

June 25, 2023



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

**Lesson Leaders:**

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**Class Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Even before her circumstances improved, Hannah’s renewed vision changed her perspective and her attitude

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

God, please renew my vision so I can focus on Your constant presence and live with an eternal perspective in all circumstances

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

And Hannah prayed and said:  
“My heart rejoices in the Lord;  
My horn is exalted in the Lord. I  
smile at my enemies, Because I  
rejoice in Your salvation  
**(1 Sam 2:1 NKJV)**  
*(from "Our Daily Bread", May 12, 2021)*

**Series: The Righteous  
Reign of God**

**UNIT 1: The Prophets  
Proclaim God’s Power**

**NO CLASS NEXT WEEK**  
**Combined Services**

## Renewed in God’s Love Zephaniah 3:14-20

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Zephaniah was a great-great-grandson of Hezekiah. The prophet rebuked members of the royal family (Zephaniah 1:8), and it has been suggested that his being of royal blood gave him more grounds to condemn his cousins. Zephaniah 1:1 also features the name of “good” King Josiah, during whose reign (from 640 to 609 BC) Zephaniah prophesied. The flagrant iniquity that is condemned throughout most of the book seems to indicate that the reforms of Josiah had not yet taken place. The revival began after the Book of the Law was found in 622 BC by Hilkiah the priest while doing repairs to the temple (2 Chronicles 34:8-15). A possible time for the book of Zephaniah is, therefore, in the late 620s BC. Judgment, punishment, and hope are three topics frequently found in the writings of the prophets. Judgment indicates that God has compared his announced expectations with the obedience of the people, nation, or nations being considered. Punishment is pronounced on those found guilty. Hope often follows when the punishment has accomplished its purposes. All three topics are present in the book of Zephaniah. The prophet is primarily concerned with Judah’s continued rebellion against God (see 2 Kings 22:1-23:28). The first two chapters of the book of Zephaniah describe a coming Day of the Lord, in which Judah is to face judgment and punishment for idolatry. The punishment promised was to be a tool of God for purifying his people. The prophecy presents us with a sharp change of theme beginning in Zephaniah 3:9, where restoration of a remnant takes center stage. Today’s study reviews the final verses of Zephaniah, where a hopeful theme resounds.

Fulfilled prophecy is partly intended to validate a prophet and his message. In the Bible, however, quite often the original recipients of a prophecy did not live to see the fulfillment. That is the situation with the prophecies in today’s lesson. The original recipients of this message lived in the time of Josiah (Zephaniah 1:1). He was slain in battle about 609 BC. The destruction of the temple did not take place until 586 BC and the return from exile did not begin until 538 BC. So the people who first heard this prophecy did not understand the significance of what was being promised. Later, the people in captivity in Babylon did understand, and they are described as weeping when they remembered Zion (Psalm 137:1). The return of the captives from Babylon was a rare event in history. What happened to them was noticed by other nations: almost 50,000 people were so sincere in their faith that they made the four-month trip back to the land God had promised to their forefathers. The people who returned were never seriously tempted again by idolatry. The Babylonian captivity was not pleasant, but it had positive, long-lasting results. People finally learned that God meant what he had said in the first of the Ten Commandments: “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3). Today’s study is therefore a lesson about hope, and this hope is backed by the assurances of God himself. Jesus promised that he would come again, and he added that the time is unknown (Matthew 24:36, 44). Almost 2,000 years have passed since Jesus made those statements. He then added that the important thing is to be ready. God keeps His word, so be ready!

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Renewed through God Being with Us (Zeph 3:14-15)**

*God being with us should result in rejoicing (14)*

Rejoicing over God's righteousness (Ps 32:11)

Rejoicing over God being our strength (Hab 3:17-19)

Rejoicing in the Lord (Phil 4:4-5)

Rejoicing with trembling and fear (Ps 2:11)

Rejoicing over God's trustworthiness (Ps 33:21)

Rejoicing before God (Ps 68:4-6)

*God being with us through His deliverance (15)*

Deliverance from deadly peril (2 Cor 1:10)

Deliverance from troubles (Ps 34:19)

Deliverance from trials (2 Peter 2:9)

Deliverance from temptations (1 Cor 10:13)

Deliverance from evil attacks (2 Tim 4:18)

### **Renewed through God Delighting in Us (Zeph 3:16-17)**

*Delighting by overcoming fear (16)*

Fear is overcome because Jesus overcame the world (John 16:33)

Fear is overcome because there is a reward for overcoming (Rev 2:7)

Fear is overcome because of being born of God (1 John 5:4-5)

Fear is overcome because in Jesus, Christians are more than conquerors (Rom 8:37)

Fear is overcome because Christians do not have a spirit of fear, but of sonship (Rom 8:15)

Fear is overcome because godly love drives out fear (1 John 4:18)

*Delighting by loving (17)*

A love that we cannot be separated from (Rom 8:38-39)

A love that surpasses knowledge (Eph 3:17-19)

A love that sent Jesus into the world (1 John 4:9)

A love that prompted Jesus to give Himself for us (Eph 5:2)

A love that God gave us first (1 John 4:10)

A love from God that allowed us to be called His child (1 John 3:1)

A love that prompted God to give His only Son (John 3:16)

### **Renewed through God Gathering Us (Zeph 3:18-20)**

*Gathering those who sorrow (18)*

Sorrow that will be wiped away (Rev 21:4)

Sorrow that we will be rescued from (Rom 7:24-25)

Sorrow that will be replaced by joy (Isa 35:10)

Sorrow that will be turned into praise (Isa 61:3)

Sorrow that will not be felt again (Isa 65:19)

*Gathering those who have been oppressed (18)*

Gathering of the oppressed into God's refuge (Ps 9:9)

Gathering of the oppressed into God's righteousness (Ps 103:6)

Gathering of the oppressed into God's justice (Ps 146:7)

Gathering of the oppressed and the rebuking of the oppressors (Isa 1:17)

Gathering of the oppressed into God's protection (Ps 12:5)

*Gathering to return His people to Him (20)*

God returns those who are with Him (Matt 12:30)

God returns through His angels (Matt 24:31)

God returns like a winnowing fork (Luke 3:16-18)

God returns multiple flock (John 10:16)