

## The King in His Beauty

Isaiah 33:17-24 Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; they will see the land that is of remotest extent. Our heart will meditate on terror: "Where is the scribe? Where is he who weighs? Where is he who counts the towers?" You will not see a fierce people, a people of obscure speech, beyond perception, of a stammering tongue that you cannot understand. Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home, a tabernacle that will not be taken down; not one of its stakes will ever be removed, nor will any of its cords be broken. But there the majestic Lord will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, in which no galley with oars will sail, nor majestic ships pass by (For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us); Your tackle is loosed, they could not strengthen their mast, they could not spread the sail. Then the prey of great plunder is divided; the lame take the prey. And the inhabitant will not say, "I am sick"; the people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity.

The kings who had reigned upon the throne of David had become a lineage of ungodly men. There was no beauty in the kingdom as it was described for us in the first chapter where it is presented to us as a kingdom that was anything but glorious. Let us once again read the description given that is given, "*Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord (Isa 1:4) Isaiah went on to give a most graphic detailed picture of the kingdom of Judah describing the vileness of the land in verses 5 and 6, "The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; they have not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment."* The state of David's throne and kingdom was certainly not a pretty picture. Once again, Isaiah gives to the elect of God a prophetic hope and comfort. The Promise, God's elect will see the King in His beauty. The Security, the Kingdom will be established and all her enemies will be defeated. The Joy, Zion, as a place of worship will be eternally established. The means of our comfort, the Lord our Judge, our Lawgiver, and our King will save us. And finally, the Hope, never again will the kingdom know sickness.

A. The Promise, God's elect will see the King in His beauty - *Your eyes will see the King in His beauty*

1. It was the comfort of the saints of old

*Job 19:25-27 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.*

2. It was the prayer of our Lord for us in His High Priestly prayer

*John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me **may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory** which You have given Me;*

3. This will be the full and complete satisfaction of God's people

*1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for **we shall see Him as He is.***

B. The Security, the Kingdom will be established and all her enemies will be defeated

1. The elect will see the land that is of remotest extent

- a. In this age, it will in time cover the earth
- b. In the age to come it will encompass eternity - *and so shall we ever be with the Lord*
- c. The meaning here is that of this kingdom there will be no end

*Luke 1:32-33 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, **and of His kingdom there will be no end.***

2. The question will be, "Where is the scribe, the one who weighs, the one who counts the towers."

- a. The conqueror would come in count the people, determine the tribute, count the towers the armaments
- b. Never again for the enemy will be defeated eternally
- c. The sting of death is defeated, the victory of the grave is forever past

*1 Cor 15:56-57 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- C. The Joy, Zion, as a place of worship will be eternally established. - *Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home, a tabernacle that will not be taken down; not one of its stakes will ever be removed, nor will any of its cords be broken*
1. This shall be the glorious fulfillment of the vision of John on Patmos - *Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 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. Rev 21:2-3*
    - a. Heaven will be a place of worship, the tabernacle of God will be with men
    - b. God Himself will dwell in our midst

Ps 17:15 As for me, **I will see Your face** in righteousness; **I shall be satisfied** when I awake in Your likeness

2. This is the fulfillment of the promise of our Lord to His disciples and therefore to us also  
*John 14:2-3 I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; **that where I am, there you may be also.***
  - a. Paul considered the suffering of this present time not worthy to be compared to the glory that we shall know in eternity (Rom 8:18-19)
  - b. Moses willing refused the glory and wealth of Pharaoh's palaces esteeming the reproach of Christ to be greater riches, for he looked to the reward.
3. The joy will be eternal - *a tabernacle that will not be taken down; not one of its stakes will ever be removed, nor will any of its cords be broken*
  - a. So shall we ever be with the Lord
  - b. It will be the fulfillment of the greatest hope and joy anyone could hope for

Ps 46:4-5 *There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved*

4. The assurance is sure

2 Cor 5:1-2 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens

D. The means, the Lord our Judge, our Lawgiver, and our King will save us

1. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners
2. The Judge, the Lawgiver became man and took upon Himself our sins and suffered the wrath of God in our place.
3. Our King, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, humbled Himself and has redeemed us from the curse of the law
4. The Lord, our King has saved us from the wrath of God

*Phil 2:5-9 Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

CONCLUSION: And the inhabitant will not say, "I am sick"; the people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity

We who are well described by Isaiah - *"Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; they have not been closed or bound up, or soothed with ointment."* (Isa 1:4-6)

We who are well described here have been healed of a disease worse than leprosy

The horrible sickness of sin has been healed,

Never again will we say, "I am sick"

Because God has forgiven our iniquity, removed our filthy rags and clothed us in His righteousness

Blessed be the name of the Lord