

Three Considerations from the Past to the Present

Isa 32:5-8 The foolish person will no longer be called noble, nor the vile man said to be respected; for the foolish person will speak foolishness, and his heart will work iniquity: to practice ungodliness, to utter error against the Lord, to keep the hungry unsatisfied, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail. Also the schemes of the schemer are evil; he devises wicked plans to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaks justice. But the noble man devises noble things, and by nobility he shall stand.

Calvin in his commentary thought this clearly spoke of Christ. And regarding verse 8 I took am convinced that this spoke of our Lord. But as we consider this passage this morning I want to view it under three conditions, three considerations two that existed in the past and one that exists to this day. For the same condition that existed in Israel in Isaiah's day existed in Israel in the Messiah's day and the same condition exists in the church, the Israel of today and will continue until Christ comes in glory. We will speak of foolish men, foolish teaching and a foolish hope and finally a glorious and most comforting hope.

A. Who are the foolish men

1. They are the ungodly who are not be consider to be noble or respected - *The foolish person will no longer be called noble, nor the vile man said to be respected*
 - a. False teachers are always well respected

Luke 6:26 Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

John 15:19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

- b. God has named them well

The fool has said in his heart there is no God. Ps. 14:1

- c. Foolish and vile men will be known for what they are

B. They will be known to be fools for they will speak foolishness and thus only have a foolish hope - *for the foolish person will speak foolishness*

1. In Isaiah's day
 - a. They proclaimed peace and safety

Jer 6:14 They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace!' when there is no peace.

- b. But they were carried away into captivity

2. In Christ's day
 - a. They rejected the Messiah as their King
 - b. They chose Caesar and looked to Rome for their safety

John 19:15 But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

- c. Foolishly thinking to themselves that this would make them politically secure, ironically Rome destroyed them

3. In this present day -
 - a. False minister reject the teaching of a coming judgment and eternal hell even when clearly proclaimed in Scripture
 - b. In a land where God's word has been clearly taught men live as if there will be no judgment
 - c. It is the same cry of peace and safety
4. They will work iniquity by uttering error against the Lord
 - a. In Isaiah's day they rejected the warnings of Isaiah and Jeremiah
 - b. In Christ's day they rejected Christ's claim to be the Messiah and instead accused Him of blasphemy
 - c. In our day the church rejects the authority of Scripture
5. The result they keep the hungry and thirsty unsatisfied
 - a. In Isaiah's day the lies of the false prophets did not meet the needs of the people
 - b. In Christ's day the lies of the Scribes and Pharisees kept the people in poverty by keeping the people from faith in Christ who alone could satisfy both their hunger and thirst
 - c. In our day much of the preaching is more about social needs than eternal needs when the real need is eternal, once again leaving the people hungry and thirsty.
6. Next we see that they schemed and devised wicked plans to destroy the poor with lying words
 - a. In Isaiah's day they spoke against Isaiah and Jeremiah, even imprisoning Jeremiah

Matt 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!"

- b. In our Lord's day they devised wicked plans against the Lord and His anointed

Ps 2:2-3 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."

Matt 26:3-4 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.

- c. In our day the ungodly continue to devise wicked plans by teaching false doctrine in the church

2 Peter 2:1-2 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

- d. How careful the church today needs to be on guard and carefully preach the Word

CONCLUSION: We have a glorious and true hope for Isaiah writes - *But the noble man devises noble things, and by nobility he shall stand.*

One is coming who is called a noble person, a princely person whom we know as the King of kings

The Messiah would come exposing the false and providing salvation for His people

For indeed a generous, a noble, a Kingly Man devised a most generous thing

Today because of Him, the free offer of the gospel has gone forth over the last 2000 years

And by that liberality, that kindness, that love He shall stand on that last great day and say to His elect, yours sins have been forgiven, enter into the kingdom prepared for you by My Father before the foundation of the world.

And that is the message you saints of God shall hear, for by grace you have been saved through faith alone, not of works lest any man should boast.