

Zephaniah choral reading

CHARACTERS: Leaders 1 & 2, All

RUN TIME: 3-4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Zephaniah 1-3

FK reading level:4.0

Scene 1

LEADER 1: The word of the Lord that came to Zephaniah the great, great grandson of Hezekiah, during the reign of King Josiah of Judah.

LEADER 2: Be silent before the Sovereign Lord,

ALL: for the day of the Lord is near.

LEADER 1: The Lord will search Jerusalem with lamps

ALL: and punish those who are complacent,

LEADER 2: Those who think, ‘The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad.’

A: Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished.

LEADER 1: Though they build houses,

ALL: they will not live in them;

LEADER 2: though they plant vineyards,

ALL: they will not drink the wine.

LEADER 1: The great day of the Lord is near—

ALL: near and coming quickly.

LEADER 2: The Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.

LEADER 1: That day will be a day of wrath—

ALL: a day of distress and anguish,

LEADER 2: a day of trouble and ruin,

ALL: a day of darkness and gloom,

LEADER 1: a day of clouds and blackness—

ALL: because they have sinned against the Lord.

LEADER 2: Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them

ALL: on the day of the Lord’s wrath.

LEADER 1: Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land,

ALL: you who do what he commands.

LEADER 2: Seek righteousness, seek humility;

ALL: perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the Lord’s anger.

Scene 3

LEADER 1: Woe to the oppressors, rebellious and defiled!

ALL: They obey no one, accept no correction.

LEADER 2: They do not trust in the Lord,

ALL: they do not draw near to her God.

LEADER 1: The Lord is righteous;

ALL: He does no wrong.

LEADER 2: Morning by morning he dispenses his justice,

ALL: and every new day he does not fail,

LEADER 1: God will purify the lips of the peoples,

ALL: that all of them may call on the name of the Lord

LEADERS 1 & 2: and serve him shoulder to shoulder.

ALL: Worshipers will bring Him offerings.

LEADER 2: God will leave the meek and humble.

ALL: The remnant will trust in the name of the Lord.

LEADER 1: A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths.

ALL: They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid.

LEADER 1: The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you;

ALL: never again will you fear any harm.

LEADER 2: The Lord your God is with you,

ALL: the Mighty Warrior who saves.

LEADER 1: He will take great delight in you;

ALL: in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.

LEADER 2: He will rescue the lame and gather the exiles.

ALL: God will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame.

LEADER 1: He will gather you and bring you home.

ALL: God will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when He restores your fortunes.

