

Zephaniah

3:4-6,14-20

English Standard Version
& Adele Berlin (Anchor Bible)



Woe to the rebellious, defiled, overbearing, oppressing city!

She does not obey, she does not accept discipline;

She does not trust in the LORD;

she does now draw near to her God.

Her officials within her are roaring lions;

her judges are evening wolves that devour everything by morning.

Her prophets are fickle, treacherous men;

her priests profane the holy, corrupt the teaching.

I have cut off nations; their battlements are in ruins;

I dredged up their streets, so that no one walks in them;

their cities have been made desolate,

without a man, without an inhabitant.

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!



Why?

This is Why

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

The LORD your God is in your midst, **a Mighty One who will save;**
A warrior who brings victory.

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame

into praise and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you in,

at the time when I gather you together;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

Advent Credo (1983)

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It is not true that this world and its inhabitants
are doomed to die and be lost.

This is true: For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination,
hunger and poverty, death and destruction.

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word,
and that war and destruction have come to stay forever.

This is true: For unto us a child is born, and unto us a Son is given, and
the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
wonderful counselor, mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims
of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world.

This is true: To me is given all authority in heaven and on earth, and lo, I am
with you always, even unto the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the church, before we can do anything.

This is true: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall have dreams.

It is not true that our dreams for the liberation of humankind, our dreams of justice, of human dignity, of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history.

This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: *Jesus Christ—the Life of the world.*



The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;
A warrior who brings victory.

