

## **“Minor Prophet Monologues: Zephaniah”**

by  
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**What** Zephaniah is often viewed as a word-picture of God wrapping His arms around us like children and disciplining us. This modern-day monologue imagines Zephaniah's wife and her thoughts on parenting and Israel's relationship with God.

Themes: God's Love, Discipline, God's People, God's Children

**Who** Wife of the prophet Zephaniah

**When** Present

**Wear** Nighttime attire  
**(Props)** Rocking Chair  
Baby wrapped in a blanket  
SFX: Baby stirring, crying

**Why** Zephaniah, specifically Zephaniah 3:17

**How** It is not known whether Zephaniah was married. However, he was not forbidden to marry like Jeremiah was. For the purposes of this monologue, Zephaniah's young wife speaks to give us an introduction to Zephaniah's book.

The lullaby that ends this monologue is a loose paraphrase of Zephaniah 3:17

Ideally, you'd perform this with a live baby rather than a wrapped-up doll. There's no substitute for a live baby. However, if you are going that direction make sure you have a back-up baby in case your first choice is uncooperative. Also, don't subject the baby to more than one service. If it was easy for moms to get their babies to be quiet, we wouldn't have the saying "let sleeping babes lie".

You can use whatever tune you want that works for the lullaby at the end. The tune in my head when I wrote it was a slow 6/8 waltz.

**Time** Approximately 3 minutes

*A mother, the **Wife** of the prophet Zephaniah, sits in a rocker holding a sleeping baby in the nursery of an affluent family.*

**Wife:** I could look at him all day. Just the way he sleeps it's so...perfect.

*To baby.*

Yes, you are. My perfect, beautiful child.

*To audience.*

If you think I have it bad, you should see my husband. Zephaniah is a prophet, a mouthpiece for the LORD Jehovah. He speaks to King Josiah even.

*To baby.*

Daddy can be so busy, can't he?

*To audience.*

When he has time and isn't visiting the King, he is here, staring into these giant brown eyes. He's smitten. Yes, he is. Smitten by this baby.

*She stands, continuing to rock the sleeping baby.*

In these moments in these empty hours of the night, your mind starts to wander. I wonder what kind of parents we'll be. There are the parents that are strict, keeping the children on the straight and narrow. There are the parents that befriend their children rather than parent them. And then there are those parents that simply let their children run amok.

*Beat*

I don't think we'll be that kind. Zephaniah would never allow it.

*To baby.*

Sorry, kid. Your parents love you too much to let you do that.

*To audience.*

Zephaniah often talks about how God will discipline our people when they go astray. He talks about it being good for us even though it may be unpleasant at the time. If God can discipline an entire nation of people, I'm sure we can scold and admonish our children when they stray. How can we not? The strength of our love demands it.

*Beat*

I think Zephaniah thinks about his legacy a lot. He's the great-grandson of King Hezekiah, after all. That's a lot to live up to. Once you have a good king's blood in your family, people expect certain things from you. Zephaniah wants our people to know of God's love. Even if it comes in the form of discipline when we begin to drift away.

*SFX: A baby stirs and cries out a bit. She sits back in the rocker, hushing the baby.*

There, there. Mommy's got you.

*Silence*

My beautiful child. He has brought us so much joy. I never knew I could love anyone this deeply. This intensely. This much.

*Silence, then, singing in 6/8 time.*

I am here, I am with you  
Mommy's strong. She'll fight for you  
I must sing, I find delight  
Rest my child and sleep tonight

Hush my child, be calm my dear  
Know always my love is near  
I'll sing for you from my joy.  
Rest my child, my darling boy  
Rest my child, my darling boy

*Lights fade.*