

God's Relentless Pursuit

The story of God's pursuit of the crown jewel of His creation ... those He created in His image ... is seen throughout Scripture. We ran away from Him by choosing sin over Him ... He took the initiative and worked His plan to bring us back. Zephaniah 3.17 describes God's pursuit of us in an amazing way. God wants to be in our midst. He rejoices over us with joy and sings over us. Jesus, the perfect manifestation of the Father, demonstrated all these characteristics in His earthly ministry. How did Jesus show us God?

I. Getting Familiar with Zephaniah

- A. 2.3: A command that serves as the main point: ***Seek the Lord***, *all you humble of the earth, who carry out what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be concealed on the day of the Lord's anger.*
- B. The rest of the book consists of **warnings** of judgment coming to the proud and godless, as well as **promises** to the humble/righteous who seek the Lord.

II. What Would it Be Like to Hear God Sing?

- A. Zephaniah 3:17: *The Lord your God is among you, a warrior who saves. He will rejoice over you with gladness. He will be quiet in his love. He will delight in you with singing.*
- B. Can you imagine hearing Him sing?

III. Why God Sings Over Us

- A. Because of what He has done
 1. Zephaniah 3.15a: *God removed our **punishment**.*
 - a) The light of truth is now shining upon your forgiven soul. See Romans 8.1.
 2. Zephaniah 3.15b: *God has turned back our **enemy**.*
 - a) We operate from the perspective victory.
 3. Zephaniah 3.15c: God is **among you**
 - a) The Spirit has come to help us. John 14:17: *he remains with you and will be in you.*
- B. Because of what He will do
 1. Zephaniah 3.17a: He will save: a **warrior** who saves.
 2. Zephaniah 3.17b: He will **rejoice** over us with gladness.
 3. Zephaniah 3.17c: He will be **quiet** in His love.

IV. Making the Connection Back to Jesus

- A. Jesus dwelt among us
 1. John 1.14: *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- B. Jesus is the Warrior who saves
 1. John 12.31: *Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be **cast out**.*
- C. Jesus saved the lame and gathered the outcasts
 1. Acts 10.38: *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how he went about doing **good** and healing all who were under the tyranny of the devil, because God was with him.*

V. As We Close...

- A. Zephaniah 3.14: Praise God's blessed name
 1. 2 Corinthians 1.10: *He has delivered us from such a terrible death, and he will **deliver** us. We have put our hope in him that he will deliver us again.*
- B. Zephaniah 3.16: Fight back against fear
 1. Hebrews 13.6: *The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?*
- C. Zephaniah 3.16: Be diligent in service ... *do not let your hands grow weak.*