



A Vision of Restoration

March Quarter

Lesson 10



OPENING QUESTIONS

How do you celebrate your blessings from God? Identify ways you respond to God when God blesses you the way you want or when God responds in a different way?

Zephaniah 3:14-15

- **Zephaniah 3:14** Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!
- **15** For the LORD will remove his hand of judgment and will disperse the armies of your enemy. And the LORD himself, the King of Israel, will live among you! At last your troubles will be over, and you will never again fear disaster.

Zephaniah 3:16-18

- **16** On that day the announcement to Jerusalem will be, “Cheer up, Zion! Don’t be afraid!”
- **17** For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.
- **18** I will gather you who mourn for the appointed festivals; you will be disgraced no more.

Zephaniah 3:19-20

- **19** And I will deal severely with all who have oppressed you. I will save the weak and helpless ones; I will bring together those who were chased away. I will give glory and fame to my former exiles, wherever they have been mocked and shamed.
- **20** On that day I will gather you together and bring you home again. I will give you a good name, a name of distinction, among all the nations of the earth, as I restore your fortunes before their very eyes. I, the LORD, have spoken!”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In order to truly appreciate today's readings, one must read the entire book of Zephaniah. It is only then that the full weight of God's redemption and restoration is clear. Just when it looked like there was no hope for redemption, God turns it all around and establishes a new world order with God, the King of Israel, in charge. The Lord creates a kingdom where there is no suffering, no oppression, no shame, no enemies, and no disaster. Even their enemies are turned away or have clean lips (cf. 3:9), and they are forgiven people. All of their idolatry is behind them. The Children of Israel can live free from fear. Their God has given them the victory.
- *How do we trust God to bring victory in our lives today?*

APPLICATION FOR ACTIVATION

- 1. Replace praise and worship with a traditional testimony and song service during a regular service to focus on responding to the Lord with joy.
- 2. Read Martin Luther King, Jr.'s book *Strength to Love*.
- 3. Plan a trip to your local museum that focuses on Black history and has a debriefing session on the impact.