



We find hope in God's promises of...

[1] ... a remnant [12-13]

Characteristics of the Remnant:

- a) **Holiness** – Set apart for God's purposes.
- b) **Humility and Meekness** – A people who depend on God, not themselves.
- c) **Truthfulness** – Speaking with integrity.
- d) **Fearlessness** – No one shall make them afraid." (13b)

[2] ... redemption [14-15]

... God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [Romans 5:8]

[3] ... renewal [16-17]

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, therefore I will hope in him. [Lamentation 3:22]

[4] ... the gospel for all people [18-20]

- a) I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
- b) I will deal with all your oppressors.
- c) And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,...
- d) I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together
- e) I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth.
- f) I will restore your fortunes before your eyes.

We have hope because of who God is and what He continues to do in His people.

[Zephaniah 3:12-13] But I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. [Isaiah 14:32, Matthew 5:3] They shall seek refuge in the name of the Lord, [3:2] ¹³ those who are left in Israel; [2:7] they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, [Isaiah 60:21] nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. [Revelation 14:5] For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid. [Micah 5:4]

[Zephaniah 3:14-15] Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! [Isaiah 12:6, 54:1, Zechariah 2:10, Zechariah 9:9] ¹⁵ [Cause for Joy] The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord [Yahweh], is in your midst; [Psalm 46:5, Zechariah 2:10, Revelation 21:3] you shall never again fear evil.

[Zephaniah 3:16-17] On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; [3:11, Isaiah 2:11] let not your hands grow weak. [no longer live in fear] [Isaiah 35:3, Hebrews 12:12] ¹⁷ The Lord your God is in your midst, [3:15, Psalm 46:5, Zechariah 2:10, Revelation 21:3] a mighty one who will save; [Isaiah 63:1] he will rejoice over you with gladness; [Isaiah 62:5, Jeremiah 32:41] He will quiet you by his love; He will exult over you with loud singing.

[Zephaniah 3:18-20] I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, [pining after the solemn assembly which they cannot celebrate in exile - JFB] [Lamentations 1:4, 2:6] so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹ Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. [Isaiah 60:14] And I will save [make them a praise] the lame and gather the outcast, [Micah 4:6-7] and I will change their shame [Isaiah 61:7] into praise and renown in all the earth. [Jeremiah 13:11, 33:9] ²⁰ At that time I will bring you in, [take you out of captivity] at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, [make you to become celebrated and praised] [Isaiah 11:12, Jeremiah 32:37, Ezekiel 11:17] when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the Lord. [2:7]

Discussion Questions/Prayer

1. Which characteristic of the remnant (holiness, humility, truthfulness, or fearlessness) do you need to grow in the most to better reflect God's hope to others?
2. How does knowing that God is still renewing, redeeming, and gathering His people give you courage to live with hope today?
3. Pray, asking God to use your life to reflect the power of the gospel and the promise that He is not done working in and through His people.