

THE
APOCALYPSE
OF
TSAFANYAHU
(ZEPHANIAH)

The Apocalypse of TsafanYAHU (Zephaniah)

Chapter 1

1 The word of אלהים which came to TsafanYAHU, the ban of Kushi, the ban of GadaliYAHU, the ban of AmariYAHU, the ban of ChizqiYAHU, in the days of YoshiYAHU, the ban of Amon, king of Yahudah.

2 I will utterly destroy everything from the face of the earth, says אלהים.

3 I will destroy man and beast; I will destroy the birds of the shamayim and the fish of the sea, and the causes of offense with the sinners; and I will cut off man from the face of the earth, says אלהים.

4 I will stretch out My hand over Yahudah, and over all the inhabitants of Yarushalayim; and I will cut off from this place the remnant of Baal, and the names of the idol-priests together with the priests.

5 And those who worship the host of the shamayim upon their roofs, and the worshippers who swear to אלהים and who swear by their king.

6 And those who draw back from אלהים, who do not seek אלהים, and do not inquire for Him.

7 Be silent before the Master אלהים, for the day of אלהים is near; for אלהים has prepared a sacrifice, He has consecrated those whom He has invited.

8 And it will come to pass in the day of the sacrifice of אלהים, that I will punish the princes and the king's baniym, and all who wear foreign apparel.

9 And I will punish, in that day, everyone who leaps over the threshold, those who fill the house of their masters with violence and deceit.

10 And it will come to pass in that day, says אלהים, that there will be the voice of crying from the fish-gate, and howling from the lower city, and great destruction from the hills.

11 Howl, you inhabitants of the Mortar, for all the people of Canaan are destroyed; all who are laden with silver are cut off.

12 And it will come to pass at that time, that I will search Yarushalayim with candles, and I will punish the men who lie upon their lees, who say in their hearts, אלהים will not do good, neither will He do evil.

13 And their wealth will become a spoil, and their houses a desolation; and they will build houses and not live in them, and plant vineyards and not drink their wine.

14 The great day of אֲשֶׁר is near; it is near and hastens greatly. Listen! The day of אֲשֶׁר; the mighty man cries bitterly there.

15 A day of overflowing wrath is that day, a day of trouble and distress, a day of ruin and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness.

16 A day of the trumpet and of the war-cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

17 And I will bring distress upon men, and they will walk like the blind, because they have sinned against אֲשֶׁר; their blood will be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.

18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them in the day of the fury of אֲשֶׁר; and the whole land will be devoured by the fire of His jealousy; for He will make an end, and a sudden one, to all the inhabitants of the earth.

Chapter 2

1 Bend yourselves, bend, you nation that does not grow pale;

2 Before the decree brings forth, before the day passes away like chaff, before the burning wrath of אֲשֶׁר comes upon you, before the day of the anger of אֲשֶׁר comes upon you.

3 Seek אֲשֶׁר, all you humble of the land, who have practiced His law; seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be hidden in the day of the wrath of אֲשֶׁר.

4 For Gaza will be forsaken, and Ashkelon will become a desolation; Ashdod, they will drive her out at noon-day, and Ekron will be rooted out.

5 Woe to the inhabitants of the sea-coast, the nation of the Kerethites! The word of אֲשֶׁר is against you, Canaan, land of the Philistines! I will destroy you, so that there will be no inhabitants.

6 And the sea-coast will become places for pasture, and folds for flocks.

7 And the coast will be for the remnant of the house of Yahudah; they will feed upon them; in the houses of Ashkelon they will lie down in the evening, for אֲשֶׁר their Mighty One will visit them, and turn their captivity.

8 I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the baniym of Ammon, wherewith they have reviled My people, and acted insolently against their boundary.

9 Therefore as I live, says אֲשֶׁר of hosts, the Mighty One of Yasharal, surely Moab will become like Sodom, and the baniym of Ammon like Gomorrah, a possession of nettles and salt-pits, and a desolation forever. The remnant of My people will plunder them, and the residue of My nation will possess them.

10 This will be to them for their pride, because they have reviled and carried themselves haughtily against the people of אֲרָצוֹת of hosts.

11 אֲרָצוֹת will be terrible against them, for He destroys all the mighty ones of the earth; and all the islands of the nations, each from his place, will worship Him.

12 Also you Kushites, slain of My sword are they.

13 And He will stretch out His hand over the north and destroy Ashshur; and He will make Nineveh a waste, a dry place like the desert.

14 And flocks will lie down in the midst of her, all the wild beasts of the nations; both the pelican and the hedge-hog will lodge on her capitals; the voice of the singer in the window; desolation upon the threshold, for the cedar-work He has made bare.

15 This is the exulting city which lived securely, which said in her heart, "I am, and there is none besides me." How has she become a desolation, a lair for beasts! Everyone who passes by her will hiss and shake his hand.

Chapter 3

1 Woe to the rebellious and polluted, the oppressive city!

2 She did not listen to the voice; she did not accept discipline; she did not trust in אֲרָצוֹת; she did not draw near to her Mighty One.

3 Her princes in the midst of her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; they reserve nothing for the morning.

4 Her messengers are vain-glorious, men of treacheries; her priests profane what is consecrated; they do violence to the law.

5 The righteous אֲרָצוֹת is in the midst of her; He will not do wickedness; every morning He will bring His judgment to light; It does not fail; but the unrighteous man does not know shame.

6 I have cut off nations; their battlements are laid waste; I have made their streets desolate, so that no one passes over them; their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man there, so that there is no inhabitant.

7 I said, "Only do fear Me, do receive correction," and her dwelling will not be cut off, according to all that I have appointed concerning her; but they rose up early; they corrupted all their doings.

8 Therefore wait for Me, is the saying of אֲרָצוֹת, for the day when I rise up to the prey; for it is My right to gather nations together, to assemble kingdoms, to pour upon them My fury, all the heat of My anger; for by the fire of My zeal the whole earth will be consumed.

9 For then I will turn to the nations a pure lip, that they may all call upon the name of אֱלֹהִים, that they may serve Him with one shoulder.

10 From beyond the rivers of Kush, My worshippers, the daughter of My dispersed ones, will present My offering.

11 In that day you will not be ashamed on account of all your doings, by which you have transgressed against Me; for then will I remove from the midst of you those who exult in your pride, and you will no more carry yourself proudly in My consecrated mountain.

12 And I will leave in the midst of you a people poor and bowed down, and they will trust in the name of אֱלֹהִים.

13 The remnant of Yasharal will not commit wickedness; they will not speak lies; and in their mouth will not be found a tongue of deceit; but they will feed and lie down, and none will make them afraid.

14 Exult, daughter of Tsiyon; shout, Yasharal; rejoice and exult with all the heart, daughter of Yarushalayim.

15 אֱלֹהִים has removed your judgments; He has cleared away your enemy; the King of Yasharal, אֱלֹהִים, is in the midst of you; you will see evil no more.

16 In that day it will be said to Yarushalayim: Fear not Tsiyon, let not your hands be feeble.

17 אֱלֹהִים your Mighty One is in the midst of you, a Mighty One who saves; He rejoices over you with gladness; He is silent in His love; He exults over you with rejoicing.

18 I gather together those that mourn for the festivals; they are of you; reproach presses upon them.

19 Behold, at that time, I will deal with all your oppressors, and I will save the limping, and gather the outcasts, and make them a honor and a name in every land of their shame.

20 At that time I will bring you, even at the time I will gather you; for I will make you a name and a honor among all the nations of the earth, when I turn your captivity before your eyes, says אֱלֹהִים.