

Understanding Zephaniah
Zephaniah 3:14-17 (p.1004)

Intro

I. _____ in the Lord...

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! v. 14

Like most of the minor prophets, Zephaniah is primarily a book of _____.

The word of the Lord that came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah. "I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the Lord. "I will sweep away man and beast; I will sweep away the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, and the rubble with the wicked. I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth," declares the Lord. 1:1-3

In the Book of Zephaniah, the day of the Lord is depicted as a day of judgment upon _____ and as a _____ of the people.

"I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off from this place the remnant of Baal and the name of the idolatrous priests along with the priests, those who bow down on the roofs to the host of the heavens, those who bow down and swear to the Lord and yet swear by Milcom, those who have turned back from following the Lord, who do not seek the Lord or inquire of him." 1:4-6

For the wages of sin is death... (Rom. 6:23)

...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (Heb. 9:22)

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. 1:7-9

When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. But when they rose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the Lord, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him. This is why the priests of Dagon and all who enter the house of Dagon do not tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day. (1 Sam. 5:1-5)

Most of the book of Zephaniah is judgment and _____, but there is at least a word of _____.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.' Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry.... I will bring distress on mankind... Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the Lord. In the fire of his jealousy, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full and sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth. 1:10-18

Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation, before the decree takes effect—before the day passes away like chaff—before there comes upon you the burning anger of the Lord, before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the Lord. Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord. 2:1-3

The Lord promises to save us from judgment if we seek Him and _____ in Him.

I will take my stand at my watchpost and station myself on the tower.... (Habakkuk 3:1)

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. (Prov. 18:10)

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you... v. 14, 15

...there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.... Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? (Rom. 8:1,33,34)

When the Lord removes all judgment against us, then we can have _____ with Him and He with us.

...there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? (Rom. 8:1,35)

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...v.15

The _____ of the Lord with us is a reason to celebrate without _____.

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength... (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation." (Is. 12:2)

The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. v. 15

II. Who _____ over you!

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save...v16,17"

Jesus Christ is _____—"God with us"—, so we have no reason to fear; take _____: the Lord is with you, strong to save!

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel. (Is. 7:14)

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). (Mat. 1:21-23)

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come.... He will come and save you." (Is. 35:3,4)

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees... (Heb. 12:12)

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save...v17

Jesus Christ has come _____ to save His people from their sins; He is the _____ lamb who provides atonement for us.

"...you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Mat. 1:21)

gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper... For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. (Heb. 9:9; 10:4)

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)

Sometimes we think of God as perpetually _____ or disappointed with us, but you can _____ because God in Christ rejoices over you.

...he will rejoice over you with gladness... v.17

The love of God in Jesus Christ _____ our troubled hearts and give us reason to rejoice.

...he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. v.17

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The presence of the Lord with us is a reason to celebrate without fear.

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Jesus Christ is Immanuel—“God with us”--, so we have no reason to fear; take heart: the Lord is with you, strong to save!

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