

The Book of Zephaniah

Chapter 3

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- vs. 1-8 – Judgment on Jerusalem
 - In chapter 1 God focused on Judah. In chapter 2 He focused on the surrounding nations. In chapter 3 He circles back to focus on Jerusalem, representing His chosen people.
 - vs. 1 – the description is the opposite of God's Holiness.
 - vs. 2 – God makes a four-fold accusation against His people: They did not obey, repent, trust, or seek Him.
 - vs. 3 – the failure of their political leadership.
 - vs. 4 – the failure of their religious leadership.
 - vs. 5 – Despite Israel's rebellion against Him, God is unchanged. He is just as holy as when they served Him faithfully. His truth was still revealed to the people who willfully rejected it.
 - vs. 6-7 – There are two ways to learn from experience: from your own experience or observing the experience of others. Judah had seen God destroy nations and humble the mightiest men, yet they refused to learn from the downfall of others.
 - vs. 8 – There would be no missing what God was about to do. Just as the Babylonian captivity drew the Jews closer to God, so the future judgments will accomplish the same as Christ's Kingdom dawns.
- vs. 9-13 – The Restoration of Israel
 - This looks beyond the judgment and captivity to the glorious restoration of Israel in the Millennial Kingdom. This is the hope of the Jews.
 - vs. 9 – this is the conversion of the nations of this world.
 - vs. 10 – this is the regathering of the Jews of the Diaspora.
 - vs. 11 – "Out of the 15.2 million Jewish people in the world, 46% reside in Israel." - <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/latest-population-statistics-for-israel> (accessed 5-20-22)
 - vs. 12 – the state of the Jews before their restoration.
 - vs. 13 – This piety and peace in the Jews will come in the Millennial Kingdom.
- vs. 14-20 – The Song of Restoration.
 - Even after the foretold judgments we saw before, the hope ahead for the Jews is reason for them to still rejoice in song at the goodness and greatness of God that will be displayed after judgment.
 - vs. 14 – What a change! From "Woe!" in vs. 1 to "Rejoice!" in vs. 14.
 - vs. 15 – this was not a promise for their present time but for a future time.
 - vs. 16 – "that day" – a prophetic term, we are looking forward in time here.
 - vs. 16 – God will make Jerusalem strong and secure.

- vs. 17 – Their rejoicing is returned to them as God Himself celebrates.
- vs. 18 – The hearts of those Jews that mourn that they could not serve God as they should in the feasts and ceremonies will be made to rejoice as they will be able to serve God as was right.
- vs. 19-20 – Israel glorified when restored by God.