

The Offer of Great Hope and Comfort

Isa 32:9-20 Rise up, you women who are at ease, hear my voice; you complacent daughters, give ear to my speech. In a year and some days you will be troubled, you complacent women; for the vintage will fail, the gathering will not come. Tremble, you women who are at ease; be troubled, you complacent ones; strip yourselves, make yourselves bare, and gird sackcloth on your waists. People shall mourn upon their breasts for the pleasant fields, for the fruitful vine. On the land of my people will come up thorns and briers, yes, on all the happy homes in the joyous city; Because the palaces will be forsaken, the bustling city will be deserted. the forts and towers will become lairs forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks — Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places, though hail comes down on the forest, and the city is brought low in humiliation. Blessed are you who sow beside all waters, who send out freely the feet of the ox and the donkey.

As bad as this prophesy, this warning of a temporal but serious judgment of destruction and great loss that would soon fall upon the people of Judah is, it pales in insignificance concerning an even greater judgment of catastrophic proportion that stands reading to fall upon all of humankind. This coming destruction will be final and of eternal consequence. Everything that an ungodly world has put their trust in will be gone. The Book of Revelation tells us that on that great day the first heaven and the first earth will have passed away. John writes, *“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.”* (Rev 20:11-12) Peter tells us that *“the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”* 2 Peter 3:10-11 Furthermore we need to understand that even at the moment of one’s death, God’s question to the unbeliever continues to be, “whose then will these things be?” And it would be good news if we could tell them that that’s all there is to it, that it will be just a loss of things material. But the truth is, an even greater threat awaits them for again we read in Scripture, it is appointed unto man once to die and **after this the judgment**. It will be a great day of judgment when God’s wrath will fall upon all who have rejected God’s great and gracious offer of salvation. The passage we just read regarding Isaiah’s day says that they will smite upon their breast as they observe the great destruction that has come upon them. But regarding this coming judgment that will fall upon all men outside of Christ we read that on that day they will do more than just smite their breast. For we read that they will cry out to the mountains and rocks to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

Now we can understand why this passage offers, what we have entitled the only offer of great hope and comfort to all who put their trust in this one who is promised in our text this morning. This passage is about God and His perfect plan to provide a means of escape for His elect from the judgment that is coming upon the world.

- A. The hope promised here speaks of a future time - Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest.
 1. But first once again we need to be reminded of the picture given us in chapter 6 of Isaiah’s prophecy where it speaks of a stump of a tree cut down, and from it a remnant and a “holy seed” comes forth.
 - a. The stump and the remnant does speak of the captivity
 - b. The tree had indeed been cut down
 - c. The secular kingdom will be forever removed
 - d. The promised seed of Jesse will come forth from that remnant stump
 2. That “holy seed” is none other than the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ who was described for us in the first 2 verses of the passage before us this morning.

Isa 32:1-2 Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice. A man will be as a hiding place from the wind, and a cover from the tempest, as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

3. The promise here is that there will be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit
 - a. This took place on the day of Pentecost and shortly thereafter
 - b. Since that outpouring the wilderness has become a fruitful field
 - c. The gospel has gone forth throughout the whole world
4. Justice now dwells in the wilderness and righteousness remains in the fruitful field
 - a. Once again it is the Seed that has provided this righteousness
 - b. It is the imputed righteousness of Christ that has been provided for His people, Jew and Gentile alike

Rom 4:24-25 It **shall be imputed to us who believe** in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, **who was delivered up because of our offenses**, and was raised because of our justification.

- c. God's justice was met in Christ, the just penalty of our sin was paid by Christ
- d. I say it is about God because God ". . . made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.** 2 Cor 5:19
- e. It is not about us being righteous, it is about us being made righteous in Christ Jesus our Lord

B. The fulfillment of the promise - "The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever."

1. The work or product produced by this righteous will be peace
 - a. A greater peace than a mere earthly or worldly peace
 - b. Peace whereby the sinner who was at war with God can now be at peace with God (Col. 1:20-22)

Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

2. Quietness - He leads us beside the still waters
 - a. The ungodly are like a raging sea
 - b. The redeemed are made to lie down in green pastures
 - c. The scene of the disciples upon the sea of Galilee - Jesus spoke peace be still
 - d. Contrast that with the state of the ungodly

"clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever." Jude 12-13

Isa 57:20-21 But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

3. Assurance - we can say with Paul *"being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."* (Phil. 1:6)

I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. 2 Tim 1:12

CONCLUSION: My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places, though hail comes down on the forest, and the city is brought low in humiliation.

Although as Jesus said in this world we will have tribulation we can be of good cheer for He has overcome the world. John 16:33

This is the hope and comfort of God's redeemed people

Rev 21:3-5 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."