

Zephania 3:14-2

Sin aloud, O daughter Zion;
Shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
He has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on the day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
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 home,
At that time when I gather you;
For I will make you renowned and praised
Among the peoples of the earth,
When I restore your fortunes
Before your eyes, says the LORD.

While the first part of Zephania proclaims judgement on Israel and on Israel's enemies, the final verses are a song of joy. The prophet concludes the prophecy with words of assurance. Rejoice, shout, sing, God will remove all judgement and will rescue you. God will deal with your oppressors; you are safe.

While our oppressions are different than those of the people of 640 - 609 BCE when the prophecy was written, the words of reassurance are still relevant for us. We still want to be delivered from disasters; we still want to know that God will save us from all that opposes us. We trust the promise that God will bring us home.

Let us pray: Ever faithful God, help us to trust in your care. In this dark time of the year, help us to see your light. Give us patience in waiting for you to come again. Come Lord Jesus. Give us confidence that you will bring us home. In the name of Jesus, your Son, Amen.

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