

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
Lesson # 4 June 20, 2023 – June 25, 2023

Unit I: The Prophets Proclaim GOD'S Power:

Subject: A Fresh Start

Text: Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Key Verse:

The LORD thy GOD in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy (Zephaniah 3: 17, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) Renewed by GOD (Zephaniah 3: 14-17)
- 2) Renowned for GOD (Zephaniah 3: 18-20)

Introduction

We all at some point in our lives needed a fresh or new start in life; moving from one city to another city, making a career change or just changing our attitude or behavior caused some mental and emotional problems for us. But with some encouragement and help from GOD'S people that we met on the journey makes the move better. GOD does that for us when step out in faith and turn from our wicked ways and turn to HIM with a sincere heart, just the willingness to change and trust HIM (GOD) gives us the strength needed to make that change. GOD takes us and restores us and redeem us as HIS own, and gives us the assurance we need and the confidence to go on, knowing that GOD is the source of our lives and a mighty GOD in our midst; what an assurance to know that GOD is our deliverer and that HE (GOD) will take or have delight in us as HIS people. GOD gives us a fresh start in HIM when we repent and turn to HIM, GOD forgives our sins and remember them no more, casting them into the sea of forgetfulness, and gives us a fresh start and renewal in HIS (GOD'S) love.

Lesson Pointer # 1

- Renewed by GOD (Zephaniah 3: 14-17)

Zephaniah the prophet of GOD'S charges the people of GOD to sing, shout, and to be glad and to rejoice with all their heart (Zephaniah 3: 14). Having a wholehearted love for GOD should cause the children of GOD to be glad and to rejoice in GOD'S goodness and HIS mighty works; Zephaniah the prophet of GOD referred Israel as the daughters of Zion and the daughters of Jerusalem; this emphasizes that the nation of Israel is precious in the sight of GOD. Zephaniah gave four reasons of blessing for such sincere praise. (1) GOD has taken away their and our judgment, removing the very sins against us and placing us in right relationship with HIM (GOD); (2) GOD has defeated their and our enemy; (3) GOD dwells in their and our midst; and (4) GOD removed evil from our very presence forever. Believers finds great joy and encouragement in the promises of GOD to redeem us in the future. What a great joy! We are made free of sin's presence and penalty, knowing that GOD'S people will live with rejoicing in the holiness of GOD'S eternal presence

(Zephaniah 3: 15). Zephaniah the prophet of GOD gives the people of Jerusalem hope by stating “in that day” fear thou not; and to Zion, let not thine hands be slack (Zephaniah 3:16). Zephaniah wanted the people to work with energy and confidence and not to be faint-hearted. Because their success and peace comes from GOD, who is with them, and will save them because of HIS (GOD’S) love, because GOD loves HIS people, GOD will rejoice over them with singing (Zephaniah 3: 17). In GOD’S own time HE will rejoice over us as we submit to HIM (GOD) as our LORD and Savior.

A Fresh Start!

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **Renowned for GOD (Zephaniah 3: 18-20)**

Now, after the reign of King Solomon, Israel was split into two kingdoms. Both nations were conquered and taken captive by enemy nations. GOD promise to restore a united spiritual kingdom under HIS rule. So GOD gave Zephaniah these words to speak to a downtrodden, discouraged people. Zephaniah said the GOD said that HE would gather HIS people in their sorrow and solemn assembly, whose reproach or disgrace has become a heavy burden to bear (Zephaniah 3: 18). GOD will bring restoration in the place of shame and abuse to the helpless, outcast, and those who have been scattered Zephaniah 3: 19). And by GOD’S grace, GOD will restore honor unto those who have been redeemed and renewed (Zephaniah 3: 20). Now, the world will know that GOD’S people is to be honored because of GOD’S working upon their lives and not because of any grand and glorious thing that they have done, but because of GOD works. To know and to love GOD is to accept HIS love, grace, and mercy; because of GOD’S abundant love HE gives us everything needed for our peace and restored position in HIM (GOD).

A Fresh Start!