Zephaniah - Commentaries by Unknown Author

Faithful Words for Old and Young: Volume 15, Mighty to Save - Perfect in Love.

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“THE Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; He will save, He will rejoice over thee with joy; He will rest in His love, He will joy over thee with singing.” (Zeph. 3:17.) Though these most gracious words relate to God’s ancient people Israel, and to what He will do for them in the coming day, we may apply their spirit to ourselves now.

The Lord is mighty to deliver from enemies; He is also mighty to take away pride, to turn the heart to Himself, and to give the grace to call upon His name. (See vss. 8, 9 and 11.) The stoutest of sinners He can and does turn to Himself, and in this His love we see His might as clearly as in the most terrible of His judgments. The Lord our God is mighty in grace, in pardoning mercy, in forgiving love, and each one of His people rejoices in this glorious truth, for by the might of the Lord he is brought to God.

“He will save.” On whichever of these three words we place the emphasis, how encouraging they are! Self has no part here. Human strength is nowhere here — the Lord will do the work. He will save. No one can withhold His arm; none can withstand, none can hinder the purpose of His grace. “He is mighty to save.” His salvation is strong like His arm. To His “so great salvation” nothing can be added, for it is perfect and complete: He will save.

Having perfectly saved His people, and beholding them so saved, our God rejoices over the subjects of His mercy. When He made this world, “God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good.” He rested in the beauty of His work, and this satisfaction of God in His creation gives a conception of His delight in His work of salvation. “He will rejoice over thee with joy.” The lost ones saved shall call forth the rejoicing of our God. The Son rejoices, the Spirit rejoices, the Father rejoices over the saved one. “He will rejoice over thee with joy” we may take as the word for ourselves while reading the fifteenth chapter of St. Luke’s gospel, for the individual sinner saved is the lost sheep found; the lost piece of silver found; the lost son found, over whom the ever-blessed God rejoices with joy.

Now as God rested from His work on the seventh day, and had His pleasure in the Sabbath, so “will He rest in His love” in the Sabbath of God. In His love He will bring His people into absolute blessing, not one good thing shall they lack, and when all shall be fulfilled which eye hath not seen nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived at any time, of the good and precious things which God hath prepared for them that love Him, our God will rest in His love. There will be nothing that they can need, nothing that God will need to add to their blessing. God Himself shall repose in His love, for His love will have wrought for His beloved sons and daughters all that He Himself has conceived.

Here on earth, where sin and suffering are found, God in His love is ever working. “My Father worketh hitherto, and I work,” said Jesus, when He healed the sick man on the Sabbath day. God now knows no Sabbath for Himself on earth, for sin prevails and misery abounds. But in His Sabbath He will rest in His love, and this Sabbath is the grand prospect of His people — a rest more sweet than that of paradise — more holy than the Sabbaths which Israel knew.

Faithful Words for Old and Young: Volume 25, Sunday Morning Texts

1.

I will give you rest. (Matt. 11:28.)

THIS is the promise of our Lord Jesus to such as labor and are heavy laden, and He makes one condition in order that the blessing may be obtained, and that one condition is, that the soul come to Him. “Come unto Me. . .” Let us rejoice that we are amongst the thousands who have come to Jesus, and have obtained the rest, the burden of sin being gone—being taken away by the Lord.

2.

Ye shall find rest. (Matt. 11:29.)

Jesus takes away the burden of our sins, and gives us rest of conscience; and then He bids us take upon ourselves the burden of His yoke, that thereby we may find rest for our souls. He bore the burden of our sins for us, He bears the burden of His yoke with us. The name of this yoke is Obedience—obedience to the Father’s will. Our Lord says of it, “My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

3.

There remaineth a Sabbath rest for the people of God. (Heb. 4:9. R.V.)

This great rest will be entered into yonder. The rest we enjoy here in Christ is a foretaste of the rest we shall enjoy in heaven with Christ—rest from sorrow, from grief, rest from sinful surroundings and a sinful heart, rest in the full realization of the full blessing of God.

4.

He will rest in His love. (Zeph. 3:17.)

God Himself will rest in His love. “He will rejoice over thee with joy. He will joy over thee with singing!” Wonderful words. He Himself having accomplished every purpose of His love, having fulfilled every promise of His goodness, will rest in the perfect fulfilment of His work for His people. How immeasurable is the love of God!

5.

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest. (Heb. 4:11)

All the favors which we have in Christ, and all the favors which are assured to us through Him, should be inducements to lead us to a more earnest and a more holy life on earth. The prospects of heaven in our hearts effect energy to reach the rest assured there. We are called, in the view of the assured rest, to labor to enter into it, while and in our trials this gracious word soothes us: “Rest in the Lord; wait patiently for Him.”

Christian Treasury: Volume 4, Fear Thou Not

Zephaniah 3:16ZEP 3:16

How easily we get discouraged! And then our hands get slack. They "hang down." Someone has said that "discouragement is of the devil" and we do know that our Gad is the "God of all encouragement." 2 Cor. 1:3 (JND). "God hath not given us the spirit of fear: but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Tim. 1:7. So we may well say "fear thou not... let not thine hands be slack.”

Fear Not, But Let Your Hands Be Strong

He has said again, "So will I save you, and YE SHALL BE A BLESSING: FEAR NOT, BUT LET YOUR HANDS BE STRONG." Zech. 8:13. It. is true this was said originally to the little weak remnant of Israel, but can we not take comfort and encouragement from it ourselves? It was perhaps a little over four years before this that the Lord through the prophet Haggai had been giving the same people encouragement, after needed reproof and stirring up. Three times in one verse He says "be strong." How precious it all is; "Ye shall be a blessing." We have learned to know and love the One in whom "all nations of the earth" were to be blessed. We ourselves have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in HIM. Now here is a sweet promise, inviting us to share, as it were, with Him the joy of imparting this blessing to others to—"all nations of the earth." Perhaps we feel we are too weak and useless to be a blessing. Well surely it is so, but then it is the Lord who is doing it, so we can just leave that with Him, and He says, "Fear not."

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