

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

Zephaniah 3: 9-14, 20

LESSON: JOY FOR THE FAITHFUL — June 19, 2016

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 3:7-8 Still, Judah had not repented. They kept doing sinful things. God lets us know that there will be a day He comes with His indignation and fierce anger devouring all the earth with the fire of His jealousy.

LESSON: I. BLESSINGS FOR THE GENTILES – Zephaniah 3:9-10

3:9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent. After the people have waited upon God's judgment, there is a great blessing. The people in view are a remnant of the Gentiles who survived God's judgment because of their conversion. Jehovah will turn to the people and will give them a pure language. Why? - Because He wants them to call upon the Name of the Lord in oneness; to serve Him with one consent. All will be unified in their worship of Jehovah, and all will address Him in pure praise and supplication with their language purified of all heathen terminology. In that day God will alter the speech (or lips) of His people.

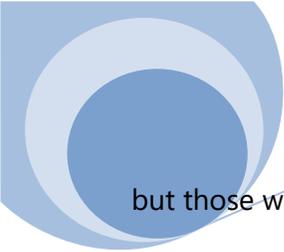
3:10 From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering. The purification of the Gentiles will affect what they do. Those from the south (Ethiopia) will gather together "*even the daughter of my scattered*" (*the Jews that were dispersed— alienated from God*) will return to Judah with an offering unto Jehovah. The "*suppliants*" are the Gentile Ethiopians, not the Jews who are dispersed among them. God says "*bring mine offering*" which is His requirement for worship. Thus, the conversion of the Ethiopians is demonstrated by their deeds because their hearts were right with God. In conclusion they will receive the blessing of a pure language and call upon the name of the Lord to serve Him with one consent along with the dispersed Jews.

II. BLESSING FOR THE JEWS – Zephaniah 3:11-14, 20

3:11 In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain. What do you know? God says His people will not even be ashamed. In that day the punishment will cease. There will no cause for shame for Jehovah will have dealt in judgment with every ungodly prideful person. He will remove all residue of sinful pride from the nation. The pride which was characteristic of the false priests and the false prophets will be removed and will no longer infect the worship of the Lord or the surroundings or environments in which that worship was conducted. The cleansing of Israel will take place!

3:12 I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord. In the place of the proud, Jehovah will leave those who are truly the opposite of prideful,

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but those who are meek and humble and trust in Him completely.

3:13 The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid. The remnant of Israel will be purified of their sin, whether in work or word, and they will be at peace and in fellowship with God and with one another. Iniquity shall not be found among them, neither any deceit in their tongues be spoken from their mouths. They will be like sheep that eat and lie down in peace. When a nation is spiritually right, it will be physically secure. Jehovah will provide for and protect His people, and they will dwell in perfect peace and security.

3:14 Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. In terms of endearment God calls them "*O daughter*," meaning "*beloved*." O daughter of Zion means O daughter of Jerusalem. And Jerusalem's inhabitants are called "Israel." He's still speaking to the nation of Israel. Israel can confidently rejoice and praise Jehovah in view of such restoration, peace, and security. The nation is exhorted to give heartfelt expressions to sing, to shout, to be glad, and to rejoice. Why? Because God has blessed them to where they will no longer be the same:

- They will no longer be ashamed.
- They will not be prideful nor have haughtiness within them.
- They will trust in the name of the Lord.
- They shall not do iniquity, speak lies, neither any deceit in their tongues be spoken from their mouths.

But God! In spite of what they had done, being called His beloved truly will cause them to rejoice!

3:20 At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord. The message of doom in the beginning of the book becomes a message of hope by the end. Ultimately, at that time, Jehovah will restore His people, and all wrongs wrought against them will be righted. Their restoration will mean blessings, not only for them, but for the redeemed of all nations of the earth. This prophecy was only partially fulfilled in the restoration that followed the Babylonian captivity, but it will ultimately and fully be fulfilled in the restoration following the Great Tribulation when Jehovah returns to the earth, puts down every enemy, regathers His people, and reigns over them for a thousand years!

SUMMARY:

A pure language will be given to the Gentiles, even the dispersed Jews, so they may call upon the Name of the Lord in oneness; and serve Him with one consent. Those from the south (Ethiopia) will gather together the Jews as they bring an offering unto Jehovah for worship (**3:9-10**).

In that day they will no longer be ashamed for they will no longer be rebels against God. He will remove all pride and arrogant people among them. Those left will be poor and humble and they will trust in the name of the Lord. They will not do iniquity, but will be at peace and fellowship with God and with one another. Such restoration of peace and security will cause Israel to confidently rejoice with all their heart (**3:11-14, 20**).

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