

OUR UNFAILING GOD

"The just Lord is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame." Zephaniah 3:5.

In this chapter God denounces Jerusalem for the iniquities done by her. Concerning Jerusalem two things are obvious: --

1. Her inhabitants were ungodly.

God had chosen her citizens to be "A holy people, zealous of good works;" but they were stained with corruption and vice.

(1) They were deaf to warning.

"She obeyed not the voice" of God in His law and prophets. Remonstrance and appeal were in vain. He said, "They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore they shall eat of the fruit of their own way and be filled with their own devices."

(2) They refused correction.

"She received not correction." She was neither disciplined by her own sufferings, nor by the sufferings of others.

(3) They hardened themselves in wickedness.

- a. They were rebellious.
- b. They were defiled.
- c. They were oppressive.

Rebellion begets inward defilement before God and cruelty to man.

(4) They provoked God to anger.

"Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!" 3:1. The infinite patience of God may be exhausted, and He may become weary in correcting for sin.

2. Her rulers were unjust.

(1) The princes were cruel.

"Her princes within her are roaring lions."

(2) The judges were corrupt.

"Her judges are evening wolves."

(3) The prophets were unfaithful.

"Her prophets are light and treacherous persons."

- a. In their words they were light and frivolous, without truth and stability in their teaching.
- b. In their life they were treacherous and inconsistent.

(4) The priests were polluted.

"Her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law."

In contrast with their wickedness we see the Lord who is essentially holy and eternally just. "The just Lord is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity." He is just in Himself and just to others. "The Lord is upright and there is no unrighteousness in Him." His condemnations of their evil practices were open, clear and continual. "Every morning" His voice was heard and His judgments were conspicuous. He failed not in judgment or in mercy. "They were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush." Concerning our unfailing God, I would like for you to notice certain things: --

1. His Person Will Not Fail.

He is the same kind, considerate, longsuffering, loving, forgiving, and faithful Saviour as He was when He was hereupon the earth. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8. He is ever the same in His righteousness, mercy, forbearance, and tenderness. He is just as approachable, loving, and generous as when He first came to this earth.

2. His Pity Will Not Fail.

"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." Psalm 103:13.

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not." Lamentations 3:22.

During His earthly ministry the Lord Jesus Christ was moved with compassion upon people.

(1) He had compassion upon the sick and healed them.

"But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour." Matthew 9:22.

(2) He had compassion upon the hungry and fed them.

"And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full." Matthew 14:19-20.

(3) He had compassion upon the lepers and cleansed them.

"And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed." Luke 17:12-14.

(4) He had compassion upon the demon-possessed and freed them.

"And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters." Matthew 8:28-32.

- (5) He had compassion upon those in trouble.

"And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm." Mark 4:37-39.

- (6) He had compassion upon the lost.

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28.

- (7) He had compassion upon the bereaved.

"And when he was come in, he saith unto them, why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, Arise. And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment." Mark 5:39-42.

3. His Promises Will Not Fail.

"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." II Corinthians 1:20. There is a promise for every condition and circumstance in life.

4. His Power Will Not Fail.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18-20. This power of the Lord's is for all believers who will comply with His requirements.

5. His Provision Will Not Fail.

"And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord, which he spake by Elijah." I Kings 17:16.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phillippians 4:19.

When we are where God wants us, and doing what He commands us to do, He will provide for us.

6. His Presence Will Not Fail.

"For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Hebrews 13:5.

Even though we may not have much money or many friends, yet we are rich when we have Jesus Christ as our Saviour and the unfailing God as our Father. And He will not fail us.