

c. Result of heeding the Exhortation (Zeph. 2:3c)

The judgment will be averted (cf. Jer. 7:5-7; 26:3; 36:3 and Amos 5:6,15.)

Note: (1) In Amos 5:6 Amos promised the people of Israel that if they sought the Lord they would live and not be destroyed. In verse 15 of that same chapter Amos told the people of Israel that if they hated evil, loved good, and established judgment in the gate, perhaps ($\text{? ? } \cdot \text{?} \lambda$ the same Hebrew word that is used in Zeph. 2:3) the Lord would be gracious to them. In light of verse 6, verse 15 of this chapter can only mean that if the people of Israel repent, the Lord will (not perhaps the Lord will) be gracious unto them and they will live and not be destroyed. Thus the meaning in Zeph. 2:3 is that if the people of Judah heed the exhortation of Zephaniah, the judgment will be averted - not perhaps it will be averted.

(2) The word "hid" is a figure of finding refuge from a storm passing over or a foe sweeping past (cf. Isa. 26:20 and Job 14:13). The figure recalls Zephaniah's name which is interpreted "whom the Lord hides."

D. Announcement of the judgment that will come upon the nations surrounding Judah and Jerusalem (Zeph. 2:4-15)

1. Philistia (Zeph. 2:4-7)

a. Location of Philistia

Philistia is located west of Judah and Jerusalem.

b. Judgment upon Philistia (Zeph. 2:4,5)

(1) Description of the judgment (Zeph. 2:4,5)

Philistia will be depopulated.

Note: (a) Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and Ekron are the names of four Philistian capitals and represent the whole Philistian territory and people.)

Gath, the fifth Philistian capital, isn't mentioned because the parallelism of the clauses only allowed the names of four cities to be given, and this number was sufficient to represent the whole Philistian territory and people.

(b) The words "at the noon day" in verse 4 denote that the expulsion of the people of Ashdod will be unexpected because noon-time is the time of day at which men generally rest in hot countries (cf. 2 Sam. 4:5). Thus, an invasion at noon-time would be unexpected (cf. Jer. 15:8).