

Zephaniah 1-3 When God Sings (The Minor Prophets)

Tonight we continue our study in the Minor Prophets – we come to the book of Zephaniah.

A)Of all the minor prophets, Zephaniah has suffered most from **obscurity and from an academic “bad press.”**

B)He is so obscure that he is often **confused with Zechariah**, whose much longer book occurs just pages later in the Bible.

1)Like the little brother in the shadows to the much larger book of Zechariah.

C)In the scholarly world Zephaniah is often dismissed **as dull or unoriginal** – because he repeats what several of the other prophets before him have wrote about

1)The coming invasion of Babylon on Judah – and the Coming Day of the Lord!

The 12 Minor Prophets are divided into two groups: **pre-exilic and post-exilic.**

A)The first 9 are *pre-exilic*, writing before the Babylonians conquered and exiled Judah.

B)The last 3 are *post-exilic*, writing during and after the return of Israel from Babylon to the Promised Land.

1)Begin next week – Haggai – Malachi and Zechariah

C)Zephaniah is the last of the pre-exilic prophets, and can be said to “sum up” the messages of the previous 8.

1)This is why Zephaniah seems unoriginal to some scholars, because he quotes the words and ideas of many previous prophets.

D)God knows we need reminders: (**Grocery store**)
1 Peter – stir up your minds by way of reminder

E)Reminder: Warning – this day is coming!

The word of the Lord which came to Zephaniah the son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, in the days of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah.

A)The word of the Lord which came to Zephaniah:

B)This first verse of the prophecy of Zephaniah sets it apart from most other prophets, in that he tells us both his time and his roots.

C)Zephaniah was an unusual prophet, in that he was of royal lineage, descending from the godly King Hezekiah.

1)HEZEKIAH – great-great-grandfather

C)The name **Zephaniah** means “**Yahweh Hides**” or “Yahweh Has Hidden.”

D)Zephaniah was almost certainly born during the long, wicked reign of Manasseh,

1)Whose reign lasted 55 years.

E)Manasseh had a horrible effect on Judah – wickedness and idolatry were rampant.

He was hidden for a time: After Manasseh – and His son – Amon - also wicked

A)Josiah came to the throne – 8 years old.
(**Imagine your 8 year old as President?**)

B)Godly Priest – Hilkiyah – influence on the young king.

C)In the 18th year of Josiah's reign Hilkiyah the priest found in the temple a copy of the book of the law that had been ignored for decades. 2 Kings 22

When Hilkiyah the priest read it to the king, Josiah was broken.

A)He humbled himself before the Lord and rent his clothes and wept

B)Over the next 13 years Josiah led an amazing reformation in Judah based on the law of God.

1)He renewed the covenant between God and His people (2 Kings 23:3).

C)He took all the vessels of Baal and Asherah out of the temple and burned them in the fields of Kidron

- He deposed the idolatrous priests (23:5).
- He broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes (23:7).
- He removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun (23:11).

D)MAJOR REFORMS

1) And he reinstated the Passover that had been ignored since the days of the judges (23:22).

The problem with this move of Josiah is it was more reform than it was revival

A)It was forced sanctions – not a heart felt response of many of the people – And it wasn't going to last

B)Josiah Reforms – **Zephaniah is preaching during this time**

1)Zephaniah – helper – MOUTHPIECE :

C)Zephaniah is addressing that problem. – The book divides neatly into 5 sections

1st section: chapter 1 announces the coming judgment upon Judah and Jerusalem.

2nd section: chapter 2:1–3, calls the nation back to God.

3rd section: chapter 2:4–15, Zephaniah announces the judgment that is also coming on the lands that surround Judah:

4th section: of the book is chapter 3:1–7.

Zephaniah turns his attention to Jerusalem again and reveals **the heart of the Problem in Judah**.

5th section: chapter 3:8–20, proclaims the promise of coming Restoration, Re-gathering and Revival.

1st section, chapter 1 announces the coming judgment upon Judah and Jerusalem.

V.2-3 **“I will utterly consume everything From the face of the land,” Says the Lord; “I will consume man and beast; I will consume the birds of the heavens, The fish of the sea, And the stumbling blocks along with the wicked.**

I will cut off man from the face of the land,” Says the Lord.”

Now we noted on Sunday that many of the prophets have both a near and far aspect to their prophecies.

A)They will deal with a coming invasion on Judah as a form of judgment upon the people – what we might call an immediate Day of the Lord.

B)But they will also speak of an immanent Day of the Lord – where the judgment has a broader reach.

C)Zephaniah does that in the opening verses of His prophecy: 3 **“I will utterly consume everything From the face of the land**

D)What he describes in V.2-3 is very descriptive of what the apostle John says would take place in the great Tribulation – Revelation 6-19

Reminder THE DAY OF THE LORD – not a specific day – time period that begins after the rapture –

A)includes the Tribulation – culminates – 2nd Coming

B)Gives a little hint of the devastation that will happen during the great Tribulation that will impact the whole world.

C)V.4 He brings the reader back to the present time frame:

D)Here Zephaniah begins to outline the list of accusations describing the rebellion that God has against the people of Judah

V.4 “I will stretch out My hand against Judah, and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place, the names of the idolatrous priests with the pagan priests;

Manasseh had built altars and high places to this foreign god, even in the temple of Yahweh himself (2 Kings 21:3, 5, 7).

A)Josiah had torn them down during his reform effort. But there remained a remnant of Baal worshipers.

B)Verse 5-6 describes two other forms of idolatry **those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops;** that is, sun and moon and stars.

C)Then there was another group who tried to serve two masters: **those who worship and swear oaths by the Lord, but who also swear by Milcom;** those who have turned back from following the Lord, and have not sought the Lord, nor inquired of Him.”

Those who bow down and swear to the Lord, and yet swear by Milcom.” Milcom is another name for Molech, the national god of the Ammonites.

A)Molech burning Babies

B)Can't serve two masters !

1)Can't believe in Abortion and be a follower of God
- Presidential Race

C)Can't worship God and worship something else

Zephaniah continues with the reasons for declaration of the Judgment that was coming.

V.7-9

“Be silent in the presence of the Lord God; for the day of the Lord is at hand, for the Lord has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests. And it shall be, in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with foreign apparel. In the same day I will punish all those who leap over the threshold, who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.”

I will punish the princes and the king's children:

A)God warns the whole royal community what will happen if they don't follow through on their turning to God.

B)All such as are clothed with foreign apparel: The priests and leaders of Judah were ashamed of their national identity,

1)so they loved to dress in **foreign apparel**.

C)They wanted to be as much like the worldly nations around them as they could possibly be.

D)When we start to lose sight of our identity of Christ – we search for identity in other things – look like the world

E)Interesting Numbers 15 God had instructed them to have a border of blue upon their garments to remind them of heaven.

1)They had lost sight of their destiny

Sad Description of so many believers in Christ today: Lost sight of the fact that this world is not our home

A)We live like it is – We live like – all we have is our 70-80 yrs here – completely lost sight – THIS IS THE PROLOGUE – your story

B)Eternity is waiting – Eternity forever!

1)LATER IS LONGER

C)We are to live here in light of there!

So Zephaniah is describing the problems that are

the reason for this coming judgment.

A)Skip over to Ch. 3 – Section 4 - HEART PROBLEM:

V.1 Woe to her who is rebellious and polluted, To the oppressing city! V.2

- She has not obeyed His voice,
- She has not received correction;
- She has not trusted in the Lord,
- She has not drawn near to her God

B)Good Check list for us – 4 problems

1)#1 Not obeyed the voice of the Lord

- Word
- Spirit

C)God is not talking to me? Really – when is the last time you heard Him?

1)What did he say to you? Well he said.....

D)Did you do that ? No – Well God is waiting for you!

#2 She has not received correction!

A)You don't obey – God corrects – Loves those he chastens – trying to get you to move in the right direction

B)But when we resist further it only makes things worse!

#3 Really the root of it all – She has not trusted in the Lord

A)Why don't we obey and receive instruction? Because we really don't trust the Lord

B)Situations in our lives we just don't believe that He knows best

1)We don't believe he knows what he is doing

C)We don't believe that He really has our best interest at heart – so We don't trust Him

When we are not obeying – not receiving correction because we really don't trust Him – NOT GOING TO DRAW NEAR

A)AWKWARD - In Sin you really don't feel like Devotions or going to Bible study

B)Partying all night on Saturday – not really feeling right about going to church on Sunday

C)Old days – 3rd service: Biggest altar calls

Check list:

Do you trust the Lord?

- Obey His voice?
- Receiving correction?
- Drawing near?

BACK TO CH.1 V.10-11 “And there shall be on that day,” says the Lord, “The sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate, a wailing from the Second Quarter, and a loud crashing from the hills. Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh! For all the merchant people are cut down; all those who handle money are cut off.”

What is remarkable about this is Zephaniah prophecies with incredible accuracy

A)The path that Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon would take in their invasion of Jerusalem that would happen 40 yrs later

B)The city of Jerusalem was bordered on the east by the Kidron valley and the South by the Hinnom Valley

C)So the only place where there was really access for an assault by an army was from the North

The North was fairly level – the fish gate was there in that day on the north –

A)the fisherman would bring the fish from the sea of Galilee

B)Called the Damascus gate today

C)That is in fact where Nebuchadnezzar entered the city – traveled up into the 2nd quarter – the 2nd Quarter is where all the wealthy people lived

D)He came in that way and slaughtered all the wealthy influential people

1)Killed the adults – took their children – DanielAbednego

E)Then headed in Maktesh – **Mortar** – where all the business and merchants were. So this Remarkable description of how Nebuchadnezzar conquered the city. 40yrs before it happened

V.12-14

“And it shall come to pass at that time *that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, No one will be able*

to hide against the judgment of God. It is coming, and even if God must get out the “flashlights,” He will find them and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, ‘The Lord will not do good, nor will He do evil.’ Therefore their goods shall become booty, and their houses a desolation; they shall build houses, but not inhabit *them*; they shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine.”

Some people believe in God as a great “clockmaker” who created the universe, wound it up and then left it ticking without any intervention from Him.

A)He is indifferent – on our own – they live that way – they do what is right in their own eyes!

B)The Lord is telling us that He doesn’t appreciate that mentality that would denounce His heart of love and Care toward His people

C)Anything but indifferent – knows the # Hairs..... thoughts

V.14-17 *The great day of the Lord is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out.*

That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers. “I will bring distress upon men, and they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like refuse.” Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord’s wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy, for He will make speedy riddance of all those who dwell in the land.

Zephaniah sees the coming of the Babylonian army and the horrible experience it will be

A)Men trust in silver and gold, but it will do them no good on the day of God’s deliverance.

B)But much of the language also foreshadows the Day of the Lord, known as the Great Tribulation

C)Consider what John wrote in Revelation 6:12-17

I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand.-

Revelation 6:12-17

Horrific time: We will miss out on this –

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him

Jesus took on himself the wrath of God so we could escape it!

2nd section, chapter 2, verses 1–3, calls the nation back to God.

V.1-2 Gather yourselves together, yes, gather together, O undesirable nation, before the decree is issued, *or* the day passes like chaff, before the Lord's fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger comes upon you!

The idea is gathering together in a solemn demonstration of national mourning and repentance.

A) **Before the decree is issued:** All the announcement of judgment in the previous chapter is understood as a warning and as an invitation to repentance.

B) **The Lord is saying: Wake up!** - "This is what will happen if you *do not repent*."

1) Here the prophet pleads with the nation to repent **before** it is too late.

C) **Before the day passes like chaff:** Here the prophet calls for a sense of *urgency* in repentance.

1) Each day **passes like chaff**, Chaff – blows in the wind

TIME GOES TOO FAST -Already September

A) Time goes by – blowing in the wind

B) How easy it is to let the days pass like chaff, and never get right with God!

C) Often the devil's most powerful lie isn't that there is no God, or no Bible, or no truth –

1) often his most powerful lie is that *there is no hurry*..

D) How many times has God spoke to you about something – you procrastinated in dealing with it – time went by – never happened –

1) MY JOURNAL

V.3 Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the Lord's anger

A) What he is saying is this: anyone in the land who is humble enough to submit to God's commands, here is what you should do and keep on doing—

B) Stay humble, seek the Lord, and do righteousness.

C) Similar to the word of Micah: - **He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you, But to do justly, To love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God - Micah 6:8**

C) **These are the very three conditions laid down by God in 2 Chronicles 7:14**, "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sin and heal their land."

Zephaniah is calling the Humble in the land to stay Humble.

A) And if this summons applies to the humble of the land, how much more to the arrogant, the idolaters and the lovers of money!

B) So the point of Zephaniah's prophecy is to call everyone who reads it to a deep humility,

1) which frees a person to seek refuge in God, which in turn produces a righteous life.

Well now in chapter two we see the day of the Lord doesn't just effect the Jews but the whole world

A) **3rd section, in chapter 2, verses 4–15**, Zephaniah announces the judgment that is also coming on the lands that surround Judah:

B) The third section of the book, is introduced by the word "for" (in v. 4), which suggests that this unit is the ground of Zephaniah's call to repentance.

C) It gives reasons why we should listen to and obey the summons of 2:3.

1) For the sake of time tonight we are not going to read all these verses – but I want to summarize – **3 lessons that this teaches us.**

A) First it warns us that there is no escape when the day of the Lord comes.

B) If we flee to the **west**, we will find the wrath of God falling on the Philistines (vv. 4–7).

C) If we flee to **the east**, we find that Moab and Ammon are famished under the wrath of God (vv. 8–11).

D) If we flee to **the south**, the Ethiopians are being slain by his sword (v. 12).

E) And if we flee to **the north**, Assyria is destroyed and its great city Nineveh is a desolation. V.13-15

In other words, there is no escape on the day of the Lord.

A) Every staff on which we try to lean on our pride will snap and pierce us through.

B) Only One refuge will be secure: IN God.

1) Therefore, humble yourselves, seek his face, and do righteousness.

C) NO WHERE TO HIDE

2ND LESSON: God Resists the proud

A) The second way that 2:4–15 motivates us to obey the command to be humble in 2:3

- is by showing that the reason the surrounding nations are being judged **is because of their pride and arrogance.**

Verse 8: **"I have heard the reproach of Moab, and the insults of the people of Ammon, with which they have reproached My people, and made arrogant threats against their borders.."**

Verse 10: **This they shall have for their pride, because they have reproached and made**

arrogant threats against the people of the Lord of hosts.

Verse 15 pronounces judgment on Nineveh, the capital of Assyria: **This is the rejoicing city that dwelt securely, that said in her heart, "I am it, and there is none besides me."** How has she become a desolation, a place for beasts to lie down! {A Pasture}

Luke 14:11 **Those who exalt themselves will be Humbled – those who humble themselves will be exalted.**

God Resist the proud but he moves toward the Humble

D) When we hear why the nations are being judged, then surely we will feel strongly moved to obey when Zephaniah commands, **"Seek the Lord, . . . seek righteousness, seek humility."**

The third lesson it teaches us is that God takes great offense to those who come against his people.

A) Moab and Ammon came from the incestuous relationship between Lot and his daughters

B) Lot was also a nephew of Abraham, so it makes these two nations relatives, cousins of the Jews

1) But they too would face destruction

C) But Verse 10 – told that one of the reasons they are judged is they have come against God's people

The Lord doesn't do well with people coming against his kids

A) And at first it doesn't really make sense because He is coming against His kids

B) But when you think about it, it does, because they are His kids

- I punish my children when they error – I have no problem spanking my kids – when wrong - I would punish them

C) But I don't really want you to spank them – does that make sense to any other parent

1) We know our kids, we know they are sinners – but when others come against them, we are naturally not real receptive to the idea

D) Well the Lord seems to be that way with His Kids, with His bride

GOOD APP - And think that also applies certainty to the church – His Kids – His Bride

A) I have a hard time when people say things against this body of believers

B) Do I think you guys are perfect –

1) I know you are not, but I don't want to hear that from anyone, and I think I have the Lord's heart on that

C) Be careful that you don't come against His bride,

1) His kids – you will find yourself in a losing proposition

D) Missionaries – Don't beat the sheep!

CH. 3:1-7 Marks the 4TH SECTION of the book – that we already looked at in section 1 – HEART PROBLEM – no trust!

A) Didn't obey the voice of the Lord – didn't respond to correction and didn't draw near!

RESULT V.3-4

Her princes in her midst are roaring lions; Her judges are evening wolves That leave not a bone till morning. Her prophets are insolent, treacherous people; Her priests have polluted the sanctuary, They have done violence to the law.

(VIOLENCE and Lawlessness and injustice abound – everyone is trusting in his own wisdom and not trusting God)

The Lord is righteous in her midst, He will do no unrighteousness. Every morning He brings His justice to light; He never fails, But the unjust knows no shame

The Lord is righteous in her midst:

A) This makes the unrighteousness of His people even more criminal and tragic.

B) God has been nothing but righteous to them, yet they respond with sin.

1) Eventually they put themselves on the wrong side of God's righteousness and face His justice.

5th and Final section V.8-20 proclaims the promise of coming Restoration Re-gathering and Revival.

A) But it begins on an Ominous note:

V.8 “Therefore wait for Me,” says the Lord, “Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations to My assembly of kingdoms, to pour on them My indignation, all my fierce anger; all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy.

V.8 Describing the Battle of Armageddon – Revelation ch.19

A) The Anti-Christ will bring the nations of the world into a battle in Israel – Valley of Megiddo

B) This takes place at the 2nd coming of Christ – He returns to the earth with power and glory

1) We the church – Raptured – Revelation 4 – we are with Him –

C) The Nations come in Mass – Jesus by the word of His power – destroys them – Not much of a battle

1) We are not fighting – spectators – it is all Jesus

D) The Anti-Christ and his armies are wiped out

E) It is an Ominous description – event

But then Zephaniah moves to describe the aftermath of that – Glorious promise of Restoration Re-gathering and Revival-

A) And so many of the minor prophets end this way for at least three reasons

B) #1 so often when you are down in sin, you need a window of hope, for a way out

1) When I sit down with guys who have blown it, who are involved in sin, I very rarely come down on them

C) Why – because their own conscience already is, the enemy is pouring on, and wants to bury them

1) And so I see it as my job to provide a plan for the future – a where do we go from here

D) And that is what God is doing through His prophets

1) He is showing them there is a future, there is life after sin and falling – but you have to be willing to head that way

➤ **So one of the reasons is to show them a way out**

#2 it shows us the faithfulness of God

A) He is going to bring His people through eventually

B)They will have to experience pain and hurt because of what they have done,

1)but He is still going to be faithful to do a work in them and through them

C)And since God is faithful to keep His word, sometimes that is a motivation to help us keep His Word too

#3 The end of each of the minor prophet ends with a glimpse into the future to encourage those faithful in the land

A)Always a Remnant – you see there were those who loved God with all their hearts, who were true to Him and His Word

B)Yet they lived in a wicked nation that was going to face God’s judgment

1)And God wanted to encourage them, that things wouldn’t end with Babylon – that a new day was coming and their faithfulness was not in vain

God promises in this chapter that once the Day of the Lord is over they will move into the Kingdom age - Millennial reign V.9-20

For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one accord. (They all – not just Jews)

From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, the daughter of My dispersed ones, shall bring My offering. In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds in which you transgress against Me; for then I will take away from your midst those who rejoice in your pride, and you shall no longer be haughty in My holy mountain. (Israel embrace Jesus Messiah – no more pride – resistance)

I will leave in your midst a meek and humble people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed *their* flocks and lie down, and no one shall make *them* afraid.” Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all *your* heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 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. In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. 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.”**

“I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly, who are among you, *to whom* its reproach *is* a burden. Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, and gather those who were driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame in every land where they were put to shame. At that time I will bring you back, even at the time I gather you; for I will give you fame and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I return your captives before your eyes,” says the Lord.

The Lord sets up His Kingdom – Nations are gathered – to Him the Raptured Church – Jews re-gathered

A)A time where God promises you will no longer be ashamed for the things you have done –

➤ **He will remove guilt – verse 11**

B)No More Judgments

Not only will He remove guilt, but He will also remove fear – Verse 15

A)The Lord will remove enemies from the earth

B)So Israel will not be living in constant fear of being invaded as they are now and have been for centuries

C)But not just for Israel but for the rest of the world – the world will learn war no more –

**D)And there is no fear- Because He is with us
1)The Lord is Mighty to Save!**

E)KIDS IN PARENTS BED – FEEL SAFE

We enjoy this now – IN Christ

A)No condemnation!

B)Not a Spirit of Fear sound mind!

**C)More than conquerors..... loved us!
No Guilt – NO Fear - AND**

GOD WILL SING

A)He will rejoice over you with gladness:

He will rejoice over you with singing:

B)We don't often think of God singing, but He does – and He sings over His people.

1)Nehemiah 8:10

C)This is how much joy and delight we give to the Lord – that He breaks into song!

“We often underestimate the joy God has in His people, and too often think God is annoyed or irritated with us. “Faulty as the church is, the Lord rejoices in her. While we mourn, as well we may, yet we do not sorrow as those that are without hope; for God does not sorrow, his heart is glad, and he is said to rejoice with joy – a highly emphatic expression.”

(Spurgeon)

His Workmanship!

A)Not anatomy – Redemption – Created in Christ Jesus for good works

B)What makes you His Masterpiece – Cross

C)Doesn't call Creation – His Masterpiece – ONLY THE REDEEMED

SPURGEON

“If God sings, shall not we sing? He did not sing when he made the world. No; he looked upon it, and simply said that it was good. The angels sang, the sons of God shouted for joy: creation was very wonderful to them, but it was not much to God, who could have made thousands of worlds by his mere will. Creation could not make him sing . . . When all was done, and the Lord saw what became of it in the salvation of his redeemed, then he rejoiced after a divine manner.” (Spurgeon)

“If God sings, shall not we sing?

My heart is confident in you, O God; my heart is confident. No wonder I can sing your praises! –

Psalm 57:7 NLT