

Mighty to Save; Zephaniah 3:14-20

I. Judgements

- A. Zephaniah 3:14–15; 14 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.
- B. Daughter of Zion - the remnant of Israel
 1. We are the remnant of Israel who will inherit the promise of God
 2. Sing aloud - to sing for joy; to rejoice; to exult
 3. Singing has significant importance to the people of God
 4. Exodus 15:1-18
 5. Deuteronomy 31:30–32:3; 30 Then Moses spoke the words of this song until they were finished, in the ears of all the assembly of Israel: 1 “Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. 2 May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb. 3 For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God!
 6. The root word of Psalm means “to sing praise”
 7. Romans 15:8–9; 8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.”
 8. Hebrews 2:10–12; 10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. 11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, 12 saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”
- C. Our judgments are taken away
 1. Why wouldn’t we sing!
 2. Judgment - a legal decision; from the root, a comprehensive term for any proceeding in a court of law whereby and individual seeks a legal remedy
 3. Adam and Eve’s judgment
 4. Genesis 2:15–17; 15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
 5. Genesis 3:16–17; 16 To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” 17 And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
 6. Genesis 3:22–24; 22 Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He drove out

- the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.
7. This is just an example of one judgment and its consequences
 8. "The wages of sin is death" Romans 3:23a
 9. We are no longer subject to that judgment!
 10. "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" Romans 3:23b
 11. Romans 8:1–2; 1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.
- D. The King is in our midst, there is no reason to fear and every reason to sing!
- II. Mighty to Save
- A. Zephaniah 3:16–17; 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. 17 The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.
 - B. Fear Not
 1. He can save you
 2. Isaiah is prophesying about the return of the remnant of Israel
 3. Isaiah 35:4; Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."
 4. Exodus 3:7–8; 7 Then the Lord said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, 8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.
 5. Judges 2:18; Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them.
 6. Judges 10:16; So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the Lord, and he became impatient over the misery of Israel.
 7. "became impatient" - could no longer endure or bear
 8. God wants to save us, he cannot bear to see us in our slavery to sin
 9. Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus
 10. Acts 11:13–14; 13 And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; 14 he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'
 - C. Exult over you with singing
 1. To shriek ecstatically, shout with joy
 2. Luke 15:10; Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."
 3. 2 Peter 3:9; The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.
 4. God's purpose for us is wrapped up in His promise to us

5. Galatians 3:16; Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.

6. 1 John 2:25; And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

D. God is shouting with joy over His children!

III. Fear Not

A. God has taken the judgments away from His children

B. God is singing excitedly over His children

C. Are you one of His children?