

# Zephaniah 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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**Gather yourselves together** (הִתְקוּשְׁשׁוּ וַאֲקוּשׁוּ hitqosheshu vaqoshu)—The doubled verb intensifies the urgency: 'gather, yes gather!' This unusual Hebrew root may suggest collecting stubble before it's burned, giving the phrase poignant irony.

**O nation not desired** (הַגּוֹי לֹא נִחְשָׁף hagoy lo nikhsaf)—'Not desired' or 'having no shame/longing.' Judah had become like the pagan nations (goy), shameless and undesirable. Yet God's call to gather implies a window of opportunity before final judgment—a summons to corporate repentance like Nineveh's response to Jonah (Jonah 3:5-9).

## Historical Context

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This call to national repentance resonates with King Josiah's reforms (2 Kings 22-23), when the rediscovered Law sparked widespread repentance. However, Jeremiah reveals the reforms were largely superficial (Jeremiah 3:10), and judgment came a generation later.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. When has God's mercy appeared as a 'window' before judgment—a call to urgent repentance before it's too late?
2. What makes a 'nation not desired'—what cultural shamelessness and spiritual complacency do you observe today?
3. How should the church respond when it has become indistinguishable from the surrounding culture—'a nation not desired'?

## Interlinear Text

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קִלְּצוּ וְשׂוּ	קִלְּצוּ וְשׂוּ	הַגּוֹי	לֹא	נִכְסָף:
Gather yourselves together	Gather yourselves together	O nation	H3808	not desired
H7197	H7197	H1471		H3700

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joel 1:14** (Parallel theme): Sanctify 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,

**2 Chronicles 20:4** (Parallel theme): And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD: even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

**Nehemiah 9:1** (Parallel theme): Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them.

**Nehemiah 8:1** (Parallel theme): And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel.

**Esther 4:16** (Parallel theme): Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I

also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

**Jeremiah 3:3** (Parallel theme): Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

**Jeremiah 6:15** (Parallel theme): Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

**Zechariah 11:8** (Parallel theme): Three shepherds also I cut off in one month; and my soul lothed them, and their soul also abhorred me.

**Matthew 18:20** (Parallel theme): For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

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