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2021

**ZEPHANIAH 1:7-18**

## BE SILENT BEFORE GOD

It is not easy to make babies and toddlers stay still or silent. It is either because they do not understand what we ask them to do, they are not in the state of being calm enough to do it or they are not mature enough to grasp on the situation around them. However, when time goes by, as they grow up, they will be able to stay still for a longer time. They are able to stay silent when it is necessary. They understand well enough to follow instructions.

Through Zephaniah, God instructed His people to be silent before Him. Being silent before God means:

1. opening our ears to listen carefully to His word and His Holy Spirit;
2. humbling ourselves before Him instead of making excuses for our wrongful actions;
3. meditating on God's word and keeping our mind and heart clean from sinful things;
4. making God the centre of our lives in the midst of all our daily activities.

Let God take control over everything in your life. Neither our wealth, achievements nor power can ever overpower God. Let's learn to be silent and be still before God.

### Key verse:

*Zephaniah 1:7a  
Be silent before  
the Lord God,  
because the  
Lord's day  
for judging  
the people is  
coming soon.*

### Prayer

*Dear God, help  
me to be able to  
be silent before  
You. Amen.*





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## ZEPHANIAH 2:1-3

# GOD'S WARNING

A warning is an alert of possible danger. For example, when a place is forecast to have a tsunami, warnings will be issued by the authority to the residents. This way, they can get prepared to be evacuated, to find a safer place and to avoid the tsunami. The warning will save their lives.

Many times, God also gave warnings to His people. The warning in this verse was given through the prophet Zephaniah. This warning had one purpose. The purpose was solely to save His people's lives from eternal death due to their sins, wickedness and disobedience.

When people are given a warning, they only have two options; to respond accordingly, or to ignore it. Unfortunately, God's people during Zephaniah's time chose to ignore God's warning.

May it be a reminder for us. When God gives us His warning through His word, or through the Holy Spirit who speaks to our hearts, let's choose to respond accordingly and humbly obey His word. Choose to obey God and we'll be safe.

### Key verse:

*Zephaniah 2:3a  
All you humble people, come to the Lord! Obey His laws. Learn to do good things. Learn to be humble.*

### Prayer

*Dear God, give me wisdom and a humble heart to pay attention to Your warning and to obey Your command. Amen.*





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**ZEPHANIAH 3:14-17**

## A HAPPY ENDING!

Have you watched the movie, Kungfu Panda? This movie is about a panda who has to go through a tough journey and training and some mocking from his friends in his effort to save his town and to find his real family. This movie has a happy ending. All his pain and suffering during the training or fight pay off when he is finally able to achieve his dreams.

God told Zephaniah that all the suffering that His people were experiencing would come to an end. When they were finally reconciled with God, they would finally have a happy ending. They would be glad and shouting for joy. They would finally be free from their pain.

This message is for you and me too. We have been reconciled with God through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Through this reconciliation, we are set free from all our sins and fear. With Jesus, we can always have a way out. He gives us the never-ending hope and joy. Praise God because He always helps us to have a happy ending in every chapter of our lives.

### Key verse:

*Zephaniah 3:14  
Jerusalem, sing  
and be happy!  
Israel, shout for  
joy! Jerusalem,  
be happy and  
have fun!*

### Prayer

*Dear God, thank  
You for being  
with me always  
throughout my  
life journey. Let  
Your name be  
glorified through  
each season in  
my life. Amen.*





**HAGGAI 1:3-6**

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## A BAG WITH HOLES

Can you imagine using a bag with holes to carry rice or flour? On the way home, the rice or flour will spill out onto the ground. By the time you reach home, you will only get less rice or flour or even nothing at all. It means the money you just spent is wasted.

Haggai sent God's message to His people. They only harvested little after planting many seeds. They did not get filled after eating and drinking. They didn't feel warm after putting on clothes. All the money they earned seemed to be wasted. They expected much but it turned out to be little

They must be wondering why. The Bible says it was because they were busy building their own homes while neglecting the house of God. They did not acknowledge God in their lives and they worked hard for their own satisfaction and glory, instead of for glorifying God.

Let us always acknowledge God in everything we do. Give our best in everything we do and do it for the glory of God.

### **Key verse:**

*Haggai 1:6b  
You earn wages,  
only to put them  
into a bag with  
holes.*

### **Prayer**

*Dear God, I want  
to give my best  
in everything I do  
and I want to do  
it to glorify Your  
name. Amen.*





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**HAGGAI 2:1-9**

## DON'T GET DISCOURAGED!

Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, and Joshua, the high priest, could not help but feeling discouraged when they saw the condition of the temple of God at that time. It was far from being magnificent, and it was nothing compared to how it used to be in its former glory.

God emphasizes to them not to be discouraged! In fact, God promised that He would fill the latter temple with glory and it would be greater than the former temple. God would also give peace in that place.

Don't be discouraged! No matter how small the acknowledgement from others is, God sees it! No matter how weak you feel, you can always find back your strength in God! No matter how small your contribution to the ministry, God counts every effort you make. When you feel down because of some criticism from your teachers, cheer up and use that to improve yourself!

Rest assured that God will always bless you as you faithfully serve Him with your life.

### Key verse:

*Haggai 2:9  
This last temple  
will be more  
beautiful than  
the first one,  
and I will bring  
peace to this  
place*

### Prayer

*Dear God, I  
will always be  
courageous  
because I have  
an assurance that  
You are always  
in control of my  
circumstance, no  
matter how hard  
it is. Amen.*





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## ZECHARIAH 1:1-6

### LEARN FROM HISTORY

There is a quote “those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” History gives us the opportunity to learn from the past mistakes. It helps us understand the many reasons why people behaved the way they did. We can learn and study the result of their action. If it resulted in a bad ending, we must not repeat it.

Zechariah was God’s prophet. As a loving God, He uses many ways to remind His children to repent. Through Zechariah, He reminded His people not to be like their ancestors who had done evil and disobeyed God’s command. They could learn from their ancestors’ history to amend their ways and live a better life.

We can do the same thing. How?

1. Study the Bible and learn from the characters in the Bible, how they lived and responded to a certain situation in their lives.
2. Listen to your parents’ advice and learn from them.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you through your journey of life. With God’s wisdom and your parent’s guidance, you will be able to do it right!

#### Key verse:

*Deuteronomy  
32:7*

*Remember the days of old, Consider the years of all generations. Ask your father, and he will inform you, Your elders, and they will tell you.*

#### Prayer

*Dear God, I want to learn more from the Bible and I want to listen to my parents’ advice. Guide my daily steps, Holy Spirit. Amen.*





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**ZECHARIAH 4:1-6**

## BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD

God gave a vision of a lampstand and two olive trees to the prophet Zechariah. The lampstand represents God's children while the oil from the olive trees represents the presence of God's Spirit. Just like the oil that fills the lamp, so will God's Spirit always fill His children's hearts. The oil never runs out and dry as it is always refilled.

May God's promise: "your help will not come from your own strength and power. No, your help will come from My Spirit" be a new daily lifestyle for us. There are things in our lives that are just beyond our strength. Human power and strength are not sufficient to accomplish the work of God on earth. We will fail if we try to use our own strength and power. We need to pray and ask the Spirit of God to intervene.

Surrender your strength and power to God and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you up each day. This way, you will walk with the Holy Spirit, not with your own strength.

### Key verse:

*Zechariah 4:6  
Your help  
will not come  
from your own  
strength and  
power. No, your  
help will come  
from My Spirit*

### Prayer

*Holy Spirit, fill  
me up until  
I overflow. I  
want to fully  
depend on You  
to accomplish  
whatever God  
wants me to do in  
my life. Amen.*

