

# My Father fights for me

## Main Text – Zephaniah 3:14-17

<sup>14</sup> Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all *your* heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy.

The King of Israel, the LORD, *is* in your midst; You shall see disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness,

He will quiet *you* with His love,

He will rejoice over you with singing.

## Background and setting

- Zephaniah was a unique prophet, his great-great grandfather was Hezekiah. Descendant of one of Judah's godly King.
- Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of Josiah, last king of Judah (640 to 609 BC).
- A contemporary of Josiah, a godly young king who reigned 10 years before he led Judah's great revival. Written during early part of Josiah's rule before the revival, God used this prophecy to kick start revival and reform.
- Between Josiah and Hezekiah, was time of evil and disobedience under Manasseh & Amon. Lived under godless environment for 55 years.
- 12 Minor Prophets: pre-exilic (9) and post-exilic (3).
- Zephaniah completes the previous 8 prophets. He presents the picture of Judah's fall to Babylon and coming judgment and future restoration.

## My Father fights for me

Verse 17: *The LORD your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save...*

- The Lord your God (Hebrew means) = *“The self-existent and eternal being who is in covenant with you”* (Adam Clarke)
- **Isa 9:6** *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
- His name shall be called *El gibbor*, the Dominant One

### **My Father rescues me**

Verse 16: *In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. Verse 17: ...The Mighty One, will save...*

- He will save = deliver you from all guilt and external influence
- Zephaniah grew up under Josiah’s predecessors: Josiah’s grandfather, the evil king Manasseh, and Manasseh’s son, the young and evil Amon.
- **Col 3:3-4** *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*
- **Isa 35:3-4** *Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees.*
- *Say to those who are fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you.”*
- **Isa 33:22** *(For the Lord is our Judge, The Lord is our Lawgiver, The Lord is our King; He will save us)*
- **John 10:29-30** *He will save, “My Father is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are One”*

### **My Father sings over me**

Verse 17b: *He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.*

#### Song of joy

- He will rejoice over you with joy, with peculiar gladness.

- What is the source of God's joy? What would make God sing?
- **Luke 15:10** *Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

#### Song of love

- He will rest in his love and renew his love, show the same love he did of old to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.