

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

- Isaiah 9:1-7 (English Standard Version)

<sup>1</sup> Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation, <sup>2</sup> before the decree takes effect—before the day passes away like chaff—before there comes upon you the burning anger of the Lord, before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.

- Zephaniah 2:1-3 (English Standard Version)

## Reflection

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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 3:14-20 (English Standard Version)

# Sermon Outline

## Mighty God

Isaiah 9:1-7; Zephaniah 2:1-3

*And His Name Shall Be Called*

Brad Anderson

*Because the child born to us is none other than the mighty God, he is able to save all those who place their trust in him... (Isaiah 9:6; Zephaniah 2:1-3)*

### What does it mean to place your trust in the mighty God?

It means to receive his judgment about you... (Zephaniah 3:14-15)

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It means to receive his song sung over you... (Zephaniah 3:16-17)

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It means to receive his promise spoken to you... (Zephaniah 3:18-20)

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## Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Who was the strongest person you knew growing up? What did that person do that gave them that picture in your memory?
- When the prophet Isaiah speaks about the child to be born in Isaiah 9 and then gives that same child the name Mighty God, how does that sit with you? Does it seem strange to apply such a name to a child?
- Zephaniah 3:17 pictures God as a mighty warrior who saves his people. When that same verse describes God rejoicing over his people with loud shouts and gladness, how does that impact you? What does it do in you as you consider such a picture?
- Where have you experienced God as a mighty warrior on your behalf?