

Zephaniah 3:9-13

“Wait” –

1. **617 BC** – Zephaniah 3:8 – “Therefore wait for me,” declares the Lord, for the day when I rise up to seize the prey.”
2. **609 BC** – Habakkuk 2:3 – “For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.”
3. **586 BC** – Lamentations 3:24-26 – “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him. The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.”

Zephaniah speaks of the future when the Lord gathers his people Israel AND his people from the nations for the kingdom after the devastating destruction of the whole earth mentioned in chapter one and the 3:8 where it says, “all the earth shall be consumed.”

Zephaniah 3:9 – “**For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord.**”

3605 [e]	7121 [e]	1305 [e]	8193 [e]	5971 [e]	413 [e]	2015 [e]	227 [e]	3588 [e]
ku·lām	liq·rō	bə·rū·rāh;	šā·pāh	‘am·mīm	‘el-	‘eh·pōk	‘āz	kī-
כָּלָם	לִקְרָא	בְּרוּרָה	שִׂפְהָ	עַמִּים	אֶל-	אֶהְפֹּךְ	אָז	כִּי 9
they all	that may call	pure	a language	the peoples	to	I will restore	then	For
N-msc 3mp	Prep-I V-Qal-Inf	V-Qal-QalPassPrtcpl-fs	N-fs	N-mp	Prep	V-Qal-Imperf-1cs	Adv	Conj

259 [e]	7926 [e]	5647 [e]	3068 [e]	8034 [e]
‘e·hād.	šə·kem	lə·‘ā·bə·dōw	Yah·weh,	bə·šēm
אֶחָד:	שָׁכֵם	לְעַבְדוֹ	יְהוָה	בְּשֵׁם
one	with accord	to serve Him	of Yahweh	on the name
Number-ms	N-ms	Prep-I V-Qal-Inf 3ms	N-proper-ms	Prep-b N-msc

1. “For at that time” – the time after this judgment that was to be unleashed on Jerusalem
 - a. The time Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah and all the others were waiting.
2. Purification of lips was common in Mesopotamian rituals. It symbolized the inner purification of a person.
 - a. There are two Mesopotamian prayers used during rituals that speak of purifying the mouth/lips as symbols of total purity:
 - i. “Prayer of the Gods of the Night”
 - ii. “Old Babylonian baru Prayer”
 - b. A Mesopotamian priest wrote: “I am the ashipu of Eridu whose mouth is pure.”
 - i. “ashipu” were scholars and practitioners of diagnosis and treatment. It was a form of white magic or magical healing.

- ii. “Eridu” was the location of the temple of the god Enki. It has been considered the earliest city in southern Mesopotamia located 7 miles south of Ur. It is an archaeological site today.
- c. Purity of the moth was a condition for standing in front of the deity and divine council
- 3. The gathered people would be unified in:
 - a. Speech – purified
 - b. Service - in one accord (literally “one shoulder”)
 - i. “accord” – *shekem* – means “shoulder”
 - ii. “one” – *echad* – ‘ekh-awd – means “one”
- 4. “Pure language” or “purified lips” or “pure speech”
 - a. “language” – *sapah* - /was-faw/ - means “lip, speech, edge”
 - b. At Babel the rebellious people’s languages that they were using for idol worship and for creating their own realities/philosophies in rebellion to the Lord was confused by the Lord.
 - i. This new purified language would unite the people in unified service to the Lord.
 - c. Purified language would indicate a purified heart (or, new heart)
 - d. The word “pure” - *berurah* – is passive participle which would refer to something that has become purified. This cannot be referring to some kind of “pure” language. This is a language, speech, lips that were at one time impure or defiled
 - e. Isaiah 6:5 – “And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

8432 [e]	595 [e]	8193 [e]	2931 [e]	376 [e]	3588 [e]	1820 [e]	3588 [e]	188 [e]	559 [e]	
וְבַתוֹךְ	אֲנֹכִי	שִׁפְתַיִם	טָמֵא	אִישׁ	כִּי	נִדְמֵיתִי	כִּי	לִי	אֵיִי	וַאֲמַר
and in the midst	I [am]	lips	of unclean	a man	because	I am undone	for	me	Woe [is]	So I said
Conj-w, Prep-b N-msc	Pro-1cs	N-ld	Adj-msc	N-ms	Conj	V-Nifal-Perf-1cs	Conj	Prep 1cs	Interjection	Conj-w V-Qal-Conseclmperf-1cs

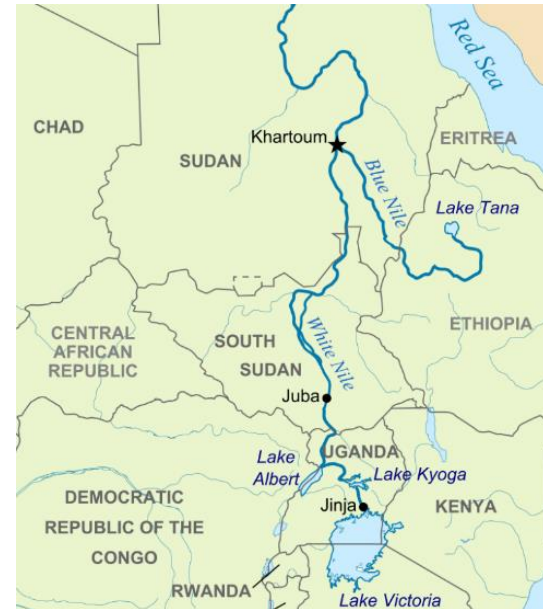
5869 [e]	7200 [e]	6635 [e]	3068 [e]	4428 [e]	853 [e]	3588 [e]	3427 [e]	595 [e]	8193 [e]	2931 [e]	5971 [e]
עֵינָי	רָאוּ	צְבָאוֹת	יְהוָה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	אֶת־	כִּי	יֹשֵׁב	אֲנֹכִי	שִׁפְתַיִם	טָמֵא	עַם־
my eyes	have seen	of hosts	Yahweh	the King	-	for	dwell	I	lips	of unclean	of a people
N-cdc 1cs	V-Qal-Perf-3cp	N-cp	N-proper-ms	Art N-ms	DirObjM	Conj	V-Qal-Prtcp-1ms	Pro-1cs	N-ld	Adj-msc	N-ms

- i. “unclean” – *tame* – meaning “unclean, defiled”
- ii. “lips” – *sepatayim* – (plural of *sapah*) – meaning “lip, speech, edge”
- f.
- 5. “call on the name of the LORD”
 - a. Indicates a turning to the Lord for help
 - b. Referred to before the Flood in Genesis 4:26 – “To Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord.”

3:10 – “From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering.”

4503 [e]	2986 [e]	6327 [e]	1323 [e]	6282 [e]	3568 [e]	5104 [e]	5676 [e]
min·ḥā·tī.	yō·w·bī·lūn	pū·šay,	baṭ-	‘ā·tā·ray	kūš; le·na·hā·rē-	le·na·hā·rē-	mē·‘ē·bēr
מִנְחָתִי:	יֹבְלֹן	פֹּצֵי	בַּת-	עֲתָרִי	כּוּשׁ	לְנַהַרֵי-	מֵעֵבֶר
My offering	shall bring	of My dispersed ones	the daughter	My worshipers	of Ethiopia	the rivers	From beyond
N-fsc 1cs	V-Hifil-Imperf-3mp Pn	V-Qal-QalPassPrtcpl-mpc 1cs	N-fsc	N-mpc 1cs	N-proper-fs	Prep-l N-mpc	Prep-m N-ms

1. Cush would be the land just south of Upper Egypt (southern Egypt) or Sudan today.
 - a. The rivers (plural) referred to here would be the Blue and White Nile Rivers in Upper Egypt.
 - b. The Blue and White Nile are the two tributaries of the Nile River.
2. Isaiah refers to this same land divided by rivers in Isaiah 18:2 and 7. These same lands deep in Africa bring the Lord Almighty gifts (Isaiah 18:7)
3. Zephaniah seems to be talking about both:
 - a. The gathering of people from the nations
 - b. Regathering people of Israel
4. God had promised in Deuteronomy 4:27 and 28:64 and 30:3 that Israel would be dispersed into the nations. So, the regathering of Israel would gather them from the nations that are also be gathered
5. This also could refer to the return of the pre-Tower of Babel unity



3:11 – “On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain.”

227 [e]	3588 [e]	6586 [e]	834 [e]	5949 [e]	3605 [e]	954 [e]	3808 [e]	1931 [e]	3117 [e]	
‘āz	kī-	bī;	pā·šā·‘at	‘ā·šer	‘ā·lī·lō·tā·yik,	mik·kōl	tē·bō·wō·šī	lō	ha·hū,	bay·yō·wm
אָז	כִּי-	בִּי	פָּשַׁעַת	אֲשֶׁר	עַל־לֹתְיִךְ	מִכֹּל	תְּבוֹשִׁי	לֹא	הֵהוּא	בַּיּוֹם
then	for	against Me	you transgress	in which	of your deeds	for any	you shall be shamed	not	that	in day
Adv	Conj	Prep 1cs	V-Qal-Perf-2fs	Pro-r	N-fpc 2fs	Prep-m N-msc	V-Qal-Imperf-2fs	Adv-NegPrt	Art Pro-3ms	Prep-b, Art N-ms

6944 [e]	2022 [e]	5750 [e]	1361 [e]	3254 [e]	3808 [e]	1346 [e]	5947 [e]	7130 [e]	5493 [e]
qād·šī	bə·har	‘ō·wđ	le·gā·bə·hāh	tō·w·si·pī	wə·lō-	ga·‘ā·wā·tēk,	‘al·lī·zē	miq·qir·bēk,	‘ā·sīr
קֹדֶשִׁי:	בְּהַר	עוֹד	לִגְבֹהָהּ	תוֹסֵפִי	וְלֹא-	גִּאְוַתְּךָ	עֲלֵיזִי	מִקְרִבְךָ	אֲסִיר
My holy	in mountain	longer	be haughty	you shall	and no	your pride	Those who rejoice in	from your midst	I will take away
N-msc 1cs	Prep-b N-msc	Adv	Prep-l V-Qal-Inf	V-Hifil-Imperf-2fs	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	N-fsc 2fs	Adj-mpc	Prep-m N-msc 2fs	V-Hifil-Imperf-1cs

3:12 – “But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD,”

3068 [e]	8034 [e]	2620 [e]	1800 [e]	6041 [e]	5971 [e]	7130 [e]	7604 [e]	
Yah-weh.	bə-šēm	wə-ḥā-sū	wā-dāl;	‘ā-nî	‘am	bə-qir-bêk,	wə-hiš-‘ar-tî	
•	יהוה:	בשם	וְחָסוּ	וְדָלִים	עֲנִיִּים	עַם	בְּקִרְבְּךָ	וְהִשְׁאַרְתִּי 12
of Yahweh	in the name	and they shall trust	and poor	meek	a people	in your midst	And I will leave	
N-proper-ms	Prep-b N-msc	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3cp	Conj-w Adj-msc	Adj-ms	N-ms	Prep-b N-msc 2fs	Conj-w V-Hifil-ConjPerf-1cs	

3:13 – “those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.”

4672 [e]	3808 [e]	3577 [e]	1696 [e]	3808 [e]	5766 [e]	6213 [e]	3808 [e]	3478 [e]	7611 [e]
yim-mā-šê	wə-lō-	kā-zāb,	ye-dab-bə-rū	wə-lō-	‘aw-lāh	ya-‘ā-sū	lō-	yiś-rā-‘êl	šə-‘ē-rîṭ
יִמָּצָא	וְלֹא-	כָּזָב	יְדַבְּרוּ	וְלֹא	עוֹלָה	יַעֲשׂוּ	לֹא-	יִשְׂרָאֵל	שְׁאֵרִית 13
shall be found	nor	lies	speak	and no	unrighteousness	shall do	no	of Israel	The remnant
V-Nifal-Imperf-3ms	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	N-ms	V-Piel-Imperf-3mp	Conj-w Adv-NegPrt	N-fs	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Adv-NegPrt	N-proper-ms	N-fsc

s	2729 [e]	369 [e]	7257 [e]	7462 [e]	1992 [e]	3588 [e]	8649 [e]	3956 [e]	6310 [e]
	ma-ḥā-rîd.	wə-‘ên	wə-rā-bə-šū	yir-‘ū	hēm-māh	kî-	tar-mîṭ;	le-šō-wn	bə-pî-hem
ס	מַחְרִיד:	וְאֵין	וְרָבְצוּ	יִרְעוּ	הֵמָּה	כִּי-	תִרְמִית	לְשׁוֹן	בְּפִיהֶם
-	shall make [them] afraid	and no one	and lie down	shall feed [their] flocks	they	for	deceitful	a tongue	in their mouth
Punc	V-Hifil-Prtcpl-ms	Conj-w Adv	Conj-w V-Qal-ConjPerf-3cp	V-Qal-Imperf-3mp	Pro-3mp	Conj	N-fs	N-csc	Prep-b N-msc 3mp