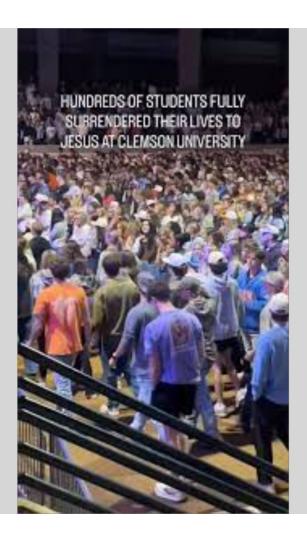
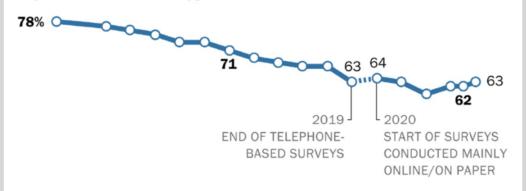
A Day of Judgment or Joy? Zephaniah 3:17

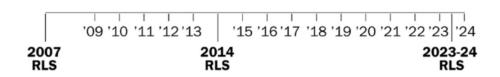




## After years of decline, the Christian share of the U.S. population stabilizes

% of U.S. adults who identify as Christian





"As a witch who believes that everything is alive with spirit in the same way that I am, why would I not protect the land that is my ally in the same way I would a person?"

Emma Kathryn

Zephaniah = Yahweh was "hidden"

\* the Day of the Lord = when God manifests his **judgment** and his **joy** 

## The Framework of Zephaniah

1. The day of judgment for **Judah** (1:2-2:3)

"I will utterly sweep away everything from the face of the earth," declares the LORD. "I will sweep away man and beast;
I will sweep away the birds of the heavens
and the fish of the sea,
and the rubble with the wicked.

"I will cut off mankind from the face of the earth,' declares the LORD."

"I will stretch out my hand against Judah and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem;

"and I will cut off from this place the remnant of Baal and the name of the idolatrous priests along with the priests, "those who bow down on the roofs
to the host of the heavens,
those who bow down and swear to the LORD
and yet swear by Milcom,"

Zephaniah 1:2-5

"On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud."

Zephaniah 1:9

"At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.'"

Zephaniah 1:12

"The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.

"A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,

"a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry . . ." Zephaniah 1:14-16a \* Repent - there is **hope** (2:1-3)

"Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation, before the decree takes effect"

Zephaniah 2:1-2a

"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 2:3

- 1. The day of judgment for <u>Judah</u>
- 2. The day of judgment for the **nations** (2:4-3:13)

Philistines (2:4-7) Moab and Ammon (2:8-11)

Moab and Ammon (2:8-11)

**Cush** (2:12)

Moab and Ammon (2:8-11)

**Cush** (2:12)

**Assyria** (2:13-15)

Moab and Ammon (2:8-11)

**Cush** (2:12)

**Assyria** (2:13-15)

**Jerusalem** (3:1-7)

"Therefore wait for me,' declares the LORD, for the day when I rise up to seize the prey.

"For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all my burning anger; "for in the fire of my jealousy all the earth shall be consumed."

Zephaniah 3:8

\* Repent - there is **hope**! (3:9-13)

"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."

Zephaniah 3:9-10

- 1. The day of judgment for <u>Judah</u>
- 2. The day of judgment for the nations
- 3. The day of **joy** for **Zion** (3:14-20)

"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."

Zephaniah 3:14-16

What happens when God is in the midst of his people to bring joy?

He **saves** us with **might**.

He <u>saves</u> us with <u>might</u>.

"a mighty one who will save"

"He sent from on high, he took me; he drew me out of many waters. "He rescued me from my strong enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too mighty for me. "They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the LORD was my support.

"He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me."

Psalm 18:16-19

"And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

"by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

"He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."

Colossians 2:13-15

- He <u>saves</u> us with <u>might</u>.
- He <u>sends</u> us with <u>joy</u>.

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"he will rejoice over you with gladness" (17c)

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- He <u>sends</u> us with <u>joy</u>.

"he will rejoice over you with gladness" (17c) over = above, upon

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted . . ."

Isaiah 61:1a

"Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart," Zephaniah 3:14a "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak."

Zephaniah 3:16b

"Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak."

Zephaniah 3:16b

weak = to droop or sink

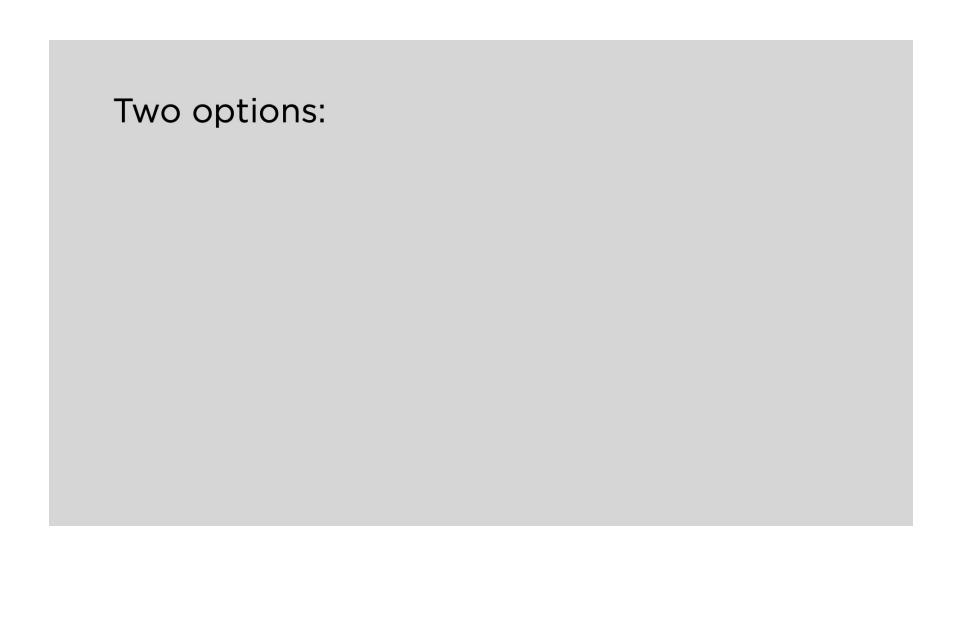
". . . the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Nehemiah 8:10b

- He <u>saves</u> us with <u>might</u>.
- He <u>sends</u> us with <u>joy</u>.
- He stabilizes us with love.

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"he will quiet you by his love" (17d)



Two options:

"He will quiet you by his love (ESV)

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"He will quiet you by his love (ESV)

"He will be **silent** in his love." (Alec Motyer)

"He will be quiet (over you) in his love."

O. Palmer Robertson

"Remember the silence of Jesus."

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth."

Isaiah 53:7b

He <u>surrounds</u> us with <u>songs</u>.

"he will exult over you with loud singing" (17e)

He <u>surrounds</u> us with <u>songs</u>.

"he will exult over you with loud singing" (17e) exult = to rejoice, to be glad





"I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise."

Hebrews 2:12

When "the LORD your God is in your midst,"

When "the LORD your God is in your midst," He saves us with might.

When "the LORD your God is in your midst," He saves us with might.
He sends us with joy.

When "the LORD your God is in your midst,"

He saves us with might.

He sends us with joy.

He stabilizes us with love.

When "the LORD your God is in your midst,"

He saves us with might.

He sends us with joy.

He stabilizes us with love.

He surrounds us with songs.

"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 2:3

"For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. "While people are saying, 'There is peace and security,' then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

"But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. "For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:2-5, 9-11