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There seems to be an incredible connection between what are called Minor Prophets more based on volume than anything that is said. This connection is about who these prophets spoke to and the end times. Most in not all of the Minor Prophets spoke to various parts of the 12 tribes of Israel but more often than not it was to Judah and Jerusalem.

We have repeatedly seen in our study that God would use one thing or one nation or person but intends to speak broadly to many nations or many people. We will find similar processes at work as we continue through Zephaniah. I had told you at the beginning we would be cautious about naming other nations especially new world nations when studying Old Testament Prophets. We will see commentators address this very thing in some of Zephaniah; such as speaking of the Philistines. This is one such comment from Pulpit Commentators;

“Thus the four quarters of the world are virtually specified: the Philistines representing the west,, the Moabites and Ammonites (vers. 8-10) the east, the Cushites (vers. 11, 12) the south, and the Assyrians (vers. 13-15) the north.”

These cardinal directions N. S. E. and W. are based on these particular nation's relative location to one another in the Promised land.

A Call to Repentance

[\(Joel 1:13-20; Amos 5:4-15; Luke 13:1-5\)](#)

1Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired;

This nation not desired is Judah, having fallen into rebellion against God, the Priests having allowed debauchery in the Temple and Kings of Judah turning their back on God and serving other gods. God expands this accusation throughout scripture to include all the sons of Jacob. None were righteous, none withstood the onslaught of foreign gods, they all sinned. The same can be said of America.

Joel 1: 13Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.

14Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD,

15Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

16Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

17The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.

18How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.

19O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.

20The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

2Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD'S anger come upon you.

The subject of this verse is the “day of the Lord” and the Lord’s Anger. The command is that the day of the Lord is at hand and the advice is that Judah do something and in a broader sense the 50,000 foot view we in this day are to do same thing before the wrath of God comes; what is it that we and they are to do? Part of it is covered in the next verse.

3Seek 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.

Q. We have studied this process of salvation many times; in order to seek God and Righteousness what must man do first?

Recognize that he or she is a sinner and Repent!

In this verse God calls a type of people; one of which we should find ourselves in as the number of days grow shorter until His return. God declares that the “meek” should seek the Lord. There are five ways “seek” is meant to be used;

1. Seek to find
2. Seek to secure
3. Seek the face of
4. Desire
5. Ask

Strong’s Concordance puts accumulated these descriptive words of what God is telling us we must do; the closer the time the more urgent the need is.

“Ask, beg, beseech, desire, enquire, get, make inquisition, procure”

Don’t worry about the next election, don’t worry about the Chinese or the North Koreans, but instead spend your limited time seeking the Face of God, in order to Find peace, to Secure your Eternal Life. Ask Him the desires of your hearts which will likely be to

save those you love, or to help you become the person God wants you to be.

The people that God speaks to are the “meek of the earth”.

Are you meek, what is meek? Strong’s Concordance references meek to these descriptive words;

depressed (figuratively), in mind (gentle) or circumstances (needy, especially saintly) -- humble, lowly, meek, poor.

If you used these words to describe Jesus Christ’s walk on this earth, they would be precise in their description of His Walk. And that is what God is asking of us; to be humble toward all men. In reality, what are we that we should be boastful about anything? What have we done as God inquired of Job;

Job 38: 1Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

2Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?

3Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.

4Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.

5Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it?

6Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof;

7When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

8Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?

9When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it,

10And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors,

11And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?

12Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place;

13That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it?

14It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment.

15And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken.

16Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth?

17Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?

18Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all.

19Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof,

20That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof?

21 Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great?

22 Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail,

23 Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war?

24 By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?

25 Who hath divided a watercourse for the overflowing of waters, or a way for the lightning of thunder;

26 To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man;

27 To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?

28 Hath the rain a father? or who hath begotten the drops of dew?

29 Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it?

30 The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

31 Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion?

32 Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?

33 Knowest thou the ordinances of heaven? canst thou set the dominion thereof in the earth?

34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee?

35Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are?

36Who hath put wisdom in the inward parts? or who hath given understanding to the heart?

37Who can number the clouds in wisdom? or who can stay the bottles of heaven,

38When the dust groweth into hardness, and the clods cleave fast together?

39Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions,

40When they couch in their dens, and abide in the covert to lie in wait?

41Who provideth for the raven his food? when his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat.

What is it that we bring to God's table that we can boast about? Nothing, it was given to us to give to others. All that we have been blessed with has come from God, we own nothing, we are nothing apart from the Blood of Christ, a free gift given to you and me, unworthy sinners, a blight upon the world, destined for the lake of fire; but for the Grace and Mercy of God He has saved us by the Blood of the Lamb. So what should our temperament be in these final days, one of meekness, spending our time seeking the Face of the Almighty God, the giver of life.

The Judgment on the Philistines

(Jeremiah 47:1-7)

MAP OF CANAANITE NATIONS



4For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon a desolation: they shall drive out Ashdod at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up.

Many of these places still exist today, and even though it is identifying a location God is really speaking about the people that make up these towns or areas.

<https://www.bibleplaces.com/ashkelon/>

Ashkelon is about 8 miles north of the Gaza strip controlled by the PLO.

Ashdod is the sixth largest city in Israel today and its largest seaport. It sits about 12 miles north of Ashkelon and 19 miles south of Tel Aviv.

Ekron, no longer exists but was created by the Canaanites, so it is likely the people that will still exist in some manner through DNA.

5Woe 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.

According to Jewish Encyclopedia the Cherethites were another name for the Philistines. These Cherethite men were courageous warriors and were used by several kings as their personal bodyguards; they were however Philistines. To remind us all how the Philistines and the names of place we just read about; how

they all endeared themselves go God we'll read a couple of verses from

1 Samuel 5: 1And the Philistines took the ark of God, and brought it from Ebenezer unto Ashdod. 2When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. 3And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. 4And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him. 5Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day.

Back to vs 5,

5Woe 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.

God declares those that lived on the seacoast, which were of the nation of Cherethites or as we learned the Philistines will be totally destroyed. We know today that this coast land is inhabited by many people, predominately Israeli and so called Palestinians.

Is there any link between the Philistines of two thousand years ago and the so-called Palestinians of today? Doubtful, to minimal; the so-called Palestinians are Arabs, the Philistines were Greek.

Was there any intermarrying between the two, most likely there was, so the link even faith may exist?

6And the sea coast shall be dwellings *and* cottages for shepherds, and folds for flocks.

We know that this happened in the past that upon returning to Israel after captivity in Babylon many Israelis lived along this shore line and pastured sheep there. But more conflict came and a good stretch of this shoreline is now held by the PLO. So is this intended to be fulfilled multiple times?

7And 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.

This is a quote from Pulpit Commentary about this verse and the fulfillment in the future;

“The phrase, however, is often (and possibly here) used metaphorically for the abolishment of misery and the restoration to a happy condition (comp. [Deuteronomy 30:3](#); [Job 42:10](#) (15); [Jeremiah 29:14](#)). The full accomplishment of this prophecy concerning the overthrow of Philistia is of a spiritual nature, and must be looked for in the Messianic era, when the kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of Christ; and so in the subsequent predictions.” (emphasis mine)

To help us remember who those named in Biblical archives and where they lived and what nations occupy those lands today is this chart.

Edom: Southern Jordan and Palestinian refugees

Ishmaelites: Saudi Arabia

(Ishmael was one of the fathers of the Arabs)

Moab: Central Jordan and Palestinian refugees

Hagrites:^{t4} Egypt

Gebal: Northern Lebanon

Ammon: Northern Jordan and Palestinian refugees

Amalek: The Negev and Sinai Peninsula areas

Philistia: The Gaza Strip and Hamas

Tyre: Southern Lebanon and Hezbollah

Assyria: Syria and Northern Iraq





The Judgment on Moab and Ammon

[\(Jeremiah 48:1-47\)](#)

8I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the revilings of the children of Ammon, whereby they have reproached my people, and magnified *themselves* against their border.

Jeremiah 48: 1Against Moab thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Woe unto Nebo! for it is spoiled: Kiriathaim is confounded and taken: Misgab is confounded and dismayed.

2There shall be no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from being a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee.

3A voice of crying shall be from Horonaim, spoiling and great destruction.

4Moab is destroyed; her little ones have caused a cry to be heard.

5For in the going up of Luhith continual weeping shall go up; for in the going down of Horonaim the enemies have heard a cry of destruction.

6Flee, save your lives, and be like the heath in the wilderness.

7For because thou hast trusted in thy works and in thy treasures, thou shalt also be taken: and Chemosh shall go forth into captivity with his priests and his princes together.

8And the spoiler shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape: the valley also shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD hath spoken.

9Give wings unto Moab, that it may flee and get away: for the cities thereof shall be desolate, without any to dwell therein.

10Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.

11Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.

12Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will send unto him wanderers, that shall cause him to wander, and shall empty his vessels, and break their bottles. 13And Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Bethel their confidence.

14How say ye, We are mighty and strong men for the war?

15Moab is spoiled, and gone up out of her cities, and his chosen young men are gone down to the slaughter, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts.

16The calamity of Moab is near to come, and his affliction hasteth fast.

17All ye that are about him, bemoan him; and all ye that know his name, say, How is the strong staff broken, and the beautiful rod!

18Thou daughter that dost inhabit Dibon, come down from thy glory, and sit in thirst; for the spoiler of Moab shall come upon thee, and he shall destroy thy strong holds.

19O inhabitant of Aroer, stand by the way, and espy; ask him that fleeth, and her that escapeth, and say, What is done?

20Moab is confounded; for it is broken down: howl and cry; tell ye it in Arnon, that Moab is spoiled,

21And judgment is come upon the plain country; upon Holon, and upon Jahazah, and upon Mephaath, 22And upon Dibon, and upon Nebo, and upon Bethdiblathaim, 23And upon Kiriathaim, and upon Bethgamul, and upon Bethmeon, 24And upon Kerioth, and upon Bozrah, and upon all the cities of the land of Moab, far or near. 25The horn of Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken, saith the LORD. 26Make ye him drunken: for he magnified himself against the LORD: Moab also shall wallow in his vomit, and he also shall be in derision. 27For was not Israel a derision unto thee? was he found among thieves? for since thou spakest of him, thou skippedst for joy.

28O ye that dwell in Moab, leave the cities, and dwell in the rock, and be like the dove that maketh her nest in the sides of the hole's mouth.

29We have heard the pride of Moab, (he is exceeding proud) his loftiness, and his arrogancy, and his pride, and the haughtiness of his heart.

30I know his wrath, saith the LORD; but it shall not be so; his lies shall not so effect it.

31Therefore will I howl for Moab, and I will cry out for all Moab; mine heart shall mourn for the men of Kirheres.

32O vine of Sibmah, I will weep for thee with the weeping of Jazer: thy plants are gone over the sea, they reach even to the sea of Jazer: the spoiler is fallen upon thy summer fruits and upon thy vintage.

33And joy and gladness is taken from the plentiful field, and from the land of Moab; and I have caused wine to fail

from the winepresses: none shall tread with shouting; their shouting shall be no shouting.

34*From the cry of Heshbon even unto Elealeh, and even unto Jahaz, have they uttered their voice, from Zoar even unto Horonaim, as an heifer of three years old: for the waters also of Nimrim shall be desolate. **35**Moreover I will cause to cease in Moab, saith the LORD, him that offereth in the high places, and him that burneth incense to his gods.*

36*Therefore mine heart shall sound for Moab like pipes, and mine heart shall sound like pipes for the men of Kirheres: because the riches that he hath gotten are perished. **37**For every head shall be bald, and every beard clipped: upon all the hands shall be cuttings, and upon the loins sackcloth. **38**There shall be lamentation generally upon all the housetops of Moab, and in the streets thereof: for I have broken Moab like a vessel wherein is no pleasure, saith the LORD. **39**They shall howl, saying, How is it broken down! how hath Moab turned the back with shame! so shall Moab be a derision and a dismaying to all them about him.*

40*For thus saith the LORD; Behold, he shall fly as an eagle, and shall spread his wings over Moab.*

41*Kerioth is taken, and the strong holds are surprised, and the mighty men's hearts in Moab at that day shall be as the heart of a woman in her pangs.*

42*And Moab shall be destroyed from being a people, because he hath magnified himself against the LORD.*

43*Fear, and the pit, and the snare, shall be upon thee, O inhabitant of Moab, saith the LORD.*

44*He that fleeth from the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that getteth up out of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for I will bring upon it, even upon Moab, the year of their visitation, saith the LORD.*

45They that fled stood under the shadow of Heshbon because of the force: but a fire shall come forth out of Heshbon, and a flame from the midst of Sihon, and shall devour the corner of Moab, and the crown of the head of the tumultuous ones.

46Woe be unto thee, O Moab! the people of Chemosh perisheth: for thy sons are taken captives, and thy daughters captives.

47Yet will I bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith the LORD. Thus far is the judgment of Moab.

9Therefore as I live, saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab shall be as Sodom, and the children of Ammon as Gomorrah, even the breeding of nettles, and saltpits, and a perpetual desolation: the residue of my people shall spoil them, and the remnant of my people shall possess them.

The issue here is that the Moab and Ammonites in the form of tribes or nations no longer live here. The Land however was theirs and the point God is making is that the land will belong to His remnant of Israel. The description of the land in this verse is the way this land exists today. The area is known for the salt deposits around the Dead Sea and the salt pits that exists today in the area.

10This shall they have for their pride, because they have reproached and magnified *themselves* against the people of the LORD of hosts. 11The LORD *will be* terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the

earth; and *men* shall worship him, every one from his place, *even* all the isles of the heathen.

God has destroyed the Ammonites and Edomites in the past. Whether there exists a remnant today is not clear. The land however still exists. The gods of those tribes God declares He would “famish” meaning to make lean or destroy. As went the Ammonites and Edomites so go their puny gods.

The Judgment on Ethiopia and Assyria

12Ye Ethiopians also, ye *shall be* slain by my sword.



There may be some confusion and I was part of that confusion about Ethiopia. Ethiopia is a nation that is south of Sudan and borders Chad, Uganda, Kenya, Somalia and Central African Republic. Pointed out by Craig C. White of “High time to awake”

<https://hightimetoawake.com/2013/11/25/ethiopia-is-sudan/>

is the misnaming in the English language of Ethiopia as one of the nations involved in the Gog/Magog war. Until I read and began to understand the potential error in translation and looked at the current political/religious situation in many of these African nations I just assumed the word “Ethiopia” was correct. Ethiopia as a name did not occur until 400 AD almost a thousand years after the prophecy in Ezekiel 593-556 BC during Babylonian Captivity. The original name from Greek was Abyssinia. According to

https://www.ancient.eu/Kingdom_of_Abyssinia/

“The most important church was at Axum, the Church of Maryam Tzion, which, according to later Ethiopian medieval texts, housed the Ark of the Covenant.”

This according to Craig C. White;

“The name Ethiopia is only as old as about 400 AD. That name was given long after Ezekiel wrote

his prophecy ([Ezekiel 38:5](#))! The name Ethiopia comes from the Greek word “Aethiopia” referring to the people who lived south of Egypt. The original Hebrew word translated as “Ethiopia” in the English bible is the Hebrew word “Cush”.

Strong’s Concordance does concur that Cush was a son of Noah and had established their tribal location in the South Nile Valley. This is important because the nation of Ethiopia is predominately Christian/Jewish and are being persecuted by Islam. The same can be said of South Sudan even though the Bible declares that Sudan and Ethiopia are going to be part of the invading armies of Israel under Gog/Magog. It would be prudent of us to pray for our brothers and sisters in Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Now back to verse

12Ye Ethiopians also, ye shall be slain by my sword.

In today’s geography and understanding how the name came about it would be referring to the Islamists of Sudan. The nation of Sudan (not to be confused with South Sudan) are predominately Sunni Muslims; violent and immoral. Human trafficking is dominant throughout Sudan; bringing in sex slaves from as far as the Philippines. It all seems to revolve around Islam

so it easy to see the alignment of Sudan/which has been thought to be also Ethiopia, with the Gog/Magog invasion of Israel.

13And he will stretch out his hand against the north, and destroy Assyria; and will make Nineveh a desolation, and dry like a wilderness.

Nineveh in ancient Hebrew was translated “fish house” it was celebrated as the “god of fish”. When Jonah was sent to them to tell them to repent it seems to all relate to “fish” IE: the whale that swallowed Johan. You all know the story of Nineveh and Jonah, how God sent Jonah but Jonah didn’t want to go because if they repented God would forgive them and Jonah wanted them punished for what they had done to Israel. Nineveh was the Capital City of Assyria. The Assyrians were brutal to those they defeated, cutting off hands and feet, skinning them alive impaling them on stakes. So Jonah had good reason to hate them for what they had done to Israel the northern tribe.

Nineveh fell to the Medes in about 612 BC and was never rebuilt. Assyria became what is known today as Syria and has been in civil conflict for years. Several nations now ostensibly there to aid Assad the President of Syria are listed among those of Gog/Magog. This land will become that of Israel as well.

14And flocks shall lie down in the midst of her, all the beasts of the nations: both the cormorant and the

bittern shall lodge in the upper lintels of it; *their* voice shall sing in the windows; desolation *shall be* in the thresholds: for he shall uncover the cedar work.

Strong's Concordance references the Pelican and the Hedgehog as the Cormorant and the Bittern. This verse give us a seen of utter human abandonment and only wildlife lives there.

15This *is* the rejoicing city that dwelt carelessly, that said in her heart, I *am*, and *there is* none beside me: how is she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down in! every one that passeth by her shall hiss, *and* wag his hand.

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