

*When Judgment Gives Way to Joy*  
*Zephaniah 3:9-20*

The Scripture repeats that God, the righteous judge, will execute \_\_\_\_\_ judgments from time to time in this life, but each only \_\_\_\_\_ a final, eternal judgment. It is the greatest underlying, \_\_\_\_\_ fear of all: death, the grave, and judgment.

Zephaniah proclaimed God's coming judgment. It is coming because God created human beings in His \_\_\_\_\_—that is, with a capacity to have a relationship with Him characterized by \_\_\_\_\_ and expressed in worship and devotion to His \_\_\_\_\_. But we all have spoiled that relationship by choosing to consider other things more \_\_\_\_\_ than He is to us and by doing things inconsistent with His expressed will for us. Whether a physical statue of some sort is involved or not, what we have committed is \_\_\_\_\_.

The last 12 verses of Zephaniah remind us of the reason for hope and for rejoicing that those who put their trust in the Lord can have.

V. 9 refers to those who call on the name of the Lord. Paul wrote in **Rom. 10:13** that those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. Salvation and the joy it brings, come from calling on \_\_\_\_\_.

Vs. 14-15 invite rejoicing since “The Lord has taken away your punishment. **Rom. 8:1** says, “There is no \_\_\_\_\_ for those who are in Christ Jesus” because “He himself bore our \_\_\_\_\_ in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his \_\_\_\_\_ you have been healed” (**1 Peter 2:24**).

Vs. 16-17 say, “Do not fear...The Lord your God is with you.” Jesus is called \_\_\_\_\_, which means, “God with us.”

In vs. 20, God says, “At that time I will bring you \_\_\_\_\_.” Jesus spoke to His disciples in **John 14:2** of His \_\_\_\_\_ with many rooms to which He would take them.

How is it that Christians overwhelmingly call for \_\_\_\_\_ at their \_\_\_\_\_? They can because they called upon the name of the Lord for salvation—the one who said, “Rejoice that your names are \_\_\_\_\_!”