



Zephaniah 3:17

Weathering the Storms of Life

Storms in a Pandemic

- Reveal
- Remove
- Reset



Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak

COVID-19

Storms in a Pandemic



**Reveal &
Remove**



Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)

The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

Zephaniah 3:17 (The Message)

Jerusalem will be told: “Don’t be afraid. Dear Zion, don’t despair. Your GOD is present among you, a strong Warrior there to save you. Happy to have you back, he’ll calm you with his love and delight you with his songs

The Minor Prophets



Hosea was chosen by God to be an example to the people of Israel. His wife was unfaithful, but just like God he never stopped loving her and always looked for her whenever she left him.



Joel prophesied during a time when the land of Israel had suffered from a great plague of locust. Joel proclaims this as a sign from God as a precursor to the Day of the Lord.



Amos was a sheep breeder and a tender of fig trees by trade, but God used him to bring a powerful word of correction to Israel and the surrounding nations.



Obadiah is the shortest book in the old testament with only 21 verses. The book is a proclamation of judgment against Edom for aiding the Babylonians in their siege against Jerusalem.



Jonah is the most famous of the minor prophets because a giant sea animal was used to set him back on course after going astray. His mission was to tell the people of Nineveh to repent of their wrongdoings.

Micah in 1:8 lamented without wearing clothes in order to illustrate the severity of the destitution and captivity that was coming. This method was also used by Isaiah at times (Isaiah 20:2-3).



Nahum predicts the destruction of Nineveh the great capital of the Assyrian empire. Evidently the reforms introduced by Jonah did not last long.



Habakkuk identifies himself as a psalmist and musician by ending his book with a hymn of redemption and grace to be played on stringed instruments by the temple worship leaders.



Zephaniah contains a series of stern judgments directed toward Israel, Judah, and her neighbors for permitting idolatry and other sins in the land.



Haggai makes his chief concern restoring the temple of the Lord. Despite the Hebrew's return from captivity, the temple had not yet been fully rebuilt.

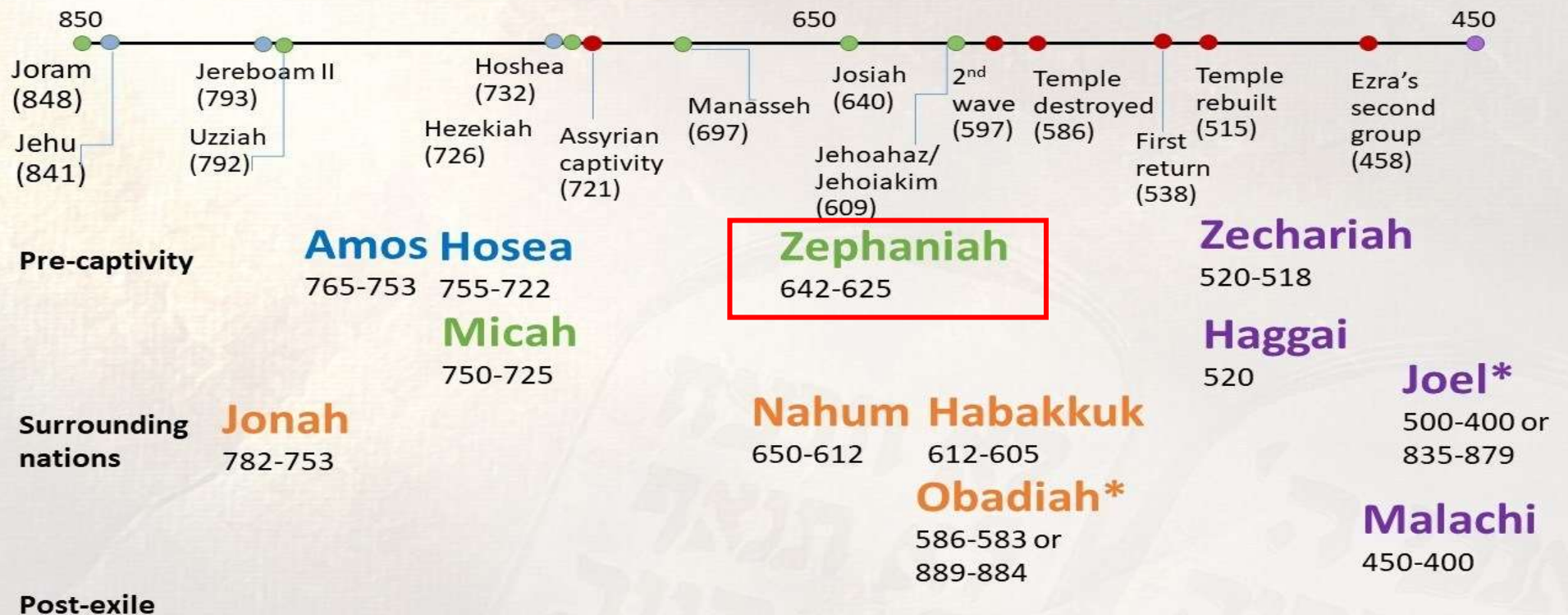


Zechariah like Ezekiel received vivid prophesies in the form of highly symbolic visions. Some of the imagery includes flying scrolls, olive trees, and angels. There are several Messianic passages as well.

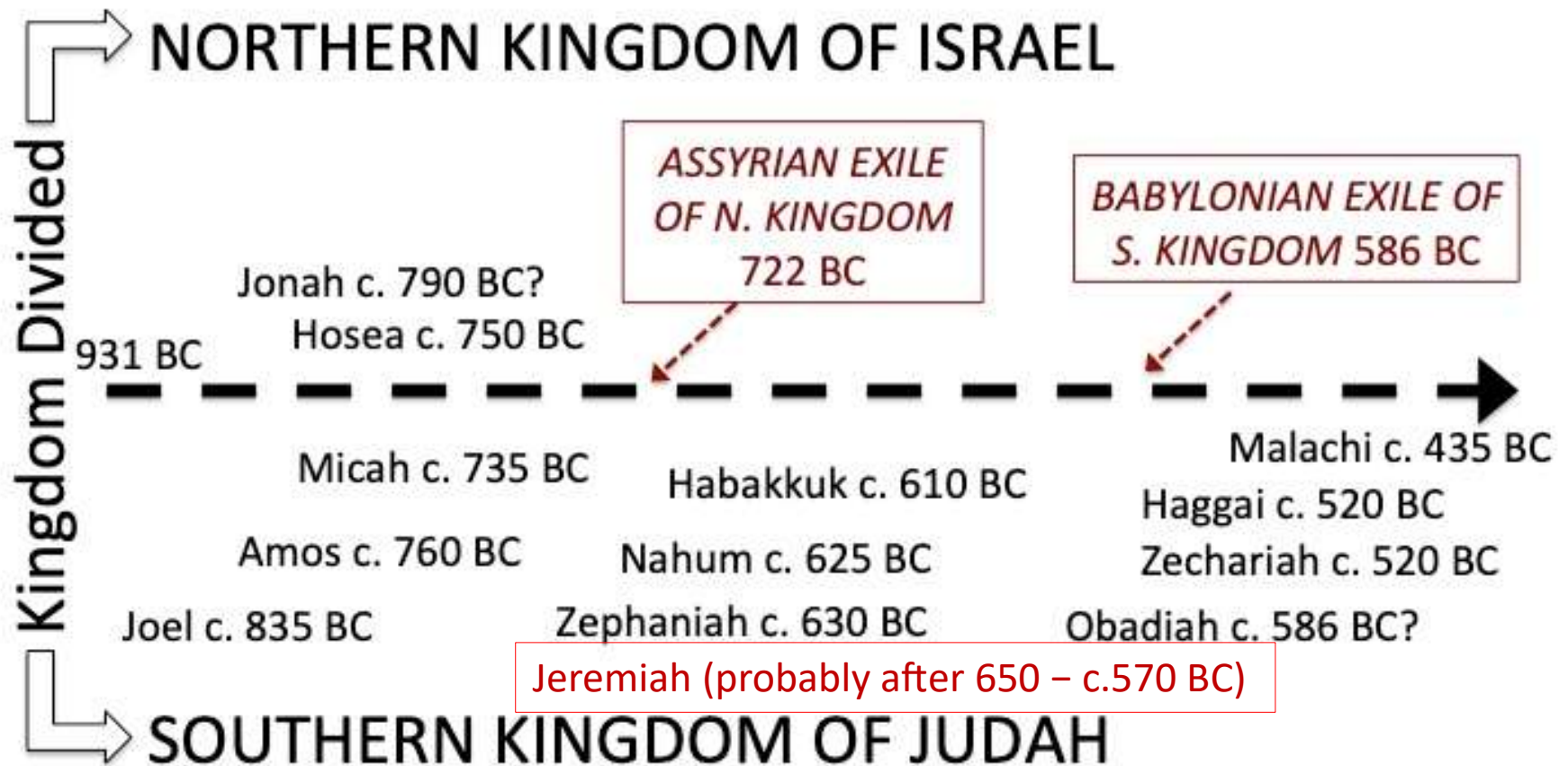


Malachi is a reformer who directs his message toward corrupt priests and those who withhold their offerings from the Lord. Malachi is the last book before the New Testament.

Timeline of Minor Prophets



Historical Timeline



Weathering the Storms of Life



1. Brave the Storms
2. Develop a resilient spirit
3. Rejoice in the Lord

1. Brave the Storms

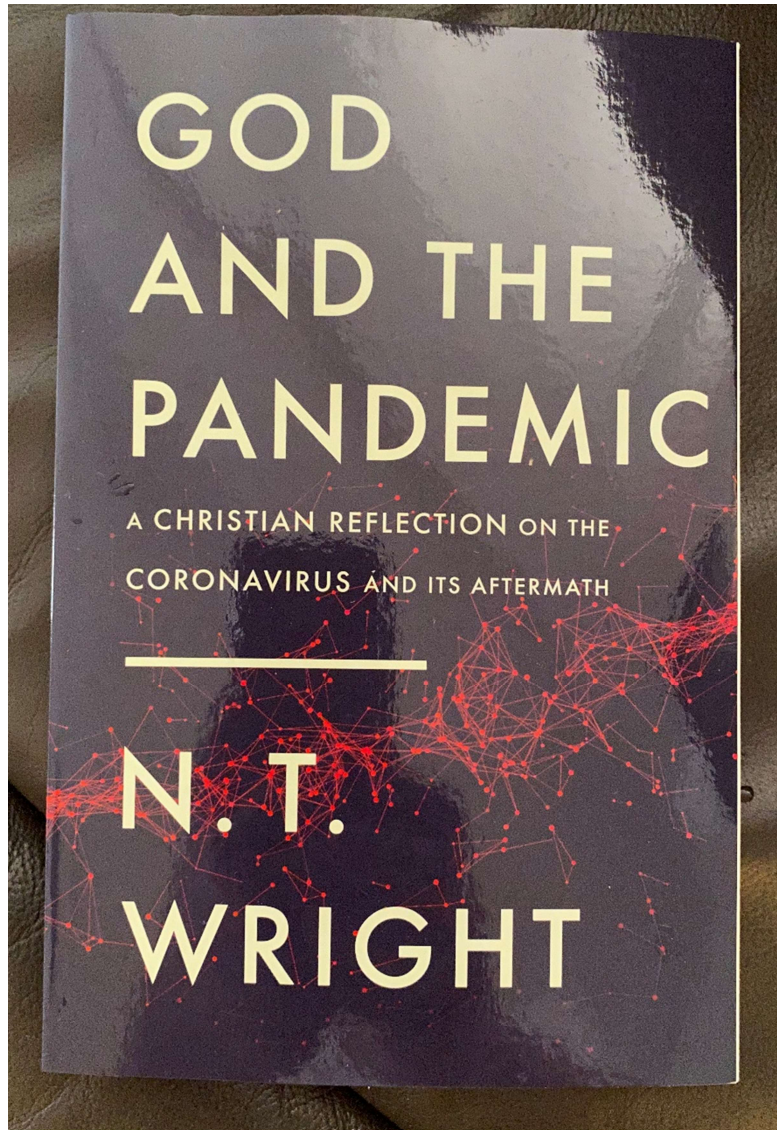
Zephaniah 1:2–3 (NIV)

2 “I will sweep away everything from the face of the earth,” declares the LORD.

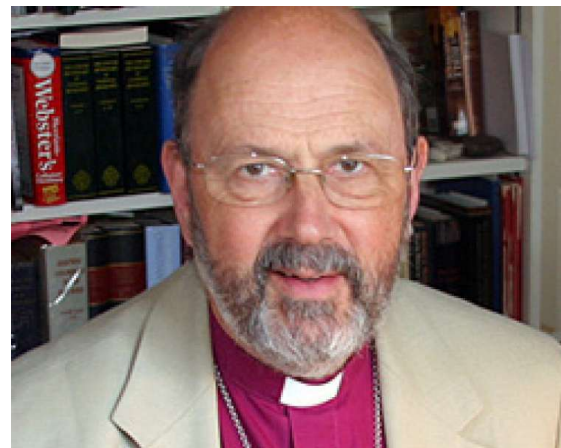
3 “I will sweep away both man and beast;

I will sweep away the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea— and the idols that cause the wicked to stumble.”

“When I destroy all mankind on the face of the earth,” declares the LORD,



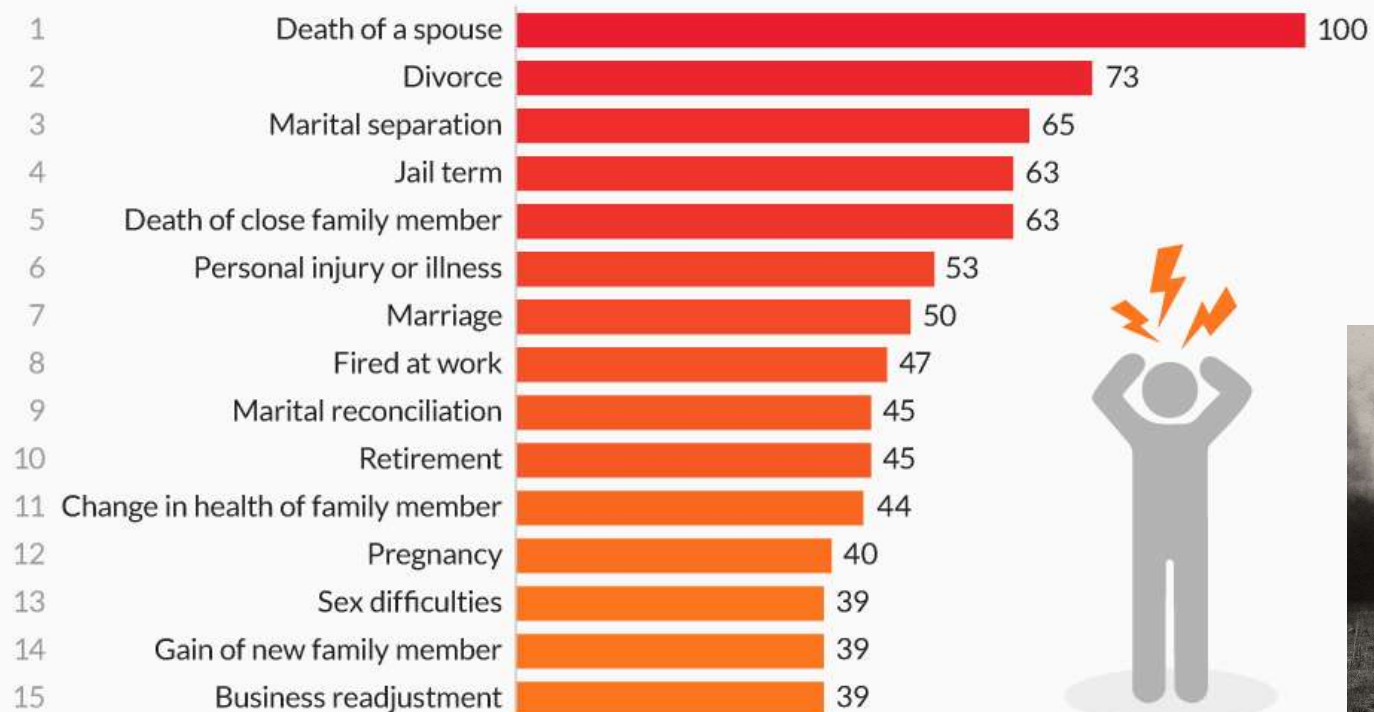
1. False gods
2. Racism, sexuality
3. Fallen leaders



1. Brave the Storms

Life's most stressful events in one chart

Impact score of stressful life events (100 = most stressful)





1. Brave the Storms

Don't get over it, get through it

“Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid.”

— Frederick Buechner, *Beyond Words: Daily Readings in the ABC's of Faith*

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2. Develop a resilient spirit

Zephaniah 3:8 (NIV)

8 Therefore **wait for me,**” declares the LORD, “for the day I will stand up to testify.

I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them— all my fierce anger. The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger.



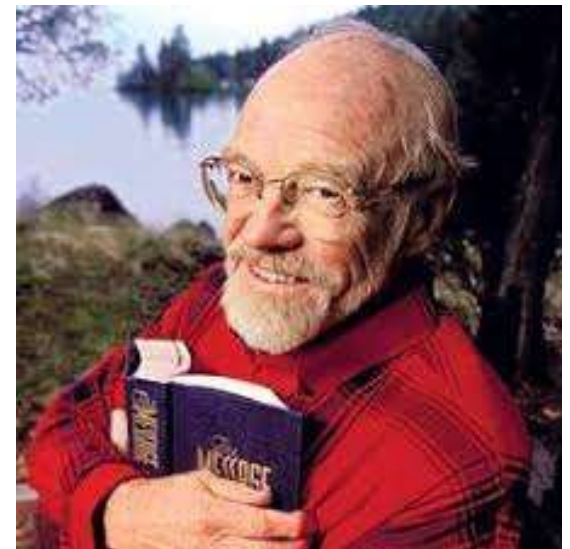
**The Prophet
Jeremiah
Mourning over
the Destruction
of Jerusalem**

by Rembrandt
(1603)

2. Develop a resilient spirit

“Jeremiah ends inconclusively. We want to know the end, but there is no end. The last scene of Jeremiah’s life shows him, as he had spent so much of his life, preaching God’s word to a contemptuous people (Jer 44). We want to know that he was finally successful so that, if we live well and courageously, we also will be successful.

— Eugene H. Peterson, *Run with the Horses: The Quest for Life at Its Best*

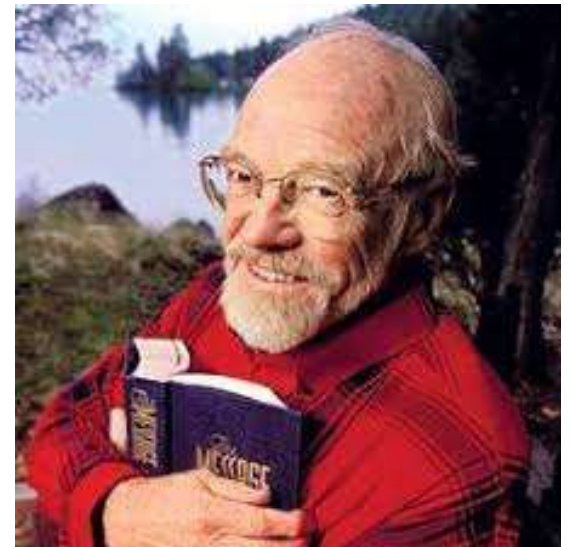


2. Develop a resilient spirit

Or we want to know that he was finally unsuccessful so that, since a life of faith and integrity doesn't pay off, we can get on with finding another means by which to live.

We get neither in Jeremiah. He doesn't get married and he doesn't get shot. In Egypt, the place he doesn't want to be, with people who treat him badly, **he continues determinedly faithful, magnificently courageous, heartlessly rejected—a towering life terrifically lived."**

— Eugene H. Peterson, *Run with the Horses: The Quest for Life at Its Best*





Psalms 137:1-4 KJV

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?

2. Develop a resilient spirit

Jeremiah 29:4–7 (NIV)

4 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”



2. Develop a resilient spirit

Don't get over it, get through it

3. Rejoice in the Lord

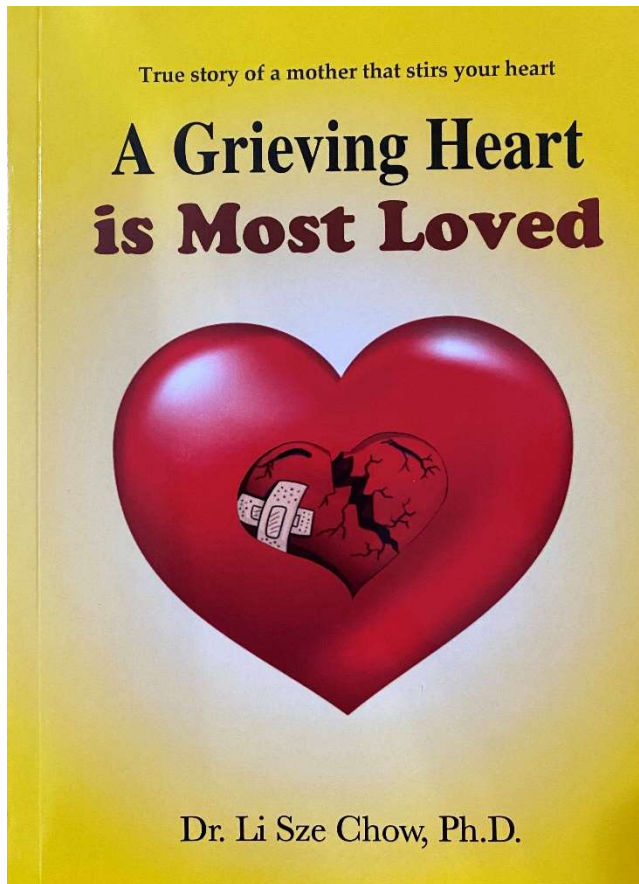
Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)

17 The LORD your God is **with you**,
the Mighty Warrior who **saves**.
He will take great **delight** in you;
in his love he will **no longer rebuke** you,
but will rejoice over you with **singing.**”

Habakkuk 3:17–18 (NIV)

17 Though the fig tree does
not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,
18 yet I will rejoice in the LORD,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.

3. Rejoice in the Lord



“A Grieving Heart is Most Loved” by Li Sze Chow is a powerful heart rendering testimony of a woman’s indomitable fighting spirit and her faith in God. Li Sze reveals her most vulnerable moments; sharing her grief and despair, and also her joy and love. She shared her life, children, families, and friends with us in a most intimate way. I was very moved by reading this book.”



Associate Professor Dr Alex Tang
Paediatrician and Practical Theologian
KPJ Johor Specialist Hospital, Monash University
Kairos Spiritual Formation Ministries

Don't get over it, get through it

Zephaniah 3:20 (NIV)

20 At that time I will gather you;
at that time I will bring you home.
I will give you honor and praise
among all the peoples of the earth
when I restore your fortunes
before your very eyes,”
says the LORD.



Living well through the next six months

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- > **SIX MONTHS IS THE NEW HORIZON**
Focus on Easter and lean back into the great themes of the church year.
- > **SIX DAYS TO WORK AND A SABBATH TO REST**
Reclaim the gift of one day each week for rest and re-creation.
- > **SIX PEOPLE TO JOURNEY WITH**
Rediscover church as small groups of people supporting one another.
- > **SIX WAYS TO BE SALT AND LIGHT**
Identify the people and community organisations you can support.
- > **SIX PERCENT TO YOUR CHURCH**
If your income is stable, increase your giving to sustain the local church.
- > **SIX PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR**
Pray for people you know to discover the riches of our faith.

"...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8.37-39



oxford.anglican.org/six

The Rule of Six

Weathering the Storms of Life

Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)
The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

