Hidden In God’s Midst

Zephaniah 3:9-20 (ESV)

For at that time I will change the speech of the peoples to a pure speech, that all of them may call upon the name of the LORD and serve him with one accord. From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, the daughter of my dispersed ones, shall bring my offering. “On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your midst your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.” Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 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; 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.

Zephaniah name means “The LORD has hidden/ protected/treasured

A Heart For Hiding

Exodus 2:2-3 (ESV)

The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank.

Joshua 2:6 (ESV)

But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof.

Luke 2:51 (ESV)

And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

Matthew 13:44 (ESV)

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

*Zephaniah spoke of a day where the people were not just hidden but would be hidden in God’s midst.*

Qerebv – midst, among, inner part, within

Psalm 27:4-5 (ESV)

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

Two Things You Will Not Find Hidden In God’s Midst:

Unjust Rulers

Zephaniah 3:3 (ESV)

Her officials within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves that leave nothing till the morning.

Zephaniah 3:5 (ESV)

The LORD within her is righteous; he does no injustice; every morning he shows forth his justice; each dawn he does not fail; but the unjust knows no shame.

Pride

Zephaniah 3:11-12 (ESV)

“On that day you shall not be put to shame because of the deeds by which you have rebelled against me; for then I will remove from your *midst* your proudly exultant ones, and you shall no longer be haughty in my holy mountain. But I will leave in your *midst* a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD.

Four Things You Will Find Hidden In God’s Midst:

The Speech Of The Satisfied

Colossians 3:8-10 (ESV)

But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Colossians 4:6 (ESV)

Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

The Praise Of The Pardoned

Colossians 3:16 (ESV)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

The Fearlessness Of The Forgiven

Colossians 3:12-13 (ESV)

Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

God’s Own Song Of His Salvation

Colossians 3:14-17 (ESV)

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.