

Mighty to Save Series

Study 1

Zephaniah 3:17

The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.

Foreword

This study will show several examples of how the love of God engages the power of God to save. Zephaniah 3 is the spark that ignited the flame of joy for this study.

Zephaniah 3 speaks of the millennium of peace on this present earth at the end of time. It begins with Israel's sinful rejection of God but does not leave them without hope. We see God identifying the righteous remnant of Abraham's descendants and promising to preserve them until they are finally united with their Messiah at the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Verse 17 says the Mighty One will save (that righteous remnant of Israel), and when He does, they will see His gladness and His love, and hear His song of joy. This verse reveals the heart of our God, not just for future Israel, but for Christians too, who have seen how God has been mighty to save through Jesus Christ His Son. Christians have also known God's love and joy for two thousand years now. At the second coming of Christ, we too will return to join with the remnant of Israel in their one thousand years of love and joy. Then we will all go into eternity on a new earth, under a new heaven, as one glorious family of the sons and daughters of God.

The Sinful Plight of Humanity Shows the Need of a Savior

1. Adam and Eve initiate the plight.
 - a. God was more than their creator, He was their father and had His image.
 - b. God's image includes His nature, His attributes, and His character.
 - c. God relished in the childlike purity and innocence of Adam and Eve.
 - d. An angry, defeated Satan retaliated against God through Adam and Eve.
 - e. They chose Satan over God and lost Eden, walks, and talks with God.
2. Cain extends the plight through humanity.
3. Seth restrains the plight by re-connecting with God.
4. Sin in humanity reappears immediately after the Flood.
5. The priestly nation of Israel rejects God and perpetuates the plight.
6. Jesus reveals the masses will reject His light and live in the plight.
7. Paul confesses and explains the plight, and points to its remedy.

Rom. 7:18-25

¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. ²⁰Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ²¹I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²²For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of

death? 25 I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Rom. 8:5-8

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

The Failure of Israel Shows the Need of a Savior

1. Jerusalem, the city of light on a hill, failed humanity. Zeph. 3:1-2
2. The rulers and judges of Israel failed humanity. v. 3
3. The prophets and priests failed humanity. v. 4
4. The people of Israel failed humanity. v. 5
5. Christ did not fail Israel. Zeph. v. 5

The Corruption of the Nations Show the Need of a Savior

1. God cut off the nations to no avail. Zeph. 3:6
2. Their pomp has been made desolate to no avail.
3. Their streets are an unpopulated waste to no avail.
4. Their cities are destroyed and vacant to no avail.
5. Despite their desolation and punishment they remain corrupted. v. 7
6. Corruption brings destruction from God. v.8

The Remnant of Israel Shall Embrace God's Salvation

1. Whatever land they come from they will call on God as with one voice. v. 9
2. They will serve God with one consent.
3. They will bring the offering back to God. v. 10
4. They will return to humility before God. v. 11
5. They will be led by the afflicted and poor back to God. v. 12
6. They will be adverse to sin, lies, deceit, and God will bless them. v. 13

The Remnant of Israel Shall Know God's Joy - Zeph. 3:14-20

Afterword

We see a theme in God's heart from Zephaniah 3...rescue brings relief and rejoicing. But not just for the rescued, for God too. When God sees relief and rejoicing in us for His saving help, He too feels relief and rejoicing. He quietly assures us of His love and protection. Have we yet grasped this joy in God's heart for our rescue from Satan, sin, and sickness? Have we yet begun to hear Him singing in joy over us?