

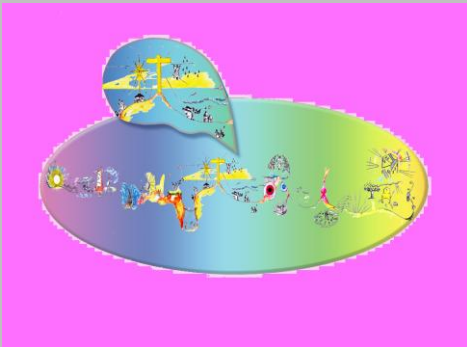
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We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testaments) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!

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HULDAH MINISTRY

LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

[THE GREAT DAY OF THE LORD]

“I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD. I will sweep away both men and animals; I will sweep away the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. The wicked will have only heaps of rubble when I cut off man from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD.

“I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all who live in Jerusalem. I will cut off from this place every remnant of Baal, the names of the pagan and the idolatrous priest —those who bow down and swear by the LORD and who also swear by Molech, those who turn back from following the LORD and neither ask the LORD nor enquire of him.

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. On the day of the LORD’s sacrifice I will punish the princes and the king’s sons and all those clad in foreign clothes. On the day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit...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.’.....“The great day of the LORD is near —near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry of the day of the LORD will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there.

...Gather together, gather together, O shameful nation, before the appointed time arrives and that day sweeps on like chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD comes upon you, before the day of the LORD’s wrath comes upon you. 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.

Gaza will be abandoned and Ashkelon left in ruins. At midday Ashdod will be emptied and Ekron uprooted. Woe to you who live by the sea, O Kerethite people; the word of the LORD is against you, O Canaan, land of the Philistines. "I will destroy you, and none will be left." The land by the sea, where the Kerethites dwell, will be a place for shepherds and sheep pens. It will belong to the remnant of the house 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. **ZEPHANIAH 1-2:7.**

The book of Zephaniah consisting of only three chapters is focused on *'the day of the LORD'*, in which this exact expression appears only three times but the word *'day'* and the expression *'at that time'* are used many times and also refer to the same concept. Zephaniah's teaching on this particular day features the following aspects; God's intervention into human affairs on the day, His demonstration of universal sovereignty as the King of all nations, His universal judgment, His faithfulness to the covenant with Israel (both curses and blessings), and a time of salvation for the remnant of Israel. On the day divine vengeance befalls both the idolatrous covenant nation Israel and the pagan idolatrous people who were used to avoiding stepping on the threshold because of their superstitious belief.

The portrayal of God's intrusion to search Jerusalem with lamps is serious. In sharp contrast to the illustration in Ezekiel 9:1-6, where God directed executioners to conduct the selection between the wicked and the righteous by putting marks, and also the illustration in Zechariah 5:1-4, where His Word sought out the wrongdoers, and further in Exodus 12:23, where a band of destroying angels struck down all the firstborn in Egypt while the Lord instructed the destroyers not to enter the Israelites' houses, here, the Lord Himself handles the matter. He is determined to search the wicked and the arrogant, and to destroy them. Zephaniah's emphasis lies in the fact that the Lord is neither inactive, nor detached from human affairs but He is always ready to intervene into any situation as a warrior, judge and king in a very decisive way.

The Lord, who is sovereign over the whole world, brings universal judgment to all the inhabitants of the earth. The Philistines, Moabites, Ammonites, Cushites, and Assyrians are representatives of the four directions from Jerusalem; west, east, south, and northwards, respectively. In chapter two, the Prophet Zephaniah focuses on this aspect, in which he prophesies the future of the Philistines in the first of a long list of judgments. It would be summarised in the following way: 'The once well populous four Philistine cities —Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod, and Ekron— will be reduced to rubble and revert to pasture-land, while the faithful remnant of Judah will occupy the land and gaze their flocks on it'. All these four cities line Israel's south-eastern Mediterranean coast and the southernmost of them is today's Gaza City, where the headquarters of Hamas is located.

As quoted at the beginning of this letter, this prophecy is addressed to the *'Kerethite people'*, i.e., the inhabitants of the sea coast. In Hebrew the Kerethites are said to be called "executioners," or "running assassins," and so, they might be replaced by "terrorist" in the present terms. There are not few that interpret this prophecy about the four ancient fortified cities of Philistines as the judgment pronounced on Hamas and its associates. However, needless to say, the aftermath of the present military action in the region is not yet Gaza's final judgment. The prophecy further tells us that despite their destruction, they will be rebuilt by the tribe of Judah in the glorious day of the Lord. It will be the time when Judah finally possesses its inherited land after around 3,400 years since Israelites' entry into the promised land, Canaan in the days of Joshua.

BBC News over "What are Hamas?" puts it: 'Hamas takes its name from the Arabic initials for the Islamic Resistance Movement. Branded a terrorist organisation by Israel, the US and the EU, it is seen by its supporters as a legitimate fighting force defending Palestinians from a brutal military occupation. It is the largest Palestinian militant Islamist organisation, formed in 1987 at the beginning

of the first intifada, or Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. The group's short-term aim has been to drive Israeli forces from the occupied territories. To achieve this it has launched attacks on Israeli troops and settlers in the Palestinian territories and against civilians in Israel. It also has a long-term aim of establishing an Islamic state on all of historic Palestine - most of which has been contained within Israel's borders since its creation in 1948..... Hamas has remained outside the main Palestinian political structure of the PLO, but it took part in - and won - Palestinian Authority (PA) legislative elections in the occupied territories in 2006.

Hamas came to prominence after the first intifada as the main Palestinian opponent of the Oslo accords - the US-sponsored peace process that oversaw the gradual and partial removal of Israel's occupation in return for Palestinian guarantees to protect Israeli security..... Many Palestinians cheered the wave of Hamas suicide attacks (and those of fellow militants Islamic Jihad and the secular al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade) in the first years of the intifada. They saw "martyrdom" operations as the best way to avenge their own losses and counter Israel's unchecked settlement building in the West Bank.

After the death of Fatah leader Yasser Arafat in 2004, the Palestinian Authority was taken over by Mahmoud Abbas, a vocal opponent of attacks on Israel. He viewed Hamas rocket fire, the militants' weapon of choice in recent years, as counterproductive, inflicting little damage on Israel but provoking a harsh response by the Israeli military. When Hamas scored a landslide victory in the Palestinian Authority legislative elections in 2006, the stage was set for a bitter power struggle with Fatah. Hamas resisted all efforts to get it to sign up to previous agreements with Israel, as well as to recognise Israel's legitimacy and to give up the armed struggle. It has remained steadfast to its pledge never to sign up to a permanent ceasefire while Israel occupies Palestinian territory and its troops are responsible for the deaths of Palestinians. It did, however, offer a 10-year truce in return for a complete Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967: the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. But it has not relinquished its assertion that Palestinian refugees from 1948 should be allowed to return to homes in what has become Israel - a move that threatens Israel's very existence as a Jewish state..... Hamas security control made Gaza a more calm and orderly place than it had been for months. But Israel tightened its blockade on the Strip and - despite a multilateral ceasefire in June 2008 - rocket fire and Israeli raids continued to provide provocations for more violence by each side. And on the diplomatic level, the Palestinians faced their biggest set-back for decades. With Hamas in charge of Gaza and the pro-Fatah PA operating in the West Bank - and neither side engaging properly with the other - the aspiration of an independent Palestinian seemed further away than ever' (BBC News on the site, on Sunday 4th Jan.' 09).

As this letter is written in mid-February, after Israel's three week assault on Gaza ended with ceasefires in January, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's statement has been reported that Israel would not agree to a truce in Gaza unless Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier captured by Palestinian militants in 2006 is freed. There have been also reports that Egypt was brokering a long-term truce between Hamas and Israel. According to Gary Stearman and others who reported the incidents in Gaza from different angles from the mass-media, Hamas used mosques, schools and public buildings as launching pads and its populace as human shields, which tragically resulted in many casualties among the Palestinians. This enabled them to mobilise the world media to protest against the killing of innocent civilians by Israel. Stearman puts it: 'Under international pressure, Israel recently gave Gaza to the Palestinian Authority in the hope of obtaining peace. Now, uncertain days lie ahead, as elements of the Arab brotherhood—Egypt, Syria, Jordan and even Islamic Iranians are threatening to throw their weight into the battle. From the dim mists of history until now,

Gaza has been a thorn in Israel's side. From the days of Joshua in the 14th century, B.C., and in the period of the judges, which ended in the 11th century, B.C., to the reign of King David and on to the era of the major prophets, Gaza had a reputation for being both a landing place and safe refuge to Israel's enemies. The Philistines, known as "sea people," disembarked in this region and set up several fortified cities.....The ancient name, Gaza, means "strong," or "fortified." Joshua encountered the Philistines ("wanderers from afar") there, and Gaza was one of their fortified cities. Under Joshua, this city was allotted to the tribe of Judah, which was never able to conquer it, thus never received its land grant. Several centuries later, during the life of Samson (Judges 16), these encroachers from the sea were still well in control of the region.' (quoted from 'The Thorn in Israel's Side' in 'Prophecy in the News' magazine, Feb.'09).

The Book of Judges records that the tribe of Judah failed to drive out the inhabitants of the five cities of the Philistines, though at one point Judah defeated three of these cities, Gaza, Ashkelon, and Ekron. However, Judges attributes Israel's failure of conquering the land and of holding the Canaanites at that time to the Lord's purposes: ***'These are the nations the LORD left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience): the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath. They were left to test the Israelites to see whether they would obey the LORD's commands, which he had given their forefathers through Moses' (Judges 3:1-4).*** The book of Judges seems to convey a message that God taught His people Israel His way, His truth and His Sovereignty through conflict with other nations, and that until His people are disciplined and trained to learn obedience to Him and His command Canaanite thorns in their sides will never leave. This message would be applied to all of us beyond time and space so that we will learn to endure the Lord's probation period, however long we might be called to do so.

As examined at the beginning, there will be a specific ***'day of the LORD'*** in the near future, when global judgment befalls the nations surrounding Israel, and the four Philistine cities (today's Gaza City) will not be able to escape from it. Stearman interprets that Zephaniah's prophecy over the latter-day Gaza is the judgment pronounced upon Hamas in terms of both its location and the nature of the judgment, and also that the present "Palestinians" is possibly equal to Israel's ancient enemies, "the sea people".

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The dump truck shipped to a Tanzanian port in December last year from Nagoya, Japan safely arrived on 12th January after a month journey over the Indian Ocean. Frederic got it out of the port on 24th and the truck had been in good use since 9th February. He was very satisfied with the powerful truck (engine size 8). However, something unthinkable and terrible took place. While it was being loaded one day by four people, out of the blue, a mountain in the area suddenly collapsed and came down and three of the workers were instantly buried and killed. The truck was completely crushed beyond recognition. For the present we cannot fathom our merciful Lord's intention to have allowed this tragedy to occur. Even so, pray for His consolation for the bereaved families and for Frederic's recovery from the shock.

A money gift of \$**** has been sent to Mary Jane in the Philippines this month. It was also very good timing for her who had been robbed of all her belongings including all ID cards, passport and driver's license on the way back home from her missions last December. Because of more than a month delay of restoring her bank card, she was in a desperate situation without money. However, as the Lord opened another amazing way to send her money quickly, she managed to pursue all her planned missions in February; "medical mission" to the Dumagats and Bible studies for children in Pangasinan. In March she is also going up north to Nueva Vizcaya for "medical mission". Pray for the Lord's mercy and encouragement for her distress and also His continual guidance for the successful missions.