



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

How Much Does God Care? October 14th, 2018

(Zephaniah 3:14-17)

- A)** ¹⁴ Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem!
- B)** ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy.
- C)** The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;
- D)** never again will you fear any harm.
- D')** ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.
- C')** ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you,
- B')** he is mighty to save.
- A')** He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

1. What sorts of things might cause a person to think that God doesn't care about us very much?
2. Read Zephaniah 1:12. How did the proud people of Jerusalem answer the question, "How much does God care?" How does the Lord react to their answer?
3. Read Zephaniah 3:1-5. What are some differences between the Lord and the people of Jerusalem?

4. How does the difference between the Lord and the people help you to understand the real reason why bad things happen in our world?
5. What words can you think of to describe the tone of Zeph. 3:14-17? What does Zephaniah want people to do after they've heard these words?
6. The layout of verses 14-17 on this sheet is designed to demonstrate how Hebrew poetry works. The beginning (A) and end (A') are parallel. The second (B') and second to last (B') are parallel. And so on. How would you put the thoughts of each letter into your own words? What are the four things Zephaniah is communicating?
7. How do your responses from question 6 help you answer some concerns that were raised by question 1?
8. God can use troubles to keep you close to him, to keep your heart from dangerously relying on yourself. Name something in your life that requires you to rely on God rather than on yourself.