

c. Judgment upon Ethiopia (Z eph. 2:12b)

The Ethiopians will be killed by the Lord with the sword. No reason is given for this judgment and as far as we know, there hadn't been any conflict between Ethiopia and Israel in Zephaniah's day. Zephaniah probably mentioned Ethiopia to show that all the heathen world will come under judgment.

Note: The word "ye" in the second part of verse 12 should be translated "they."

4. Assyria (Zeph. 2:13-15)

a. Location of Assyria

Assyria is located north of Judah and Jerusalem (Zeph. 2:13).

Note: (1) Though Assyria is northeast of Judah and Jerusalem, its armies attacked from the north and thus it is generally regarded by the prophets as a northern power.

(2) Assyria was still strong at this time and was the major threat to Judah.

(3) Nineveh was the capital of Assyria

b. Judgment upon Assyria (Zeph. 2:13,14)

(1) Nineveh will become an arid desert (Zeph. 2:13b), where herds of all kinds of animals will make their home (Zeph. 2:14a)

(2) The palaces and state buildings of Nineveh will be destroyed so that the costly panelling of the walls of those buildings will be exposed (Zeph. 2:14e)

(3) Pelicans (cormorant in the KJV) and hedgehogs (bittern in the KJV) will make their homes upon the knobs at the top of the pillars that will remain standing when the palaces of Nineveh are destroyed (Z eph. 2:14b)

(4) Birds will sing in the windows of the ruined buildings in Nineveh (Zeph. 2:14c)

(5) Rubbish will be on the thresholds of the ruined buildings in Nineveh, but not human being will be there (Zeph. 2:14d)

c. Cause of the judgment (Zeph. 2:15a)

The cause of the judgment is pride.

Note: By saying "I am and there is none beside me" Nineveh deified herself. She claimed to be as mighty as God Himself. This is definitely a manifestation of pride!

d. Result of the judgment (Zeph. 2:15c)

Every one who passes by Nineveh will hiss at Nineveh which is a common manifestation of scorn and will swing his hand which is a gesture of dismissal as if to say, "away with her, she has richly deserved her fate."

e. Announcement that judgment will come upon Judah if Judah doesn't repent (Zeph. 3:1-8)