



TRANSFORMING TRUTH

Trends deceive. Traditions enslave. God's Truth transforms.

“The God Who Loves Encounter”

From the Series,
“Encounters”

Zephaniah 3:14-30

Preached Sunday AM 7/13/14

Meadow Baptist Church

1. A Gracious Invitation (14-16)

- a. This was a strange request (14) - *“Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!”*

The first 7 verses of this chapter were an indictment against Israel for their sin, rebellion & coldness against God

- b. This was a surprising revelation (15) - *“The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; He has cleared away your enemies.”*
- c. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.”
- d. This was a soothing rest (16) - *“On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.”*

2. An Unexpected Celebration (17)

- a. God initiates the encounter (17a) - *“The Lord your God is in your midst...”*
- b. God works in the encounter (17b) - *“... a mighty One who will save.”*
- c. God reveals in the encounter (17c) - *“He will rejoice over you with gladness ... He will exult over you with loud singing.”*
- d. God transforms through encounter (17d) - *“He will quiet you by His love.”*

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3. A Reclaiming Restoration (18-20)

- a. He will change your outlook (18) - "I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach."
- b. He will put down your opposition (19a) - "Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors..."
- c. He will make the last first (19b-20a) - "And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth...At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth..."
- d. He will erase all your doubt (20b) - "...when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord."