

(4) Cause of the judgment (Zeph. 2:8,10)

The cause of the judgment is pride (Zeph. 2:10a).

- (a) The Moabites showed their pride by reproaching the Israelites, i.e., by assuming a hostile attitude towards them at all times and by manifesting that hostile attitude by what they said to them whenever they were brought into trouble and distress (Zeph. 2:8,10 cf. Isa. 16:6 and Jer. 48:26,27).
- (b) The Ammonites showed their pride by reviling the Israelites, i.e., by blaspheming them by their actions (cf. Ezek. 20:27), and by violating Israel's boundary and endeavoring to seize territory that belonged to Israel (Zeph. 2:8 cf. Amos 1:13).

Note: Ammon murdered the pregnant women of Gilead in order to eliminate unborn future generations and thus to make the task of assimilating Gilead easier (Amos 1:13).

(5) Result of the judgment (Zeph. 2:11b)

The result of the judgment in which all the gods of the earth will be destroyed is that every one on the earth will worship the true God. Every one will either go from the place where he lives to Jerusalem to worship God or every one will worship God where he lives, even though it may be in "the coasts of the nations," i.e., in the most distant countries that lie across the seas. If the latter is the meaning, the worship of God will no longer be confined to one temple or place, but wherever men live on the earth, there they will offer worship to God.

3. Ethiopia (Zeph. 2:12)

a. Location of Ethiopia

Ethiopia is located south of Judah and Jerusalem.

Note: Ethiopia was farthest kingdom or people in the south that was known to the Israelites.

b. Origin of Ethiopia (Zeph. 2:12a)

The name for the Ethiopians in the Hebrew text of Zephaniah 2:12 is "Cushites". The Cushites descended from Cush who was one of the sons of Ham (cf. Gen. 10:6), who was one of the sons of Noah (cf. Gen. 10:1)

Note: There is a land of Cush mentioned in Gen. 2:13.