

3/8/26 “Joy,” Zephaniah 3:14-20, MEV

INTRODUCTION Sensed God’s presence within you this week?

These promises are for His people, failures at this time: True Israel (Jew & Gentile). Each of us comes from place of failure: Born separated from God, spiritually dead, not good.

Paul tells us to rejoice—from prison (Php 4:4 rejoice in the Lord always)

MAIN IDEA: Rejoice in the Lord. Why? Here are four reasons.

I. First, He takes away our judgments (15a)

Judgment: a sentence based on guilt

- A. if we come to Christ Jesus in humility
 - 1. believe in Him, trust Him, making Him Lord
 - 2. repent
 - 3. follow & obey
- B. cleansing us of all wrongdoing
- C. removing condemnation
- D. leaving only judgment for rewards (2Cor. 5:10)

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, He casts out our enemies (15b)

- A. sin...freed from slavery to sin (Romans 6:6)
- B. death...freed from power of death
 - 1. fear of bodily death
 - 2. eternal death removed
- C. devil...eventually
 - 1. bound for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:2)
 - 2. thrown into lake of fire (Rev. 20:10)
 - 3. until then, we have authority over in Jesus’ name (Mark 16:17)
 - but he can oppress us in our soul & body
 - we must put on full armor of God (Eph. 6:13-17)

- take every thought captive in obedience to Christ (2Cor. 10:5)
- think on things that are good & true (Php. 4:8)

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, He is in our midst (15c)

- A. experience it now by Spirit, then at death, then for 1,000 years, then forever
- B. the Mighty One—able to do all things (17)
- C. rejoicing over us with gladness and singing (17)
 - 1. now by Spirit inside us
 - 2. one day face to face
- D. renewing us with His love...*not mentioning our sins (Amplified Bible)*
 - 1. His love brings healing, restoration
 - 2. His Presence brings wholeness, rest

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. Finally, He removes evil from our presence (15d)

- A. as believers now, we can be filled only with Holy Spirit
- B. later, no evil will be in His Presence
- C. we will be free from demonic oppression
- D. all evil people (having rejected Jesus), will be apart
 - 1. in place of suffering
 - 2. all anxiety & fear will be gone

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION: we have a taste now of good things to come

Thoughts to Remember...

- 1. Where we’ve been doesn’t affect where we’re going.
- 2. Our past doesn’t dictate our future; our relationship does.

ALTAR: Let us rejoice in Him