

ZEPHANIA: Overall Context

Chapter 1:

The word of the LORD ... Judgment

- **To Judah**
 - **Universal destruction (judgment)?**
 - **Against Jerusalem**
 - **The Day of the LORD**
 - **against officials, king's sons**
 - **against goldsmiths**
 - **against complacent**
 - **A Day of wrath, gloom, darkness**
 - **blood poured out like dust**

Chapter 2:

Seek the LORD ... righteousness, humility

- **To Gaza (Philistia)**
 - **The faithful of Judah will possess**
- **To Moab and Ammon**
 - **a waste forever**
 - **To be possessed by Judah's faithful**
- **To Ethiopia and Assyria**
 - **possessed by animals (haunts)**

Chapter 3:

Defiled Jerusalem

- **Her officials**
- **Her judges**
- **Her prophets**
- **Her priests**
- **She would not**

I the LORD will bear witness:

- **my fire will consume the earth**

And then ...

- **All nations will speak purely**
- **I will remove your proud**
 - **only the humble will remain**
 - **the remnant of Israel without fear**

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Vs. 14-15

Sing and shout ... Daughter

- **of Zion**
- **of Israel**
- **of Jerusalem**

... the King of Israel, the LORD among you

- **fear no more**

Vs. 16-18a

In that day ...

- **Do not fear**
- **Yahweh Elohim is among you**
- **as a warrior in his love**
- **a day of festival**

Vs. 18b-20

I will ...

- **remove disaster**
- **judge your oppressors**
- **save the lame & outcast**
- **their shame will become fame**
- **Take you home**

Key words/ thoughts: save (σώζω/ שׁוּׁשׁ); **love** (ἀγάπη/ אַהֲבָה); **Yahweh** (יהוה); **sing aloud** (κηρύσσω / הַלֵּל); **rejoice** (εὐφραίνω/ תִּמְצֵחַ); **exult** (יִלָּצַח); **gladness** (εὐφροσύνη/ תִּמְצִיחַ) **praise** (καύχημα/ הִלְהִל) **home** (καλῶς/תִּבְּרָה)

Questions:

How do you respond to “promises”?

Have you ever been the recipient of praise? of boasting? of song? If so, what was that like?

What does the word “home” mean to you?

