

Zephaniah 3 : 17, 19-20

The Lord your God is with you!

“The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”

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This verse was given to me in a note from a student during my teaching career. Of course, the primary context of this verse and the rest of this chapter is the restoration of Jerusalem and the nation of Israel. However, I believe a second application of this verse is to individuals like you and me! With this verse, this student was saying that, in my career as a math teacher, the Lord had blessed me; the Lord was pleased and rejoiced in my work. It was a very nice note, very encouraging to me, both then and now.

The rest of the chapter continues in **first person** tense from the Lord Himself about the restoration of Jerusalem and Israel! “At that time, **I** will deal with all who oppressed you . . .”

This is why the Lord admonishes us to be very **KIND** to Israel!!

**“At that time I will deal
with all who oppressed you.
I will rescue the lame;
I will gather the exiles.
I will give them praise and honor
in every land where they have suffered shame.
At that time I will gather you;
at that time I will bring you home.
I will give you honor and praise
among all the peoples of the earth
when I restore your fortunes
before your very eyes,”
says the Lord.**

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