OLD TESTAMENT · MINOR PROPHETS · BOOK 36 OF 66

Zephaniah

Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth (2:3)

3	Zephaniah	c. 630 B.C.	The Day
Chapters, 53 Verses	Of Hezekiah's line	Under Josiah	Of the LORD

STRUCTURE

The Book in Three Parts

The day of the LORD falls on Judah (1), then on the nations (2), and finally gives way to a restored, rejoicing people (3).



Each bar shows that part's share of the 53 verses.

I 1:1–2:3 · 21 verses

The Day of the LORD

Judah judged.

II 2:4–15 · 12 verses

The Nations Judged

West, east, south and north.

III 3 · 20 verses

Jerusalem Restored

He will joy over thee with singing.

ZEPHANIAH 1:14–18

That Day Is a Day of Wrath

Zephaniah describes the day of the LORD in a string of hammer blows.

1:14
Near
It hasteth greatly

1:15
Wrath
Trouble and distress

1:15
Darkness
Clouds and thick darkness

1:16
Trumpet
Alarm against the fenced cities

"Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD's wrath" (1:18).

ZEPHANIAH 2:3

Seek Ye the LORD

Between the warnings comes an open door for the humble.

1 2:3
Seek the LORD
All ye meek of the earth

2 2:3
Seek Righteousness
Which have wrought His judgment

3 2:3
Seek Meekness
It may be ye shall be hid

West, East, South and North

MAP

West, East, South and North

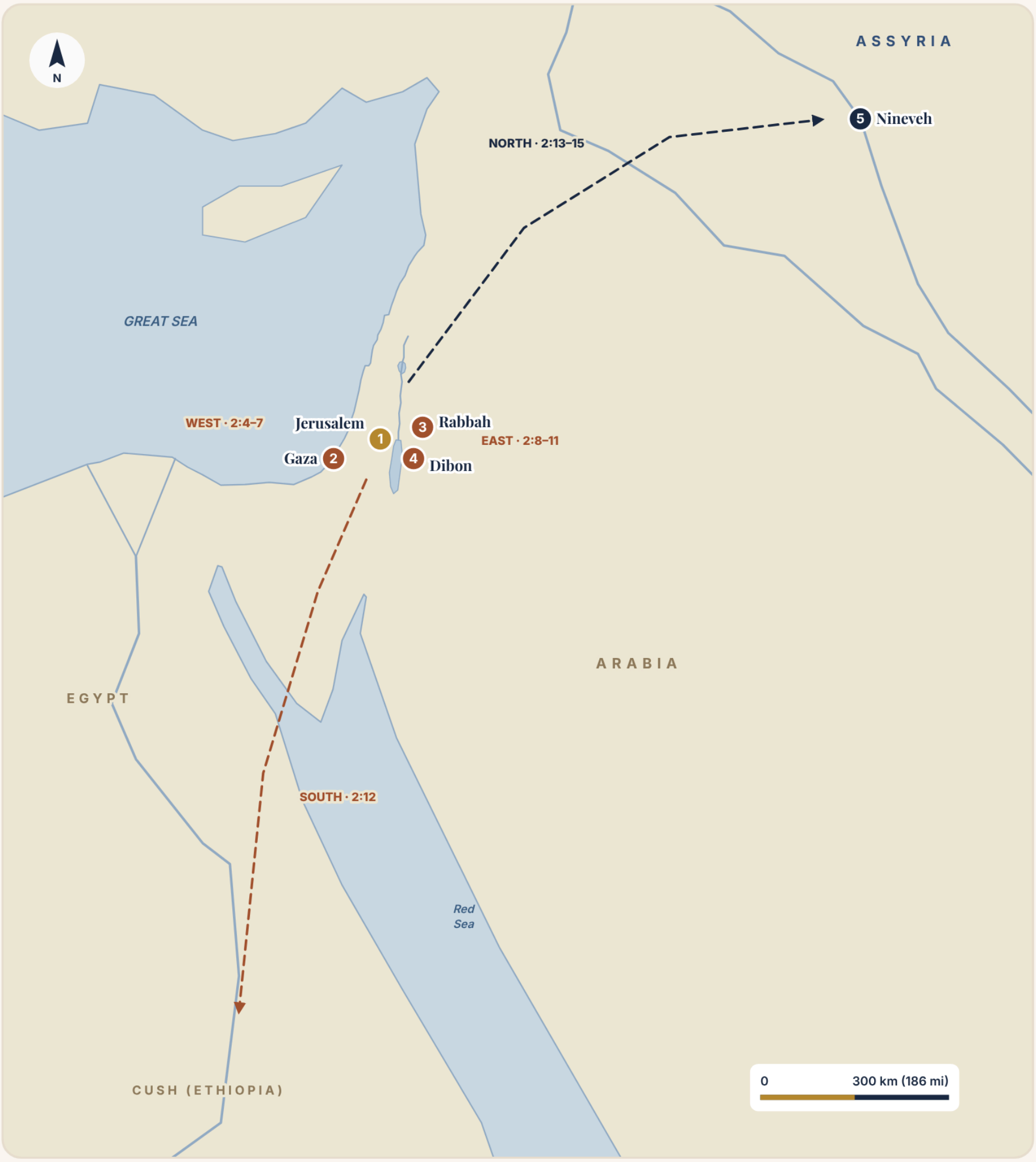
Zephaniah’s judgment circles Judah: Philistia to the west, Moab and Ammon to the east, the Ethiopians to the south, and Assyria to the north. The numbers match the cards below.

ZEPHANIAH 2

West, East, South and North

The day of the LORD reaches every nation around Judah

c. 630 B.C. · Places approximate



Judah — Jerusalem judged first (1:4)

West, east and south — Philistia, Moab and Ammon, Cush

North — Assyria and Nineveh (2:13)

“Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth.”

ZEPHANIAH 2:3 (KJV)

Cush (Ethiopia) lay far up the Nile, south of Egypt.

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

1 1:4; 3:1

Jerusalem

Judah. “I will also stretch out Mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”

2 2:4

Gaza

Philistia. West: “Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation.”

3 2:8–9

Rabbah

Moab and Ammon. East: Ammon, “as Gomorrah,” for reproaching God’s people.

4 2:8–9

Dibon

Moab and Ammon. East: “Surely Moab shall be as Sodom.”

5 2:13

Nineveh

Assyria. North: “He will … destroy Assyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation.”

He Will Joy over Thee, and Christ in Zephaniah

ZEPHANIAH 3:14–17

He Will Joy over Thee with Singing

The book that began with wrath ends with God and His people singing together.

ZION SINGS	THE LORD SINGS
“Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel” 3:14	**“He will rejoice over thee with joy”** 3:17
“Be glad and rejoice with all the heart” 3:14	**“He will joy over thee with singing”** 3:17

> *“The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing.”*
>
> Zephaniah 3:17 (KJV)

LOOKING FORWARD

Christ in Zephaniah

The King in the midst of His people points to Jesus.

3:15 · JOHN 1:49

The King of Israel

“Thou art the King of Israel,” Nathanael said to Jesus.

3:9 · ACTS 2:4–11

A Pure Language

At Pentecost all nations heard God’s wonderful works.

1:14 · 2 PETER 3:10

The Day of the Lord

It will come as a thief in the night.

3:17 · LUKE 15:7

Joy in Heaven

Over one sinner that repenteth.

Key Themes and Key Verse

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

The Day of the LORD
Near, and hasteth greatly.
1:14

No Complacency
Settled on their lees.
1:12

Wealth Cannot Save
Neither silver nor gold.
1:18

Seek the LORD
All ye meek of the earth.
2:3

All Nations Judged
West, east, south, north.
2:4–15

Pride Brought Low
None beside me.
2:15

A Humble Remnant
Trust in the name of the LORD.
3:12

Nations Turn to God
A pure language.
3:9

God's Delight
He will joy over thee.
3:17

KEY VERSE

"Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger."

Zephaniah 2:3 (KJV)