

## THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

Zephaniah 1: 1, 7-18.

1. The word of the Lord came unto Zephaniah the son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

[Here there are verses omitted in order to catch out both reader and unlikely members of the congregation who are following.]

7. Hold thy peace and nothing else at the presence of the Lord God: for the day of the Lord is at hand: for the Lord hath prepared a sacrifice with snacks and cheese and pineapple on sticks and nuts and olives, he hath bid his guests, and handed out serviettes.
8. And it shall come to pass in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes with smiting, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel or have dyed their hair or covered their skin with tattoos, or who have pierced their noses and lips and affixed therein silver or gold studs and rings.
9. In the same day also will I punish with even more smiting all those that leap on the threshold, or dance in the aisles, or raise their hands in worship, which fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit and strange odours of cinnamon and patchouli.
10. And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that there shall be the noise of a cry from the fish gate of Crabs, I have the crabs, and an howling from a second proclaiming large cod pieces and medium haddock filets, and a great crashing from the hills and from the outhouses where other noises emanate.
11. Howl, ye inhabitants of Maktesh, for all the merchant people are cut down and their prices are in excess of the towns of Yaldi and T'esco; all they that bear silver are cut off, the reward cards are cancelled, and the knives shall be sharpened in preparation, and tears shall be brought to many eyes which no amount of blowing or wiping of noses will cure.
12. And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles of fine wax and not tallow, for they do smoke and stench with whiff, and punish the men that are settled on their lees and doth sup the dregs from their bottles: that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil, for the ways of the Lord are not our ways and cannot be discerned. Well, except for using candles, that is.
13. Therefore [and here the Levite is to make a dramatic pause] their goods shall become a booty which shall be shaken, (and who likes their booty being shaken?) and their houses a desolation requiring much makeover: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them, for these shall be the days of letting with air and breakfast; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof, for the vintage shall be mediocre and the corks tainted.
14. The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord which shall be sung, sung, sung in chorus: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly for the loss of fine hymnody.
15. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16. A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers, and against the gated communities that doth shut out the poor and needy.
17. And if that's not bad enough I will bring distress upon men and women, upon their manservant and their maidservant, (those are not euphemisms) upon their ox and their ass, (they might be) that they shall walk like blind men stumbling along and tapping with a stick, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung, especially since they cannot see the middens. So watch out! And stop omitting my verses!

18. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath, nor the currency of Bits; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy and the blast of wind from his nostrils: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. But elsewhere the weather shall be sunny with light showers and a gentle breeze.