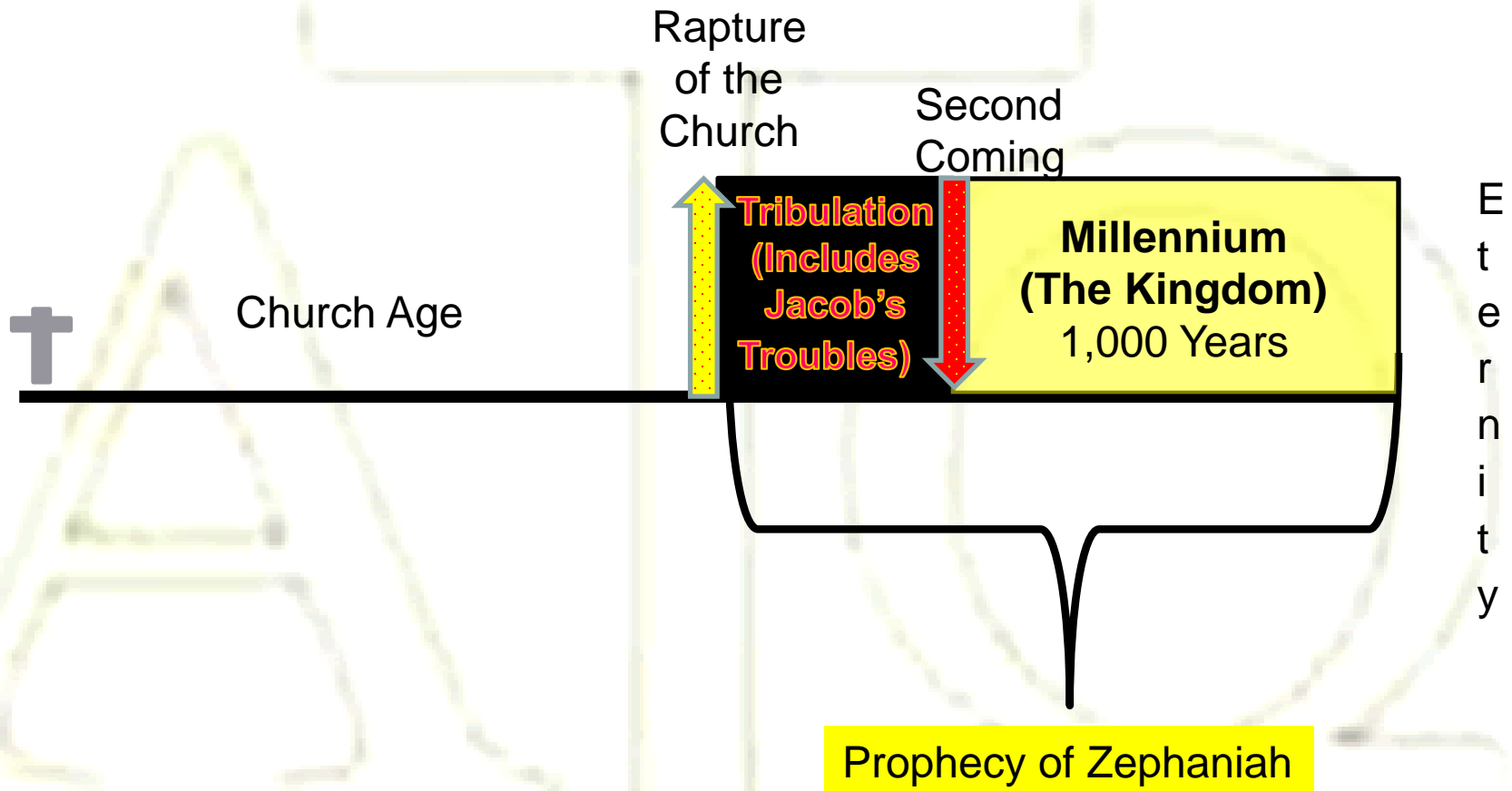
Minor Prophets

Overview

Zephaniah's Prophecy addresses issues in

- The Tribulation (Jacob's Troubles) &
- The Millennium (Kingdom)

Tribulation & Millennium



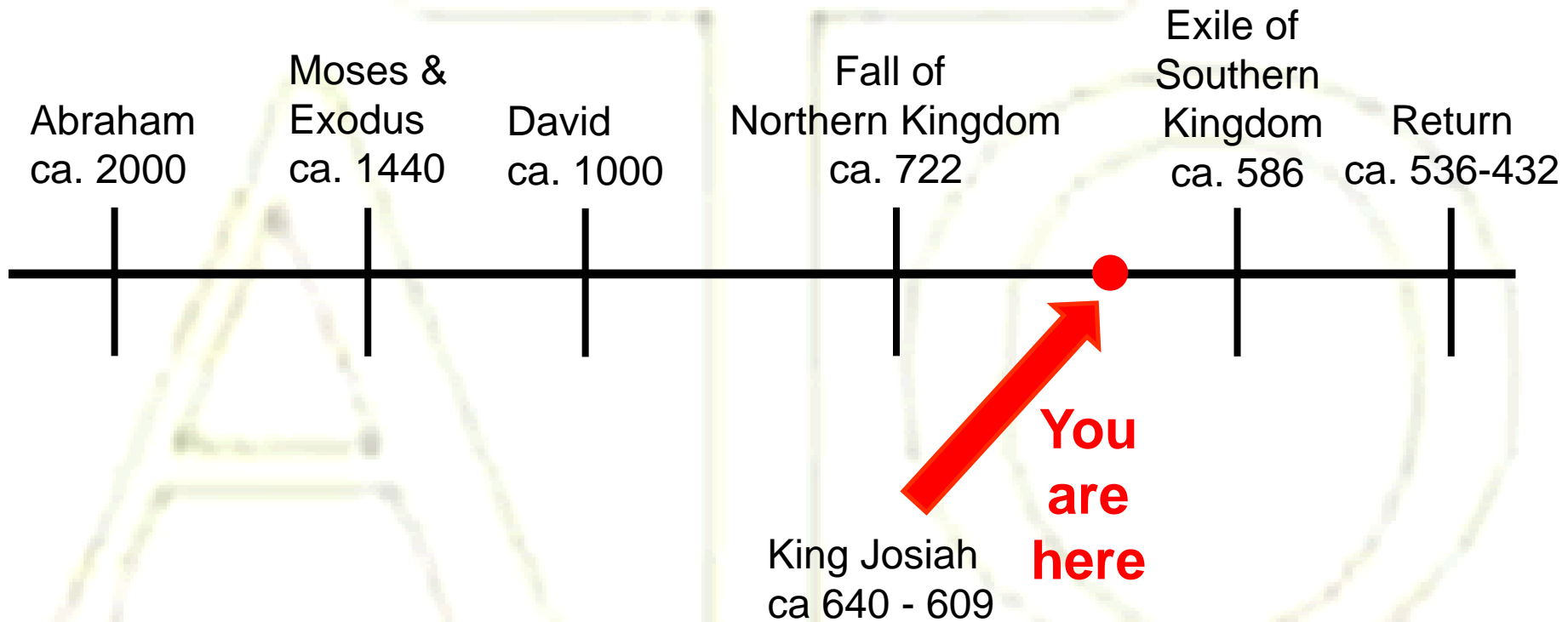
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Prophecy of Zephaniah

Who Was Zephaniah

- Zephaniah was the human author of the prophecy of Zephaniah
- He is not mentioned historically in any other book of the Bible
- The only information we have on him is in Zeph 1:1
- He was a contemporary of Jeremiah & Nahum because verse 1 says he was a contemporary of King Josiah

Historical Setting of Zephaniah



Not drawn to scale

Simple Outline

I. Genealogy 1:1 (1 verse)

Day of the Lord

II. Tribulation 1:2-3:8 (40 verses)

III. Millennium 3:9-20 (12 verses)

Literary Devices

Zephaniah was a master of the Hebrew Language

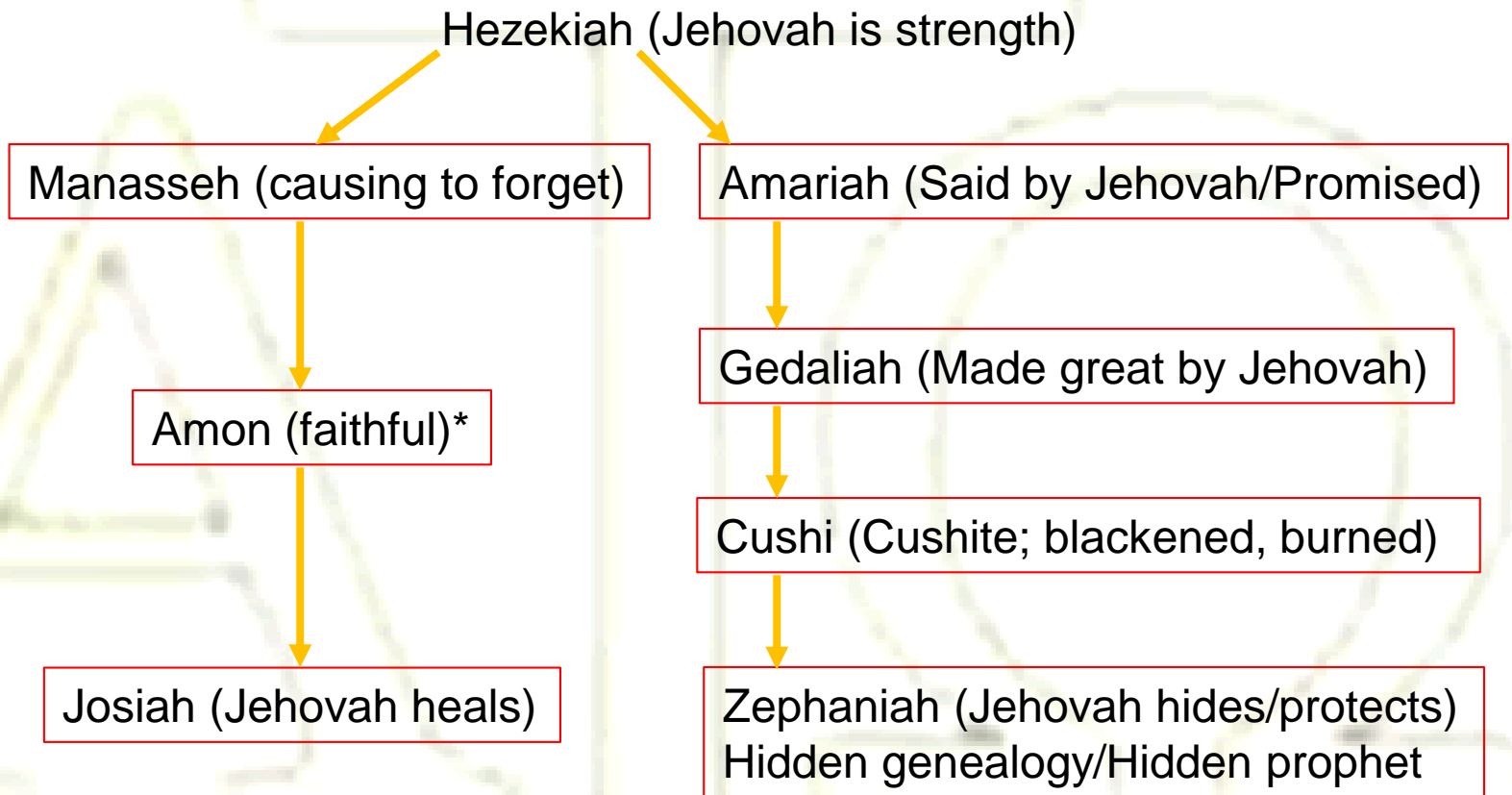
- Metaphor and Simile
- Literary/Historical Allusions
- Personification
- Anthropopocia
- Irony
- Merismus
- Synecdoche
- Enallage
- Hendiadys
- Chiasmus
- Alliteration and paronomasia
- Enjambment
- Repetition and refrain

<http://firstprestucker.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Zephaniah-Handout-Savelle-2006.pdf>

I. Verse 1: Genealogy

The word of the LORD which came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah son of Amon, king of Judah.

Zeph 1:1



* Or named after the Egyptian God Amon

Theophoric names include (literally bear) the name of God

Parallels between Zephaniah & Deuteronomy (1)

#	Zephaniah	Deuteronomy
1	1:13“Moreover, their wealth will become plunder And their houses desolate; Yes, they will build houses but not inhabit them, And plant vineyards but not drink their wine.”	28:30 You shall betroth a wife, but another man will violate her; you shall build a house, but you will not live in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but you will not use its fruit.
2	1:13“Moreover, their wealth will become plunder And their houses desolate; Yes, they will build houses but not inhabit them, And plant vineyards but not drink their wine. ”	28:39 You shall plant and cultivate vineyards, but you will neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes, for the worm will devour them.
3	1:15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,	28:53 ... during the siege and the distress by which your enemy will oppress you. 28:55...during the siege and the distress by which your enemy will oppress you in all your towns. 28:57 ...during the siege and the distress by which your enemy will oppress you in your towns.

Robertson, Palmer ,The Books of Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah, Wm. Eerdmans Pub. Co., Grand Rapids, 1990, pp254-255

Parallels between Zephaniah & Deuteronomy (2)

#	Zephaniah	Deuteronomy
4	1:15 A day of wrath is that day, A day of trouble and distress, A day of destruction and desolation, A day of darkness and gloom, A day of clouds and thick darkness,	4:11 You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the <i>very</i> heart of the heavens: darkness, cloud and thick gloom.
5	1:17 I will bring distress on men So that they will walk like the blind, Because they have sinned against the Lord; And their blood will be poured out like dust And their flesh like dung.	28:29 and you will grope at noon, as the blind man gropes in darkness, and you will not prosper in your ways; but you shall only be oppressed and robbed continually, with none to save you.
6	1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the Lord's wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.	32:21-22 21 'They have made Me jealous with what is not God; They have provoked Me to anger with their idols. So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation, 22 For a fire is kindled in My anger, And burns to the lowest part of Sheol, And consumes the earth with its yield, And sets on fire the foundations of the mountains.

Robertson, Palmer, The Books of Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah, Wm. Eerdmans Pub. Co., Grand Rapids, 1990, pp254-255

Parallels between Zephaniah & Deuteronomy (3)

#	Zephaniah	Deuteronomy
7	<p>3:5 The Lord is righteous within her; He will do no injustice. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He does not fail. But the unjust knows no shame.</p>	<p>32:4 “The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.</p>
8	<p>3:17 “The Lord your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy.</p>	<p>28:63; 30:9 It shall come about that as the Lord delighted over you to prosper you, and multiply you, so the Lord will delight over you to make you perish and destroy you; and you will be torn from the land where you are entering to possess it.</p>
9	<p>3:20 “At that time I will bring you in, Even at the time when I gather you together; Indeed, I will give you renown and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” Says the Lord.</p>	<p>26:19 and that He will set you high above all nations which He has made, for praise, fame, and honor; and that you shall be a consecrated people to the Lord your God, as He has spoken.”</p>

Robertson, Palmer, The Books of Nahum, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah, Wm. Eerdmans Pub. Co., Grand Rapids, 1990, pp254-255

II. Zephaniah 1:2-3

The Prophetic Context

- “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.

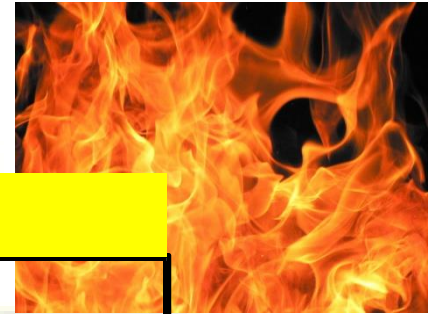
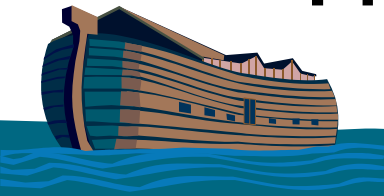
**Tribulation
like nothing
seen so far
in history!**

**This hasn't
happened yet!!!!**

Zeph 1:2-3/Gen 6:7

- Zeph 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.
- Gen 6:7
 - The Lord said, “I will blot out **man** whom I have created from the face of the land, from **man** to **animals** to creeping things to **birds of the sky**; for I am sorry that I have made them.”

Tribulation Parallels Flood



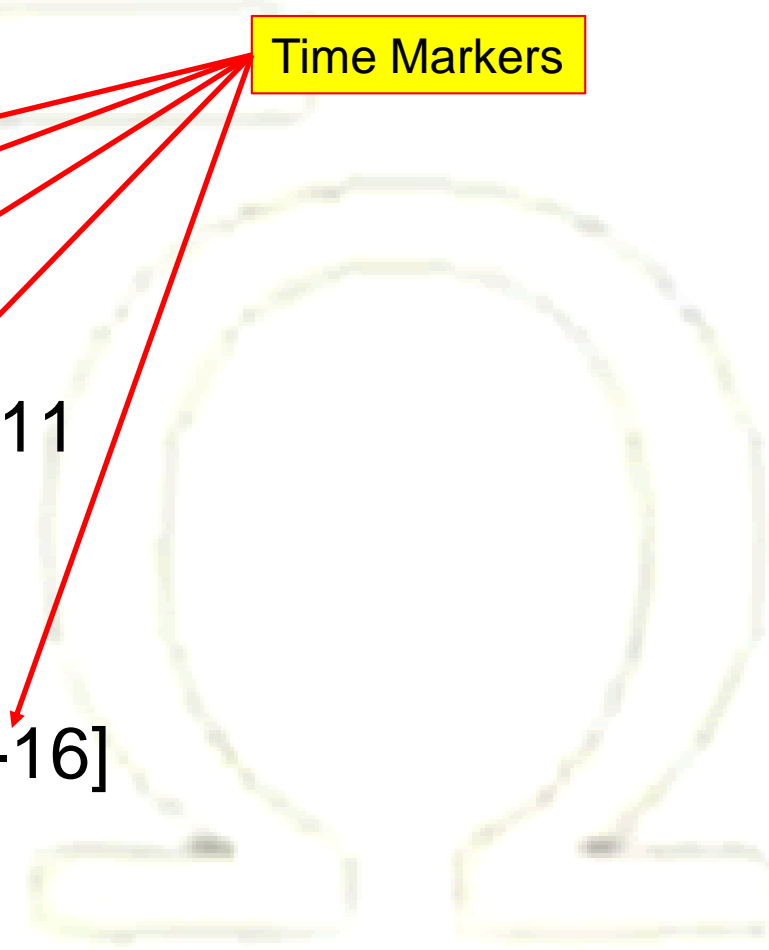
Water	Fire
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	Flood	Tribulation
Scope	Worldwide	Worldwide
Saved	Believers	Believers
Animals	Two of each kind saved	Animals changed
Destruction	By Water	By Fire and other things
Mankind destroyed	Unbelievers	Unbelievers & Martyrs
Prophecy	Noah & ?Methuselah?	Many OT Prophets and NT Prophecies & Two Prophets of Rev 144,000 Saved Jews
Believers	"Hidden"/Protected in the Ark	"Hidden"/Protected

Verses 1:4-1:18 Judgment Categories

- Religious Apostasy 1:4-6
 - I will stretch out my hand
- [Day of the Lord 1:7]
- Official Apostasy 1:8-9
 - Then it will come about
- Commercial Apostasy 1:10-11
 - On that day
- Common Apathy 1:12-13
 - It will come about
- [Great Day of the Lord 1:14-16]
- General Judgment 1:17-18

Time Markers



Day of the Lord (Ryrie)

- Three facets of the Day of the Lord
 - Historical – God’s intervention in the affairs of Israel (*?Zeph 1:14-18?; Joel 1:15) and heathen nations (Isa 13:6; Jer 46:10; Ezek 30:3)
 - Illustrative whereby an historical incident represents a partial(*?typological?) fulfillment of the eschatological Day of the Lord (Joel 2:1-11; Isa 13:6-13)
 - Eschatological Day of the Lord Includes:
 - Great Tribulation (Isa. 2:12-19; 4:1)
 - Second Coming of Christ (Joel 2:30-32)
 - Millennium (Isa 4:2; 12; 19:23-25; Jer 30:7-9)

[Ryrie Study Bible, from introduction to the book of Joel]

*Note: My personal belief is that Zeph 1:14-18 is part of the tribulation, not a past historical event; There should be a single literal fulfillment of prophecy, not a partial & full fulfillment

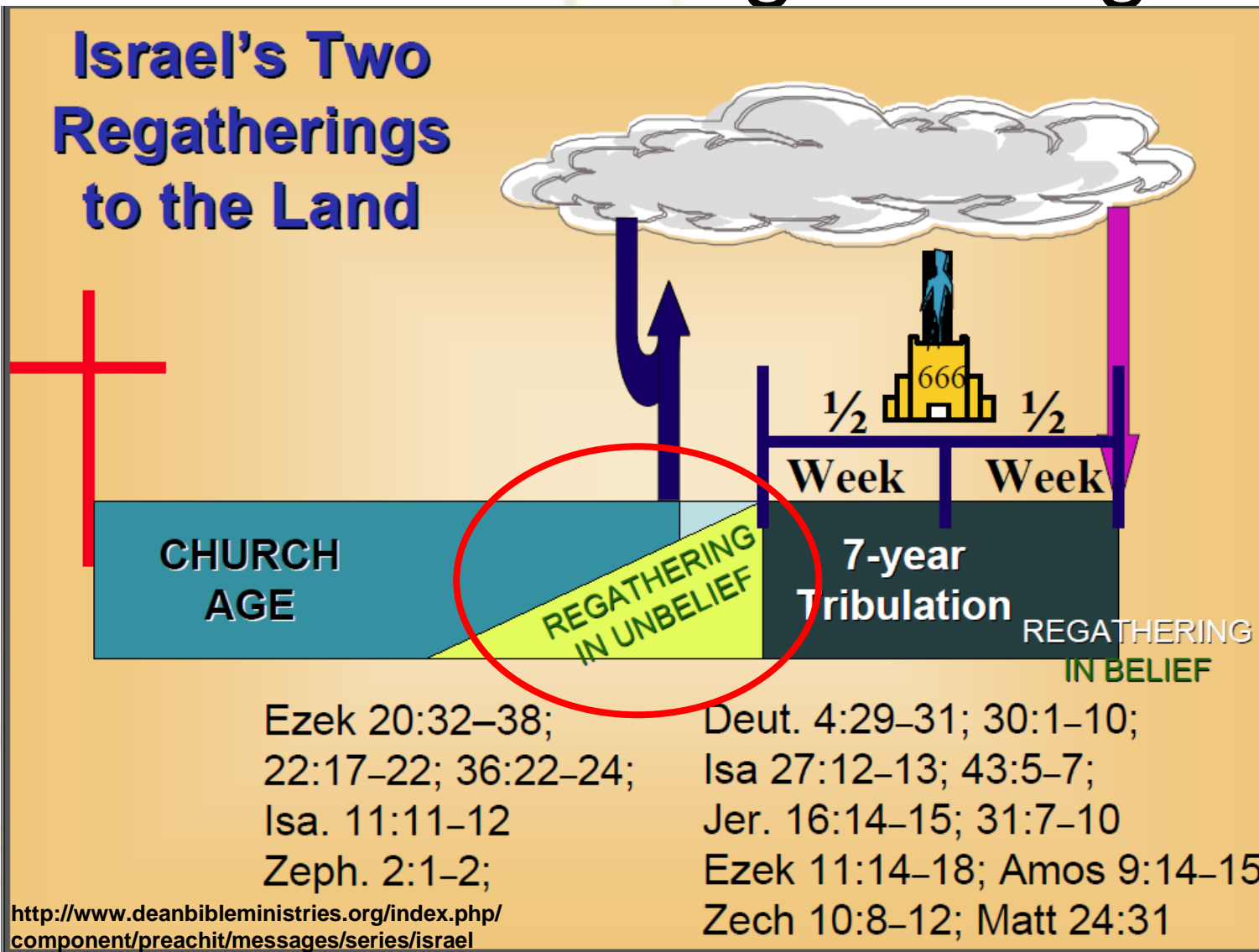
Day of the Lord (Mattox)

- A close study of Zephaniah 1:14-18 will reveal that the judgments included in 'the Day of the Lord' extend throughout the tribulation and include the events just prior to the 'return of the Lord' to this earth. Therefore, 'the Day of the Lord' includes the tribulation.
- Zechariah 14:1-4 clearly includes the events of the Second Advent in 'the Day of the Lord.'
- A study of 2 Peter 3:10 extends the period covered in 'the Day of the Lord' into the new heavens and new earth. Therefore including the entire millennial period.

[Taken from the Revelation study]

Israel's Two Regatherings

Israel's Two Regatherings to the Land



<http://www.deanbibleministries.org/index.php/component/preachit/messages/series/israel-past-present-and-future-2006?Itemid=0>



This is the Gospel Message

Zeph 2:3

- Seek the Lord
 - How do I do that?
 - Assumes you really want to do the will of God
 - This sets the context of the next two phrases which answer the question of how do I seek the Lord
- Seek Righteousness
 - Righteousness is the issue for salvation and for fellowship with God
 - The question is – whose righteousness & how do I get it?
- Seek Humility
 - What is humility?
 - It is a thought, an attitude, Grace Orientation
 - Here the mental attitude is paralleled to a physical condition which shows how we approach God
 - We have **NOTHING** but faith when we realize we are in abject spiritual poverty; this is how we approach God – with **FAITH!!!**

Gospel Message of Zephaniah

Revised Amplified Translation (2:3):

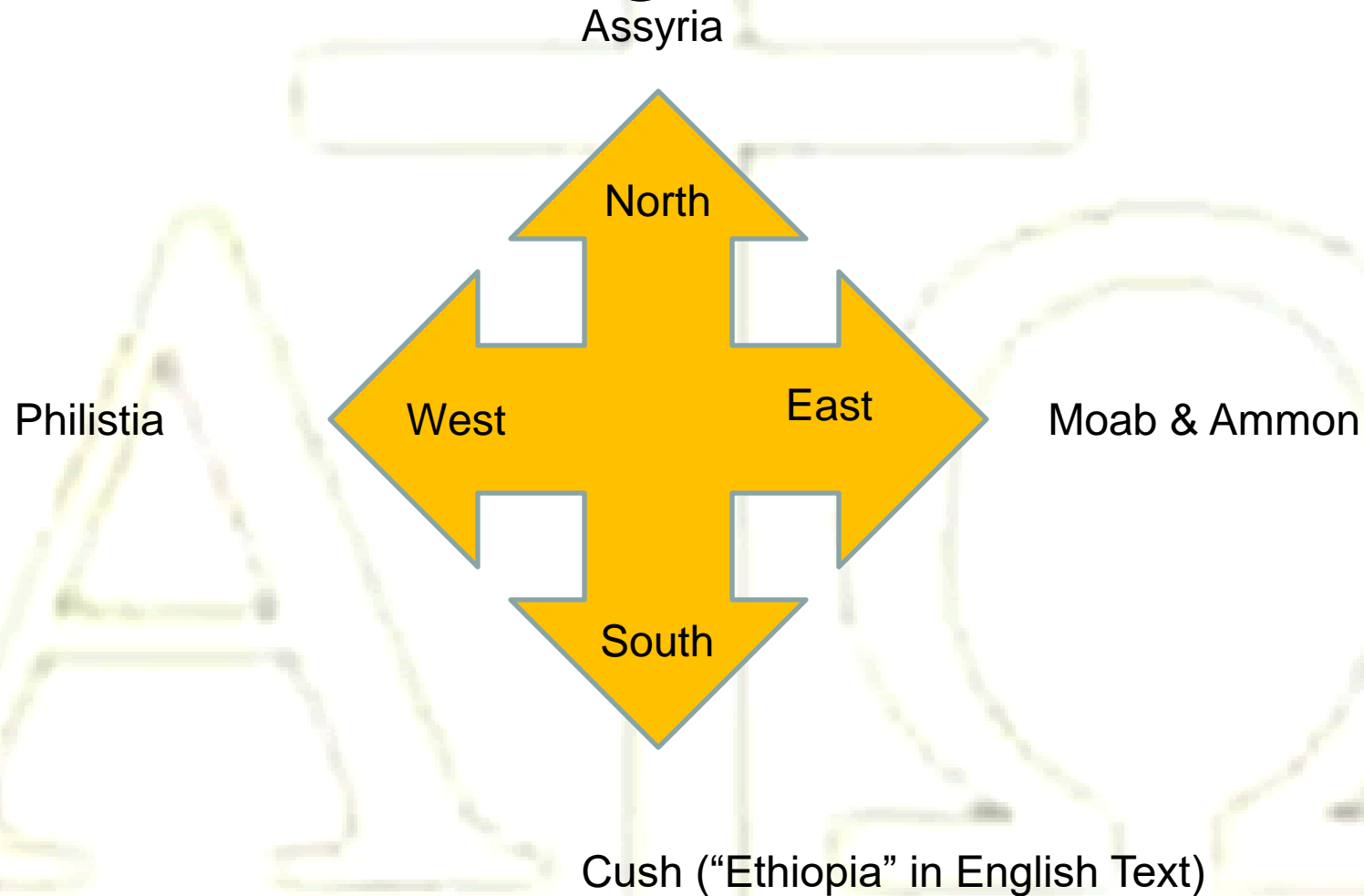
Seek a personal relationship with the Lord [Yahweh, i.e. Jesus Christ], those of you who are determined to do the decisions [will] of Him

Seek [the Lord's] righteousness

Seek [abject spiritual] poverty/humility [grace orientation which leads to faith in the Lord]

Note: Typically, you seek something you do not have

II. Judgments on Gentile Neighbors



Philistia

- Are the “Palestinians” the equivalent of the Philistines?
- Palestinians currently occupy only Gaza
- Will they conquer Ashdod, Ashkelon and Eqrn in the future?

Moab & Amon

- Jordan currently occupies the ancient land of Moab and Amon.



Cush

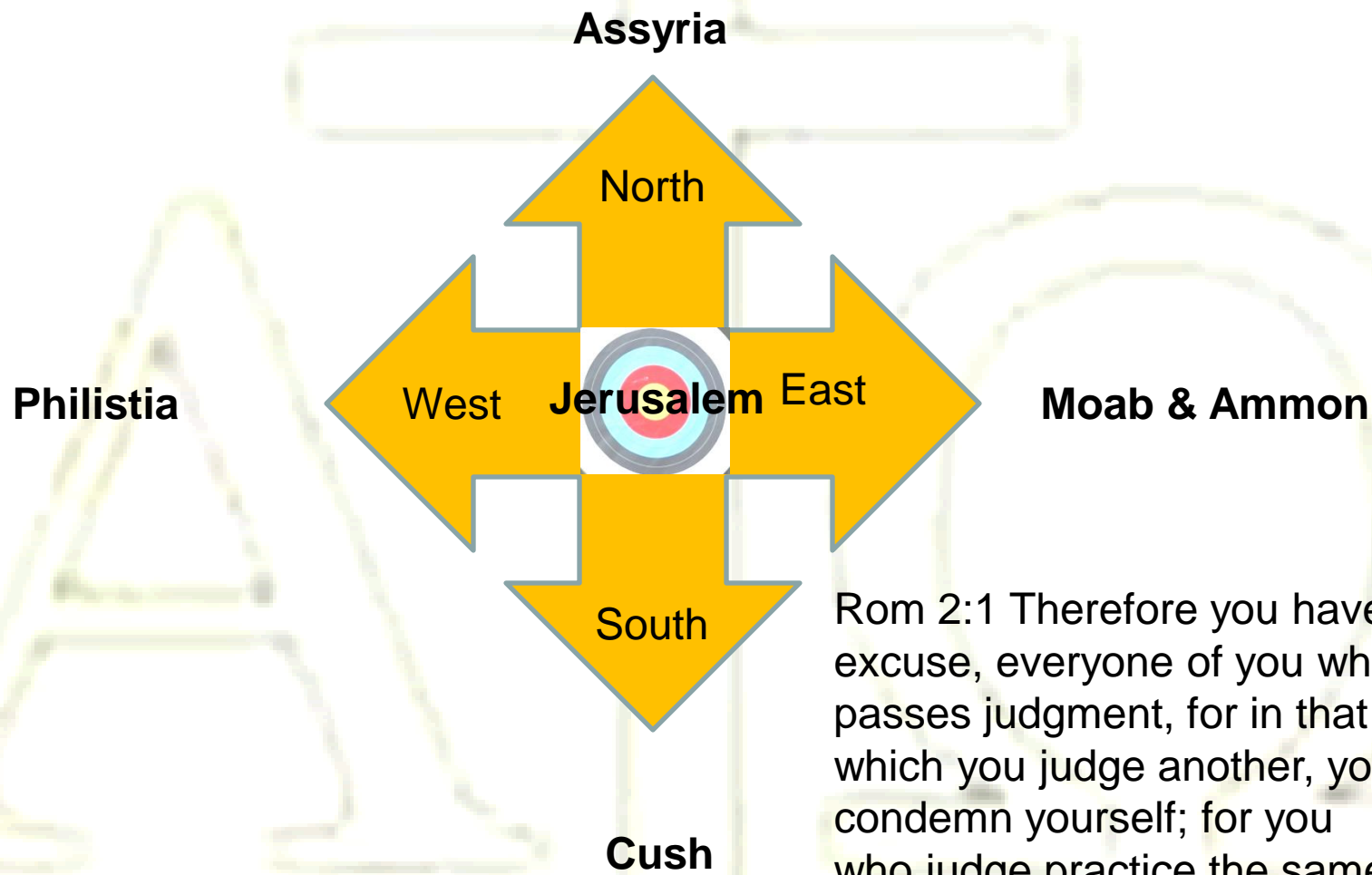
- Most modern texts read “Ethiopia”
- But Cush of the Bible is a nation of black people just south of Egypt.
- Today this equates to Sudan

Assyria

- There is no current day equivalent to ancient Assyria
- Will ISIS or something following ISIS conquer northern Iraq and Western Syria?

Bullseye Jerusalem

Zeph 3:1-8



Rom 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

Summary of Charges

Four "NO"

- Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled,
The tyrannical city! 1
- ² She **heeded** no voice,
She **accepted** no instruction. 2
- She did not **trust** in the LORD,
She did not **draw near** to her God. 2

- ³ Her princes within her are roaring lions,
Her judges are wolves at evening;
They leave nothing for the morning. 2
- ⁴ Her prophets are reckless, treacherous men;
Her priests have profaned the sanctuary. 2
- They have done violence to the law. 1

Four Errant Leaders

Negative Spirituality

- Zeph 3:2 She **heeded no** voice,
 She **accepted no** instruction.
 She did **not trust** in the LORD,
 She did **not draw near** to her God.
 - Zeph 3:2 structured like the Hebrew text:
 - **Not** she listens to Voice
 - **Not** she takes to Discipline
 - In Lord **Not** she trusts
 - To her God **Not** she draws near
- } Intake and Application
Of Bible Doctrine

} Faith of the believer

} Fellowship with God

Gathering of Nations

- ⁸ “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.

Baptism of Fire

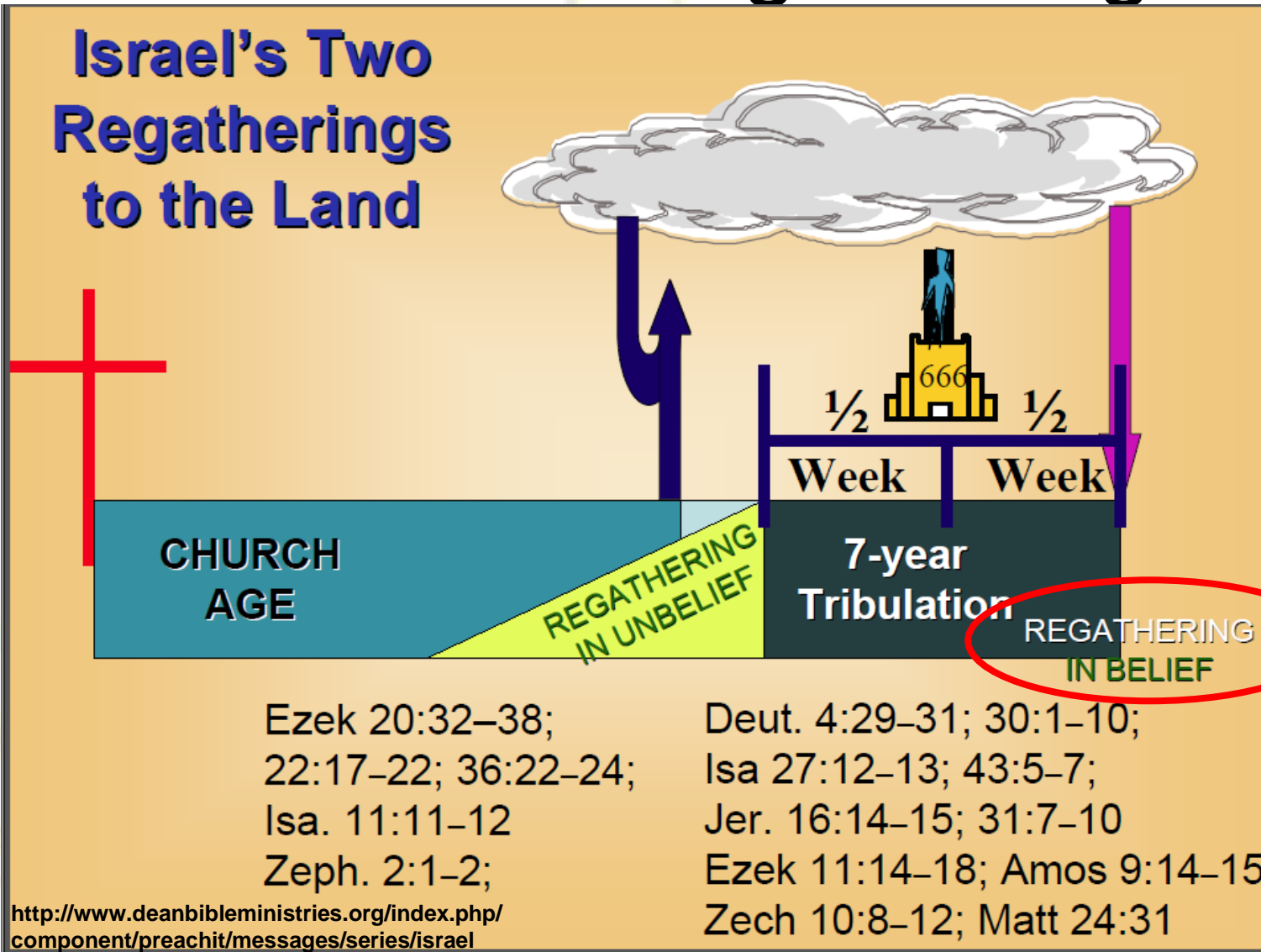
- Matthew 3:11 John the Baptist indicates there will be a Baptism of Fire prior to the arrival of the kingdom. Also mentioned in Isaiah 4:4 [from deanbibleministries.org Matthew lesson 11]
- 2 Thes 1:7-9 Baptism of Fire on unbelieving Gentiles and unbelieving Jews. [from springvalleybiblechurch.org Thessalonians lesson13]
- Zephaniah 3:8 "...For all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal."

III. Humbled People with Purified Language

- The people who emerge from the Tribulation will have been humbled to the point that they **KNOW** that God is in charge and can do anything. They will have no illusions of self grandeur!
- Going back to the parallel with the Flood
 - After the flood, after the tower of Babel, God gave the people a multitude of languages
 - After the Tribulation, God will provide a “purified language”

Israel's Two Regatherings

Israel's Two Regatherings to the Land



<http://www.deanbibleministries.org/index.php/component/preachit/messages/series/israel-past-present-and-future-2006?Itemid=0>



Blessing & Prominence of Jews/Israel

- He concludes his book with a brief prophecy about the Millennium (Zephaniah 3:14-20). He reveals that the Lord will regather all believing Jews back to the land of Israel and that He will live in their midst (Zephaniah 3:17-20). And he promises that God will make the Jewish nation the prime nation of the world (Zephaniah 3:20).

Summary

- Zephaniah is an Old Testament parallel to the New Testament book of Revelation
- Zephaniah's target audience are the Jews of the Tribulation, especially Jerusalem and Judea
- Zephaniah contains both a form of the Gospel and a form of spirituality
- Zephaniah makes sense if you use 1:2-3 as a guide to the context and do not try to cut up the prophecy into little pieces to show fulfillment in disparate places for the various pieces.

Questions?

- So, when you are packing your bags getting ready for the Rapture, and you have a Jewish unbeliever friend next door, print out a copy of Zephaniah.
- Circle Zeph 1:2, 2:3 and 3:2
 - God is going to get rid of unbelievers. You don't want to be among those who get “burned up.” (1:2)
 - Believe in your God the Messiah (2:3)
 - Then live a spiritual life in fellowship with God taking the “NO” out of 3:2