

Zephaniah: The Lord Rejoices
2023-09-24

Zephaniah 3:14-15

*Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!*

*15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.*

Adult Sunday School question: As **God thinks of you right now...what is look on his face?** Why?

- **Not see reason** Lord take **pleasure** in us because of our **sin, and we are unfaithful.**
 - Lord **not only forgives, accepts** Christian but **also delights** in you.

Only time in **prophetic books** author traces his **genealogy**. Zephaniah 1:1

- **Zephaniah means “hidden of the Lord” ...Great-great grandson** of King **Hezekiah**
 - **Written 630-625 BC** in **King Josiah’s reign**. Probably influenced reforms.
 - But **not follow** or seek God **so called to repent before Day of the Lord**.

Day of the Lord reference to **both Judah impending judgement and final judgement** at end of time. Zephaniah 1:2-3, 14-18

- Day of the Lord **near**, be time of **wrath** as judgment **on sin...totally destroy earth:**
 - **Worse than flood.... fish destroyed.**

Not give details but fearsome consequences and calls to repent NOW.
Zephaniah 2:1-3

- **God watch over** (hide) and **empower to keep faith** during **Day of the Lord. Gospel**

God does **not delight** in **judgement....** God’s heart **delights** in **mercy**.

- **Redemption pattern** from Garden to Revelations; God **sets His love** on His people, **they rebel**, sin, **He disciplines** then **extends mercy**, forgiveness, and restoration. See outline at the end.

Zephaniah: **Judge** on earth **followed by promises to bless** all nations.
Zephaniah 3:8b-12, Luke 6:45

- **Global spiritual awakening.... changed speech** makes **changed heart** and desires.
- Purge and **purify Israel and church:** remove proud, leave humble and lowly.

Zephaniah 3:9-20 primarily messianic prophecies await **Jesus’ Second Coming** for **fulfillment**.

- Zephaniah reveals last day celebration including God's people singing praises Him. Zephaniah 3:14-17

Rejoice because **Jesus saves eternally** from sin, evil, Satan, hell, wrath.

- **Forever in God's** glorious, beautiful **presence**
 - **Eternally free** from **presence of evil and sin.**
- **Resting in Jesus Christ's continual**, unchanging, **love without shame**, guilt, or worry.

Zephaniah 3:9-20 express greatness, strength, completeness of **Jesus' UNCONDITIONAL love to his people in future and TODAY.**

- Jesus **desires take away shame causes doubt** Lord not only forgives, accept you but also **delights in you.** Zephaniah 3:17, Jeremiah 32:41, Philippians 1:6, Isaiah 62:5b

Begins with people sing praise to God and **ends with God sing over His people.**

- God **delights in His name** and delights in **you when you take refuge in his name, trust in His mercy, grace, love, and respect and revere Him.**
 - God **delights in us because** we delight and **trust in Him.**

Strong language and redundancy in expression of **joy shows how greatly delighted** Lord is **with His chosen**, redeemed, called **people.**

- Not **belittle God** for Him **rejoice over us** like not **belittle Michelangelo** to **rejoice** as he looked at **ceiling of Sistine Chapel.**
 - He **beholds His own handiwork** in **redeemed and rejoices.**

We underestimate joy God has in Christian and too often **think** He annoyed or **angry with us.**

- **Like groom** rejoices over **bride**—so **God rejoices over us!**
 - God **sees you through lens of cross.... not your performance.**
 - Lord **forgives**, accepts, and **delights in you.**

Be **dumbfounded** He **rejoice over you** with all His heart and soul.

- **Cause continuous thanks and praise** for His good and **unfathomable love** for **YOU.**

Outline of Zephaniah

Chapter 1 God's Determination to Execute Judgment on Jerusalem Due to Sin

Chapter 2:1-3 Judah Called to Repent

Chapter 2:4-15 Doom of the Gentile Nations

Chapter 3:1-7 Woe Pronounced on Jerusalem

Chapter 3:8-20 Message of Comfort and Hope to the Faithful Remnant