

SUMMER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016
THEME: TOWARD A NEW CREATION
UNIT ONE – JUDGMENT AND SALVATION

“GOD’S RESTORATION FOR THOSE WHO TRUST AND OBEY”



Sunday School Lesson No. III – June 19, 2016

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Zephaniah 3:9-20

Required Reading: Zephaniah 3:1-20

Motto Text: Zephaniah 3:14 (NLT), *“Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!”*

Reliable Resources: Preaching from the Prophets (Kyle Yates); Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); MacArthur Study Bible; Bible Knowledge Commentary (Dallas Seminary)

INTRODUCTION

According to Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator, “Divine judgment is a recurring theme in the Bible. God’s punishments, in fact, play a major role in Old Testament history, from the Flood in Noah’s time to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah to the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

Yet in times of such judgment, God’s grace shines brightly. Noah *“found grace in the eyes of the Lord”* (Gen. 6:8), and he and his family were delivered from the Flood that took the lives of everyone else on earth. Although God could not find even ten people in Sodom who were righteous (Gen. 18 – 19), He graciously spared Lot and his family from the utter destruction that fell upon that wicked city.

Through the centuries, the Lord repeatedly warned His chosen people of the consequences of their disobedience to His law. His gracious warnings were largely ignored. But even when God’s judgment on Judah and Jerusalem was imminent, He gave them a future hope beyond the coming judgment.

There is always hope because God is gracious. He freely offers us eternal life, peace, and assurance. He asks only that we trust and obey Him.”

Beloved, Jehovah loves His people like the Father that He is. But, He cannot tolerate willful rebellion and disobedience. Yet, it is God’s greatest desire to see His people simply Trust and Obey!

Anticipated Power Points:

- **Restoration of the Gentile Nations. Zephaniah 3:9-10**
- **Restoration of the Jewish Nations. Zephaniah 3:11-20**

LESSON OUTLINE

“God’s Restoration for those who Trust and Obey”

According to the Bible Knowledge Commentary, “The word ‘then’ in verse 9 signifies a major pivot in the prophet’s message both in tone and content, he shifted from frightful predictions of destruction to prophecies of blessing and peace. After destroying the nation’s armies, God will restore the nations to His favor. Instead of horrifying threats, here are comforting promises of love, mercy, and restoration. These promises look forward to the Millennium when Christ will rule as King on the earth.”

I. Restoration of the Gentile Nations. Zephaniah 3:9-10

God promises a renewal of moral and spiritual purity. In chapter 2, Zephaniah prophesied of the judgment on the surrounding Gentile nations. (Read Zephaniah 2:4-15). It was God’s desire that Judah would note and repent. But not so!

A. In verse 9, God declares that the mouths of the Gentiles will be cleansed and they, like the Jews, will no longer speak of God as equal with idols. They would know the true God!

B. A pure heart of worship. v. 10

The day would arrive when all nations would come up to worship the Lord genuinely and according to His worth. The Gentiles and Jews will worship the Lord hand in hand, and shoulder to shoulder. Pure-hearted worship!

II. The Restoration of the Jewish Nation. Zephaniah 3:11-20

The highlight of God’s joy is the raising of His chosen people to the level He had determined. Jehovah gets no joy at the death of His people. Though Jesus died on Friday, God’s great joy was “early Sunday morning!” We too should want to see the best for God’s people. This truly happens when we trust and obey. As far as I can see, the day of the Lord is still yet future for Israel, though a remnant of the Jews returned back to Judah after the Babylonian captivity. There is the joy of great deliverance for Israel and the nations. (Read Revelation 19:11-21). Now the Bible Knowledge Commentary describes the restoration of the Jewish nation:

1. The Redemption of the nation because of (that day) the Millennium. vv. 11-13 (NLT), *‘On that day you will no longer need to be ashamed, for you will no longer be rebels against me. I will remove all proud and arrogant people from among you. There will be no more haughtiness on my holy mountain. Those who are left will be the lowly and humble, for it is they who trust in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel will do no wrong; they will never tell lies or deceive one another. They will eat and sleep in safety, and no one will make them afraid.’*
2. The Joy of the nation. v. 14 (NLT), *‘Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!’*
3. The Ruler of the nation. vv. 15-17 (NLT) *‘For the LORD will remove his hand of judgment and will disperse the armies of your enemy. And the LORD himself, the King of Israel, will live among you! At last your troubles will be over, and you will never again fear disaster. On that day the announcement to Jerusalem will be, “Cheer up, Zion! Don’t be afraid! For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.’*
4. The Reward of the nation. vv. 18-20 (NLT), *‘I will gather you who mourn for the appointed festivals; you will be disgraced no more. And I will deal severely with all who have oppressed you. I will save the weak and helpless ones; I will bring together those who were chased away. I will give glory and fame to my former exiles, wherever they have been mocked and shamed. On that day I will gather you together and bring you home again. I will give you a good name, a name of distinction, among all the nations of the earth, as I restore your fortunes before their very eyes. I, the LORD, have spoken!’*

Beloved, what a joy it will be to have the Lord present and delighting in His people! The lesson is centered around the love of the true God and His loving ability to restore the fallen who will trust and obey.

CLOSING

The hymn-writer declares,

*“When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word, What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still, And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there’s no other way, To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.”*

“God’s Restoration for those who Trust and Obey”

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Looking Ahead:

June 26, 2016

Romans 1:18-32



Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School Lesson