

## Week TWO

# HE WHO CREATED YOU AND FORMED YOU

### DAY FOUR

## I Am God's Delight

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

Zephaniah 3:14–20 is a beautiful passage of hope and restoration. After delivering prophecies of judgment and warning throughout the book, Zephaniah ends with a promise of God's mercy, love, and restoration. In this section, the Lord calls His people to rejoice, for He has taken away their punishment and defeated their enemies. He is and has always been with them!

God's promise is clear: He will restore what was lost, He will bring His people back from exile, and He will rejoice over them. There is an intimate, tender love here. **God is depicted as a mighty Warrior who saves, but also as the One who sings over His people with joy.** For the Israelites, this passage would have been incredibly comforting after years of oppression and exile. **God promises not just physical restoration but spiritual renewal.** He invites them—and us—to celebrate His victory, to acknowledge His constant presence, and to embrace the joy of being His people.

A life with Christ is not only one of freedom, but one of the incredible, hope-filled understanding that God delights in His creation; He delights in His people; **He delights in you!** Our response to God's promise of redemption and restoration in the lives of His children should automatically elicit a song of joyful praise from our lips.

Follow the SHINE Time devotional tool to dive deeper into today's scripture!

S

**Seek** the Lord in prayer.

H

**Highlight** a characteristic of God.

I

**Identify** a truth about yourself or people.

N

**Notice** what the Holy Spirit is communicating to you.

E

**Engage** in the next action step. Think of a way to respond in obedience to what God has revealed to you today.