

3:1-7 Judgment on Jerusalem

- v1-4 The Prophet's Indictment
- v5-7 The Righteous Judge

3:8 Judgment on all the earth/kingdoms

- Purpose: to pour out on them My indignation/ all My burning anger

3:9-20 The Day of Restoration

- 3:9-10 Restoration of the nations
 - spiritual - call on the name of the Lord, serve Him, worship Him
 - from beyond the rivers of Ethiopia

3:11-20 Restoration of Israel

- v11-13 the redemption of the nation
- v14 the joy of the nation
- v15-17 the ruler of the nation
 - the king of Israel (v15)
 - a victorious warrior (v17a)
 - the exultant Bridegroom (v17b)
- v18-20 the reward of the nation
 - Five "I will's"
 - I will gather those grieved about feasts
 - I will save the lame & gather the outcast
 - I will turn their shame into praise & renown
 - I will bring you in
 - I will give you renown & praise

Zephaniah 3 – Judgment & Restoration



Zephaniah Chapter 3 – Judgment or Restoration

2:4-3:8 Judgment on Unrepentant Nations, the Wicked

Judgment on Philistia (Zeph 2:4-7)

* Their Cities & People Destroyed & Land given to Judah (Zeph 2:4-7) - Ezek 25:15-17; Am 1:6-8; Zech 9:4-7

Their Sin

- * Isa 2:6 – soothsayers = ‘anan, sorcery, diviners, fortune-teller
- * Deut 18:9-14 – child sacrifice, divination, practice witchcraft, interprets omens, sorcery, cast spells, medium, spiritist, call up the dead, listen to those who practice witchcraft & to diviners
- * Ezek 25:15-17 – took vengeance to destroy Israel with everlasting enmity
- * Amos 1:6 – delivered Israel up to Edom

Judgment on Moab & Ammon (Zeph 2:8-11)

The Sins of Moab & Ammon Detailed (Zeph 2:8, 10, 11)

- * Isa 16:6; Jer 48:25-27,29-30,42 – arrogance, excessive pride, fury, boasts
- * Isa 9:25-26 – circumcised, yet uncircumcised of heart
- * Am 2:1 – burned bones of king of Edom to lime
- * Jer 49:1,4 – took Israel’s land, boastful, trusts in her treasures
- * Ezek 25:3,6,8 – mocked God’s sanctuary & Israel, rejoiced at Israel’s judgment, treated her like the nations
- * Am 1:13 – ripped open pregnant women from Gilead

The Destruction of Moab & Ammon (Zech 2:9)

* Isa 16:7-8; Jer 48:35, 42-44,46; Am 2:2-3; Ezek 25:1-11; Am 1:13-15

The Judgment on Idolatry (Zeph 2:11)

* Israel (Isa 2:6; 10:11); Philistia (Zech 9:7a), Moab (Isa 16:7; Jer 48:35, 46), Ammon (Jer 49:1,3), nations (Isa 10:10), Samaria (Isa 10:11)

The Judgment on Ethiopia (v12)

* Ezek 30:4-5, 9 – secure Ethiopia to be slain with the sword

The Judgment on Assyria/Nineveh (v13-15)

The Sin & Destruction of Assyria & Nineveh (v13-15)

* Isa 10:5-12; 14:24-27; 10:7,12 – arrogant heart

3:1-7 Judgment on Israel

- * Isa 9:8-13 – pride & arrogance in heart, trust in self
- * Isa 9:25-26 – circumcised, yet uncircumcised of heart
- * Jer 49:1 – dispossessed of her land by Ammon

* Jer 25:15-18 – stagger & go mad, slain by the sword

3:8 Judgment on the Nations

- * Dan 11:40-45 – judgment on Egypt and the North
- * Ezek 30:1-9 – judgment on Egypt, Ethiopia, Put, Lud, all Arabia, Libya & the people of the land that is in league with them
- * Jer 25:15-19 – all the inhabitants of the earth

3:9-20 Restoration of Repentant Nations

3:9-10 Restoration of the Nations

- * Zech 9:7b – surviving Philistines will be a remnant for our God & be like a clan in Judah
- * Jer 48:47 – Moab’s fortunes restored in the latter days
- * Dan 11:41 – Edom, Moab & Ammon rescued at this time
- * Jer 49:6 – fortunes of Ammon will be restored afterward
- * Ps 87:4 – Rahab (Egypt), Babylon (Iraq), Philistia (Palestinians), Tyre (Lebanon) & Ethiopia are those who know God
- * Isa 19:19-25 – Egypt called “My people” & Assyria (Iraq & parts of Syria), “the work of My hand”

3:11-20 Restoration of Israel

- * Philistine Land Given to Judah (Zeph 2:6-7 - The seacoast will be pastures for shepherds & flocks / The coast will be for the remnant of Judah – will pasture & lie down in it For the LORD their God will care for them & restore their fortune)
- * Land of Moab & Ammon given to Israel (Zeph 2:9 - The remnant of My people will plunder them & inherit their land)
- * Jer 49:2 – Israel will take possession of Ammon

2Thess 2:1-12 – Judgment on the Antichrist & His followers

Rev 19:6-20:6 – The Judgment of the Nations in the Battle of Armageddon; The Millennium (20:1-6)

Rev 20:7-15 – The Great White Throne Judgment

The word "Gaza" stems from the word Azzah, and is likely a word that originated with the ancient Capthors, who immigrated to the Gaza area from Cypress or Crete to establish a control nerve center on the continental trade routes. The Capthorims destroyed the Avim, (a Canaanite tribe - Deut. 2:23) the original settlers of Gaza, and eventually intermingled with the Amorites and Canaanites, and thus became the forefathers of the mighty Philistines. Interestingly enough, the word Gaza means, 'stronghold, or fortress.' **Gaza, in Old Testament times was the southernmost city of Canaan, and was situated on the great caravan route between Mesopotamia and Egypt, at the junction of the trade route from Arabia. Its location made Gaza an ideal layover and rest stop as well as a commercial center for merchants and travelers.** Later, Gaza was allotted as a portion to the tribe of Judah by Joshua; but the Jews did not immediately occupy it because they feared the Anakim (*giants*) who still occupied the fortress of Gaza. It was in Philistine Ashkelon, just north of Gaza, that the mighty Samson was humiliated by being forced to grind grain as a blinded prisoner. Yet, in a final victorious confrontation, Samson brought down the house of the pagan god Dagon, destroying many of the Philistines.

Through the prophets Amos, Zechariah and Zephaniah, God warned Gaza and some other principle Philistine cities with destruction by fire for the sin of conspiring with Edom, Tyre and Damascus to enslave and dispossess the children of Israel of their land. (see Amos 1:6-7) This prophecy was fulfilled in large part by the army of Alexander the Great in 332 BC, when Gaza was destroyed and her inhabitants massacred. (see also Zephaniah 2:4; Zechariah 9:5) But these ancient prophecies still stand as a prophetic paradigm for future events in a final conspiratorial assault on the gathered remnant of Israel.

Gaza was one of five Philistine cities along the southern coast that successfully resisted Israelite conquest until the Hasmonean Judah Maccabee's brother Jonathan captured it around 150BC. It was virtually destroyed by Alexander Jannai for revolting in 96BC. But it was later rebuilt as a Roman city by Gabinius. Gaza, and the rest of the Philistine cities were not exposed to Christianity until about 300AD. Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and Ekron were all located along the Roman *Via Maris*, the route linking Egypt with Syria and Mesopotamia. It was the Philistines of Ashdod who made the mistake of taking the Ark of the Covenant from Israel. Afterward, Ashdod was struck by a number of calamities that led the Philistines to return the Ark to the Israelites. Ironically, at the southern entrance of the city is a bridge where the fledgling Israeli army stopped the Egyptian Army's advance toward Tel Aviv in Israel's 1948 war for survival.

Sadly, Christianity was stamped out in Gaza by 250AD, and Gaza became a fortress of the Muslim world around 600AD. Gaza is in fact the site where the Prophet Mohammed's grandfather was buried. Consequently, the city became an important Islamic stronghold in Palestine as it is to this day! The forsaken status of Gaza was thus cemented!

But God's word mandates that Gaza, as well as the Sinai become the apportioned land that God gave unto Abraham's descendants. Therefore, because Gaza is still conspired together with the 'Prince of Tyre' (*Satan*) and allied with the burden of Damascus, the conspiracy of Edom (Palestinians) to divide the land with many others, God shall yet forsake Gaza and move against the coastal fortress to give it into the house of Judah! **The prophecies of Zephaniah have not been fully realized, and they are set to play a role in the coming time of Trouble for Israel, when the Lord shall go forth to fight against Israel's many enemies.**

(Zephaniah 2:4-7 For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up. Woe unto the inhabitants of the sea coast, the nation of the Cherethites! the word of the Lord is against you; O Canaan, the land of the Philistines, I will even destroy thee, that there shall be no inhabitant. And the sea coast shall be dwellings and cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks. And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed thereupon: in the houses of Ashkelon shall they lie down in the evening: for the Lord their God shall visit them, and turn away their captivity.)

Jews have been present in Gaza from the time of the Roman conquest up until the recent withdrawal. In 1929, the sea coast Jews of Gaza were forced to leave the area due to violent riots against them by the Arabs. Following these riots, and the death of more than 150 Jews in Gaza, the British, under their authority in the League of Nations Mandate prohibited Jews from living in Gaza to quell tension and appease the Arabs. Some Jews returned, however, and, in 1946, the kibbutz Kfar Darom was established to prevent the British from separating the Negev from the proposed Jewish State, which was finally realized under the British in 1948.

The United Nations 1947 Partition Plan allotted the coastal strip known as the Gaza Strip from Yavneh to Rafah on the Egyptian border to become an Arab state. **However, in Israel's 1948 war for Independence, most Arab inhabitants in the Strip fled in wake of the advice of advancing Egyptian armies.** Israeli forces conquered Gaza, and proceeded south to El-Arish, but subsequently gave control of the area back to Egypt in the 1981 Camp David negotiations. But Israel kept the old cities of Ashdod and Ashkelon. **In the 1967 Six Day War, Israeli forces reentered Gaza and captured it again.** In 1981, as part of the peace treaty with Sadat's Egypt, Jewish settlements in the Sinai were destroyed, and many Jews relocated to the Gaza area as part of Israel's re-settlement program.

The Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements signed in Washington DC (Clinton, Arafat, Rabin) on 13 September 1993, provided for a transitional period not exceeding five years of Palestinian interim self-government in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Under the DOP, Israel agreed to transfer certain powers and responsibilities to the Palestinian Authority, which includes the Palestinian Legislative Council elected in January 1996, as part of the interim self-governing arrangements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The only stipulation to this governing transition was that the PA fight against and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure within the Gaza Strip and the territories projected to be handed over to its authority. **The PA has never lifted a finger to fight terrorism, yet the Quartet that is sponsoring the so-called Roadmap to Peace has insisted that Israel relinquish territory and abandon its settlement program in Gaza and the West Bank. Israel feels compelled to comply with these demands, especially in light of the fact that the US is insistent upon that course of action by Israel as a means to help alleviate the Palestinian situation as a means to better expedite the American war on terror.** But, even as events continue to unfold, God is using all these events to gather ALL nations down into the Valley of Decision. One of the principle components of this burdensome geo-political drama continues to be Gaza, the stronghold of Palestinian terror and the cornerstone of the perpetual hatred of Israel.

The relinquishment of Gaza by Israel is ironically symbolic of the days when Israel feared the imposing giants in that land. Instead of trusting in Jehovah for victory over the Anakim, Israel retreated from facing their huge enemies. This situation is still true today. Israel, for fear of political pressure from the Giants (world powers and Islamic terrorists) seeks to placate their enemies through the land-for-peace appeasement formula. Ironically, Gaza was the initial stronghold the Oslo peace brokers chose to reinsert Yasser Arafat and his terrorist machine into Palestine, culminating in the ensuing terrorist wars upon Israel, and finally upon the chief sponsor of Israel's coerced complicity in dividing the land, the US.

Gaza is a stepping stone along the pathway in the epic Struggle for Jerusalem!



Philistia	Moab	Ammon	Ethiopia	Assyria
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* Israel (Isa 2:6; 10:11); Philistia (Zech 9:7a), Moab (Isa 16:7; Jer 48:35, 46), Ammon (Jer 49:1,3), nations (Isa 10:10), Samaria (Isa 10:11)



The Judgment of Israel

3:1-7 Judgment on Israel

- * Isa 9:8-13 – pride & arrogance in heart, trust in self
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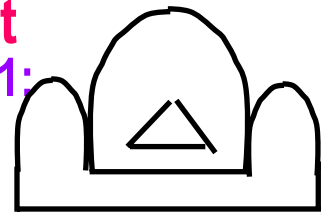
The Restoration of Israel

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God's Plan of the Ages

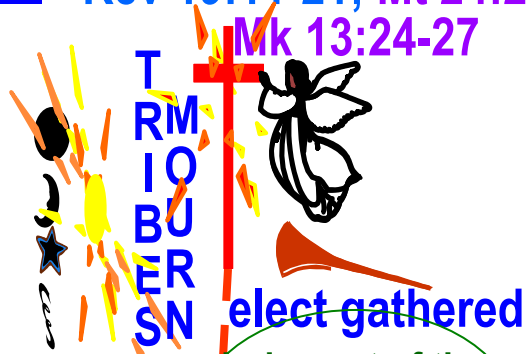
2nd Coming of Christ
 Rev 19:11-21; Mt 24:29-31;
 Mk 13:24-27



Great White Throne Judgment
 Rev 20:11-15



Nations Gathered at Har-magedon
 Rev 16:12-16



Judgment of the Nations
 Mt 25:31-46

1st Coming of Christ



Pentecost

The Calling Out of Jew & Gentile into One Body

Daniel's 70th Week
 Rev 6-19

Covenant Made with the Many for One Week
 Dan 9:24-27

Abomination of Desolation
 Mt 24:15; Mk 13:14; Dan 12:1

Day of Wrath

The Day of the Lord

Day of God

Meltdown of Matter
 2 Pet 3:10-13

1000-year Reign of Christ

Battle of Gog & Magog

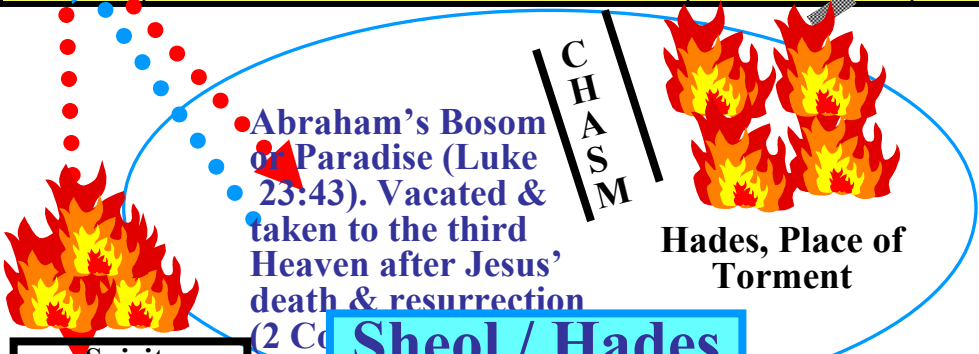
New Heaven / Earth
 Rev 21-22

Revelation 2-3

3 1/2 years

3 1/2 years

Revelation 20:1-6



Abraham's Bosom of Paradise (Luke 23:43). Vacated & taken to the third Heaven after Jesus' death & resurrection (2 Co...)

Hades, Place of Torment

Sheol / Hades
 (Luke 16:19-31)

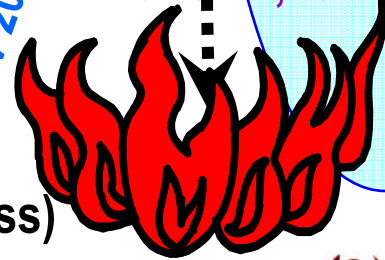
Spirits imprisoned (1 Peter 3:18-19)

Satan Bound
 Rev 20:1-3

Satan Loosed
 Rev 20:7-9

Bottomless Pit (Abyss)
 Rev 20:1-3

Lake of Fire
 Rev 20:11-15
 Mt 25:41,46



THE DAY OF THE LORD (Zephaniah)

Past

1:4-18 Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem

1:4-13 The Objects of Judgment

- v4 idolatrous priests
- v5 star worshipers
syncretistic worshipers
- v6 backsliders
the indifferent
- v8 the princes, the king's sons
all clothed with foreign
garments
- v9 oppressors, violent,
deceitful
- v10-11 the merchants
- v12-13 the stagnant in spirit

1:14-18 The Description of Judgment

2:4-15 Judgment on the Surrounding Nations

- 2:4-7 Philistia / West
- 2:8-11 Moab & Ammon / East
- 2:12 Ethiopia / South
- 2:13-15 Assyria / North

3:1-7 Judgment on Jerusalem

- v1-4 The Prophet's
Indictment
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Characteristics

- 1:14 is near (2X)
is coming very quickly
warrior cries
- 1:15 a day of wrath
a day of trouble & distress
a day of destruction & desolation
a day of darkness & gloom
a day of clouds & thick darkness
- 1:16 a day of trumpet & battle cry
- 1:18 the day of the Lord's wrath

Purposes

- 1:17 to bring distress on men
because they sinned against
the Lord
- 1:18 to make a complete terrifying end
of all the inhabitants of the earth

2:1-3 Escape from Judgment Offered

- v1 gather yourselves together
gather, O nation without shame
- v2 before the decree take effect
before the burning anger of
the Lord comes upon you
before the day of the Lord's anger
comes upon you
- v3 seek the Lord, all you humble &
obedient
seek righteousness
seek humility

Future

1:2-3 Universal Judgment

- v2 "I will completely remove all from face of the earth"
- v3 man & beasts, birds & fish, the ruins & the wicked
- v3 "I will cut off man from the face of the earth"

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- spiritual - call on the name of the Lord
serve Him
worship Him

- from beyond the rivers of Ethiopia

3:11-20 Restoration of Israel

v11-13 the redemption of the nation

- no shame (v11)
- no proud ones (v11)
- no wrong (v13)
- no lies (v13)
- no deceit (v13)
- humble & lowly people (v12)
- take refuge in the name of
the Lord (v12)

v14 the joy of the nation

v15-17 the ruler of the nation

- the king of Israel (v15)
- a victorious warrior (v17a)
- the exultant Bridegroom (v17b)

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fortunes
restored

