

I. 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. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.”

C. 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.”

II. 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.”

III. 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.”