

## BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #24

### FIRST DAY:

#### 1. Read the lesson notes and References

### SECOND DAY:

#### Read Nahum 1

#### Nahum 1

[Na 1:1] A prophecy concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

#### **The LORD's Anger Against Nineveh**

[2] The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and vents his wrath against his enemies.

[3] The LORD is slow to anger but great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet.

[4] He rebukes the sea and dries it up; he makes all the rivers run dry. Bashan and Carmel wither and the blossoms of Lebanon fade.

[5] The mountains quake before him and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at his presence, the world and all who live in it.

[6] Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him.

[7] The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, [8] but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into the realm of darkness.

[9] Whatever they plot against the LORD he will bring to an end; trouble will not come a second time.

[10] They will be entangled among thorns and drunk from their wine; they will be consumed like dry stubble.

[11] From you, Nineveh, has one come forth who plots evil against the LORD and devises wicked plans.

[12] This is what the LORD says: "Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be destroyed and pass away. Although I have afflicted you, Judah, I will afflict you no more.

[13] Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away."

[14] The LORD has given a command concerning you, Nineveh: "You will have no descendants to bear your name. I will destroy the images and idols that are in the temple of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are vile."

[15] Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace! Celebrate your festivals, Judah, and fulfill your vows. No more will the wicked invade you; they will be completely destroyed.

#### **Question 3c**

**Romans 5:10-11;** [10] For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! [11] Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**Nahum 1:6-8;** [6] Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him.

[7] The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, [8] but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into the realm of darkness.

#### **Isaiah 52:7;**

[7] How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

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**Romans 10:15;** [15] And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

### Question 4

**Jonah 3:3-5;** [3] Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it. [4] Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” [5] The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

## THIRD DAY

### Read Nahum 2-3

#### Nahum 2

[2:1] An attacker advances against you, Nineveh. Guard the fortress, watch the road, brace yourselves, marshal all your strength!

[2] The LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob like the splendor of Israel, though destroyers have laid them waste and have ruined their vines.

[3] The shields of the soldiers are red; the warriors are clad in scarlet. The metal on the chariots flashes on the day they are made ready; the spears of juniper are brandished.

[4] The chariots storm through the streets, rushing back and forth through the squares. They look like flaming torches; they dart about like lightning.

[5] Nineveh summons her picked troops, yet they stumble on their way. They dash to the city wall; the protective shield is put in place.

[6] The river gates are thrown open and the palace collapses.

[7] It is decreed that Nineveh be exiled and carried away. Her female slaves moan like doves and beat on their breasts.

[8] Nineveh is like a pool whose water is draining away. “Stop! Stop!” they cry, but no one turns back.

[9] Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold! The supply is endless, the wealth from all its treasures!

[10] She is pillaged, plundered, stripped! Hearts melt, knees give way, bodies tremble, every face grows pale.

[11] Where now is the lions' den, the place where they fed their young, where the lion and lioness went, and the cubs, with nothing to fear?

[12] The lion killed enough for his cubs and strangled the prey for his mate, filling his lairs with the kill and his dens with the prey.

[13] “I am against you,” declares the LORD Almighty. “I will burn up your chariots in smoke, and the sword will devour your young lions. I will leave you no prey on the earth. The voices of your messengers will no longer be heard.”

#### Nahum 3

##### Woe to Nineveh

[3:1] Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims!

[2] The crack of whips, the clatter of wheels, galloping horses and jolting chariots!

[3] Charging cavalry, flashing swords and glittering spears! Many casualties, piles of dead, bodies without number, people stumbling over the corpses—

[4] all because of the wanton lust of a prostitute, alluring, the mistress of sorceries, who enslaved nations by her prostitution and peoples by her witchcraft.

[5] “I am against you,” declares the LORD Almighty. “I will lift your skirts over your face. I will show the nations your nakedness and the kingdoms your shame.

[6] I will pelt you with filth, I will treat you with contempt and make you a spectacle.

[7] All who see you will flee from you and say,

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'Nineveh is in ruins—who will mourn for her?'  
Where can I find anyone to comfort you?'"

[8] Are you better than Thebes, situated on the Nile, with water around her? The river was her defense, the waters her wall.

[9] Cush and Egypt were her boundless strength; Put and Libya were among her allies.

[10] Yet she was taken captive and went into exile. Her infants were dashed to pieces at every street corner. Lots were cast for her nobles, and all her great men were put in chains.

[11] You too will become drunk; you will go into hiding and seek refuge from the enemy.

[12] All your fortresses are like fig trees with their first ripe fruit; when they are shaken, the figs fall into the mouth of the eater.

[13] Look at your troops—they are all weaklings. The gates of your land are wide open to your enemies; fire has consumed the bars of your gates.

[14] Draw water for the siege, strengthen your defenses! Work the clay, tread the mortar, repair the brickwork!

[15] There the fire will consume you; the sword will cut you down—they will devour you like a swarm of locusts. Multiply like grasshoppers, multiply like locusts!

[16] You have increased the number of your merchants till they are more numerous than the stars in the sky, but like locusts they strip the land and then fly away.

[17] Your guards are like locusts, your officials like swarms of locusts that settle in the walls on a cold day—but when the sun appears they fly away, and no one knows where.

[18] King of Assyria, your shepherds slumber; your nobles lie down to rest. Your people are scattered on the mountains with no one to gather them.

[19] Nothing can heal you; your wound is fatal. All who hear the news about you clap their hands at your fall, for who has not felt your endless cruelty?

### Question 7a

**Psalm 119:89;** [89] Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

### **Matthew 5:18;**

[18] For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

## **FOURTH DAY**

### **Read Zephaniah 1:1-3:8**

#### **Zephaniah 1-3:8**

[Zep 1:1] The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, during the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah:

#### **Judgment on the Whole Earth in the Day of the LORD**

[2] "I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD.

[3] "I will sweep away both man and beast; I will sweep away the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea—and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble." "When I destroy all mankind on the face of the earth," declares the LORD,

[4] "I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will destroy every remnant of Baal worship in this place, the very names of the idolatrous priests—

[5] those who bow down on the roofs to worship the starry host, those who bow down and swear by the LORD and who also swear by Molek,

[6] those who turn back from following the LORD and neither seek the LORD nor inquire of him."

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[7] Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near. The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited.

[8] “On the day of the LORD’s sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king’s sons and all those clad in foreign clothes.

[9] On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit.

[10] “On that day,” declares the LORD, “a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills.

[11] Wail, you who live in the market district; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be destroyed.

[12] At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, ‘The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.’

[13] Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine.”

[14] The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.

[15] That day will be a day of wrath—  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of trouble and ruin,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and blackness—

[16] a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.

[17] “I will bring such distress on all people that they will grope about like those who are blind, because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their entrails like dung.

[18] Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD’s wrath.” In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.

### Zephaniah 2

#### **Judah and Jerusalem Judged Along With the Nations**

#### **Judah Summoned to Repent**

[2:1] Gather together, gather yourselves together, you shameful nation,

[2] before the decree takes effect and that day passes like windblown chaff, before the LORD’s fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the LORD’s wrath comes upon you.

[3] Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD’s anger.

#### **Philistia**

[4] Gaza will be abandoned and Ashkelon left in ruins. At midday Ashdod will be emptied and Ekron uprooted.

[5] Woe to you who live by the sea, you Kerethite people; the word of the LORD is against you, Canaan, land of the Philistines. He says, “I will destroy you, and none will be left.”

[6] The land by the sea will become pastures having wells for shepherds and pens for flocks.

[7] That land will belong to the remnant of the people of Judah; there they will find pasture. In the evening they will lie down in the houses of Ashkelon. The LORD their God will care for them; he will restore their fortunes.

#### **Moab and Ammon**

[8] “I have heard the insults of Moab and the taunts of the Ammonites, who insulted my people and made threats against their land.

[9] Therefore, as surely as I live,” declares the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, “surely Moab will become like Sodom, the Ammonites like Gomorrah—a place of weeds and salt pits, a wasteland forever. The remnant of my people will plunder them; the survivors of my nation will inherit their land.”

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[10] This is what they will get in return for their pride, for insulting and mocking the people of the LORD Almighty.

[11] The LORD will be awesome to them when he destroys all the gods of the earth. Distant nations will bow down to him, all of them in their own lands.

### Cush

[12] “You Cushites, too, will be slain by my sword.”

### Assyria

[13] He will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, leaving Nineveh utterly desolate and dry as the desert.

[14] Flocks and herds will lie down there, creatures of every kind. The desert owl and the screech owl will roost on her columns. Their hooting will echo through the windows, rubble will fill the doorways, the beams of cedar will be exposed.

[15] This is the city of revelry that lived in safety. She said to herself, “I am the one! And there is none besides me.” What a ruin she has become, a lair for wild beasts! All who pass by her scoff and shake their fists.

## Zephaniah 3

### Jerusalem

[3:1] Woe to the city of oppressors, rebellious and defiled!

[2] She obeys no one, she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD, she does not draw near to her God.

[3] Her officials within her are roaring lions; her rulers are evening wolves, who leave nothing for the morning.

[4] Her prophets are unprincipled; they are treacherous people. Her priests profane the sanctuary and do violence to the law.

[5] The LORD within her is righteous; he does no wrong. Morning by morning he dispenses

his justice, and every new day he does not fail, yet the unrighteous know no shame.

### Jerusalem Remains Unrepentant

[6] “I have destroyed nations; their strongholds are demolished. I have left their streets deserted, with no one passing through. Their cities are laid waste; they are deserted and empty.

[7] Of Jerusalem I thought, ‘Surely you will fear me and accept correction!’ Then her place of refuge would not be destroyed, nor all my punishments come upon her. But they were still eager to act corruptly in all they did.

[8] Therefore wait for me,” declares the LORD, “for the day I will stand up to testify. I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them—all my fierce anger. The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger.

## Question 9

### Skim 2 Kings 22-23

### 2 Kings 22

#### The Book of the Law Found

[22:1] Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath. [2] He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

[3] In the eighteenth year of his reign, King Josiah sent the secretary, Shaphan son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the temple of the LORD. He said: [4] “Go up to Hilkiah the high priest and have him get ready the money that has been brought into the temple of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have collected from the people. [5] Have them entrust it to the men appointed to supervise the work on the temple. And have these men pay the workers who repair the temple of the LORD— [6] the carpenters, the builders and the masons. Also have them purchase timber and dressed stone to repair the temple. [7] But they need not account for the money

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entrusted to them, because they are honest in their dealings.”

[8] Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, “I have found the Book of the Law in the temple of the LORD.” He gave it to Shaphan, who read it. [9] Then Shaphan the secretary went to the king and reported to him: “Your officials have paid out the money that was in the temple of the LORD and have entrusted it to the workers and supervisors at the temple.” [10] Then Shaphan the secretary informed the king, “Hilkiah the priest has given me a book.” And Shaphan read from it in the presence of the king.

[11] When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. [12] He gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Akbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant: [13] “Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD's anger that burns against us because those who have gone before us have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us.”

[14] Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam, Akbor, Shaphan and Asaiah went to speak to the prophet Huldah, who was the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas, keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the New Quarter.

[15] She said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Tell the man who sent you to me, [16] ‘This is what the LORD says: I am going to bring disaster on this place and its people, according to everything written in the book the king of Judah has read. [17] Because they have forsaken me and burned incense to other gods and aroused my anger by all the idols their hands have made, my anger will burn against this place and will not be quenched.’ [18] Tell the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says concerning the words you heard: [19] Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people—that they would become a curse and be laid waste—and because you tore your robes and wept in my presence, I also have heard you, declares the LORD. [20] Therefore I will gather you to your ancestors, and you will be buried in peace. Your eyes will not

see all the disaster I am going to bring on this place.’” So they took her answer back to the king.

## 2 Kings 23

### Josiah Renews the Covenant

[23:1] Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. [2] He went up to the temple of the LORD with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD. [3] The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD—to follow the LORD and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant.

[4] The king ordered Hilkiah the high priest, the priests next in rank and the doorkeepers to remove from the temple of the LORD all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the starry hosts. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron Valley and took the ashes to Bethel. [5] He did away with the idolatrous priests appointed by the kings of Judah to burn incense on the high places of the towns of Judah and on those around Jerusalem—those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts. [6] He took the Asherah pole from the temple of the LORD to the Kidron Valley outside Jerusalem and burned it there. He ground it to powder and scattered the dust over the graves of the common people. [7] He also tore down the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes that were in the temple of the LORD, the quarters where women did weaving for Asherah.

[8] Josiah brought all the priests from the towns of Judah and desecrated the high places, from Geba to Beersheba, where the priests had burned incense. He broke down the gateway at the entrance of the Gate of Joshua, the city governor, which was on the left of the city gate. [9] Although the priests of the high places did not serve at the altar of the LORD in Jerusalem, they ate unleavened bread with their fellow priests.

[10] He desecrated Topheth, which was in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, so no one could use it to sacrifice their son or daughter in the fire to Molek. [11] He removed from the entrance to the temple of the

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LORD the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun. They were in the court near the room of an official named Nathan-Melek. Josiah then burned the chariots dedicated to the sun.

[12] He pulled down the altars the kings of Judah had erected on the roof near the upper room of Ahaz, and the altars Manasseh had built in the two courts of the temple of the LORD. He removed them from there, smashed them to pieces and threw the rubble into the Kidron Valley. [13] The king also desecrated the high places that were east of Jerusalem on the south of the Hill of Corruption—the ones Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the vile goddess of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the vile god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the people of Ammon. [14] Josiah smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles and covered the sites with human bones.

[15] Even the altar at Bethel, the high place made by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who had caused Israel to sin—even that altar and high place he demolished. He burned the high place and ground it to powder, and burned the Asherah pole also. [16] Then Josiah looked around, and when he saw the tombs that were there on the hillside, he had the bones removed from them and burned on the altar to defile it, in accordance with the word of the LORD proclaimed by the man of God who foretold these things.

[17] The king asked, “What is that tombstone I see?”

The people of the city said, “It marks the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and pronounced against the altar of Bethel the very things you have done to it.”

[18] “Leave it alone,” he said. “Don't let anyone disturb his bones.” So they spared his bones and those of the prophet who had come from Samaria.

[19] Just as he had done at Bethel, Josiah removed all the shrines at the high places that the kings of Israel had built in the towns of Samaria and that had aroused the LORD's anger. [20] Josiah slaughtered all the priests of those high places on the altars and burned human bones on them. Then he went back to Jerusalem.

[21] The king gave this order to all the people: “Celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant.” [22] Neither in the days of the judges who led Israel nor in the

days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah had any such Passover been observed. [23] But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was celebrated to the LORD in Jerusalem.

[24] Furthermore, Josiah got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all the other detestable things seen in Judah and Jerusalem. This he did to fulfill the requirements of the law written in the book that Hilkiah the priest had discovered in the temple of the LORD. [25] Neither before nor after Josiah was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did—with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.

[26] Nevertheless, the LORD did not turn away from the heat of his fierce anger, which burned against Judah because of all that Manasseh had done to arouse his anger. [27] So the LORD said, “I will remove Judah also from my presence as I removed Israel, and I will reject Jerusalem, the city I chose, and this temple, about which I said, ‘My Name shall be there.’”

[28] As for the other events of Josiah's reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah?

[29] While Josiah was king, Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt went up to the Euphrates River to help the king of Assyria. King Josiah marched out to meet him in battle, but Necho faced him and killed him at Megiddo. [30] Josiah's servants brought his body in a chariot from Megiddo to Jerusalem and buried him in his own tomb. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz son of Josiah and anointed him and made him king in place of his father.

### **Jehoahaz King of Judah**

[31] Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah; she was from Libnah. [32] He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his predecessors had done. [33] Pharaoh Necho put him in chains at Riblah in the land of Hamath so that he might not reign in Jerusalem, and he imposed on Judah a levy of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. [34] Pharaoh Necho made Eliakim son of Josiah king in place of his father Josiah and changed Eliakim's name to Jehoiakim. But he took Jehoahaz and carried him off to Egypt, and there he died. [35] Jehoiakim

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paid Pharaoh Necho the silver and gold he demanded. In order to do so, he taxed the land and exacted the silver and gold from the people of the land according to their assessments.

### **Jehoiakim King of Judah**

[36] Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. His mother's name was Zebidah daughter of Pedaiiah; she was from Rumah. [37] And he did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his predecessors had done.

## **FIFTH DAY**

### **Read Zephaniah 3:9-20**

#### **Restoration of Israel's Remnant**

[9] "Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him shoulder to shoulder.

[10] From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring me offerings.

[11] On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill.

[12] But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the LORD.

[13] They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid."

[14] Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

[15] The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

[16] On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.

[17] The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."

[18] "I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you.

[19] At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame.

[20] At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,"  
says the LORD.

## **SIXTH DAY**

### **Review Nahum and Zephaniah**

**See above days**

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