

New Sermon series starting 12 November

# ZEPHANIAH

a minor prophet \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>8</sup>“Therefore wait for me,” declares the Lord, “for the day when I rise up to seize the prey. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed. <sup>9</sup>“For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord. <sup>10</sup>From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering. <sup>11</sup>“On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. <sup>12</sup>But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord,

<sup>13</sup>those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.” <sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. <sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>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, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

— *Zephaniah 3:8-20*



**Main idea:**

Jesus' first coming has brought these eternal Kingdom blessings into the present for the believer.

## Zephaniah 3:9-20:

- Understanding Inaugurated Eschatology (God's promises are already, but not yet fully realised)
- Zeph. 3:9-20: Future blessings today
  - 9-13: Redeemed From Sin
  - 14-20: Emmanuel: God with us

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.

— *Mark 1:15*



## **Inaugurated Eschatology:**

Jesus experienced the future wrath of God, so that we can experience the future blessing of God today.

<sup>1</sup>Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

— *Genesis 12:1-3*



Since the great midpoint of history occurred at the time of Christ's first coming, there is a very real sense in which believers today are living in the new age. The final consummation of the kingdom of God, however, which will include the Second Coming of Christ, the general resurrection, and the renewal of creation, is still in the future. Hence the era in which we now live is characterized by tension – between the midpoint and the end, the present and the future, the already and the not yet.

—*Anthony A. Hoekema, The Bible and the Future, p 306*

<sup>9</sup>“For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the Lord and serve him with one accord. <sup>10</sup>From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering. <sup>11</sup>“On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. <sup>12</sup>But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord. <sup>13</sup>those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.”

— *Zephaniah 3:9-13*

- I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;
- And in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord;
- Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
- Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell;
- The third day He rose again from the dead;
- He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

- From there He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Ghost.
- I believe an holy universal church; the communion of saints;
- The forgiveness of sins;
- The resurrection of the body;
- And the life everlasting. AMEN.

<sup>11</sup>On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. <sup>12</sup>But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord.

— *Zephaniah 3:11-12*



<sup>13</sup>those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

— *Zephaniah 3:13*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. <sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

— *Zephaniah 3:14-18*

## 5 Future Blessing Now in Vs 17:

- The Lord your God is in your midst
- A mighty one who will save
- He will rejoice over you with gladness
- He will quiet you by his love
- He will exult over you with loud singing

