

A Cause for Praise

O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. 2 For You have made a city a ruin, a fortified city a ruin, a palace of foreigners to be a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. 3 Therefore the strong people will glorify You; the city of the terrible nations will fear You. 4 For You have been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; for the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall. 5 You will reduce the noise of aliens, as heat in a dry place; as heat in the shadow of a cloud, the song of the terrible ones will be diminished. 6 And in this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees. 7 And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. 9 And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. this is the Lord; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." 10 For on this mountain the hand of the Lord will rest, and Moab shall be trampled down under Him, as straw is trampled down for the refuse heap. 11 And He will spread out His hands in their midst as a swimmer reaches out to swim, and He will bring down their pride together with the trickery of their hands. 12 The fortress of the high fort of your walls He will bring down, lay low, and bring to the ground, down to the dust.

In the previous chapters Isaiah has prophesied of the coming judgments of God that will be poured out upon, not only a single nation, but as it were against all the nations that forget God. As we read in Psalm 9:17 *"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."* I think that we can understand that being made aware of the coming calamities upon the nations and also the fact that the temple and Jerusalem will be destroyed and Israel will be carried away into captivity gave Isaiah a certain uneasiness. I say that for even though we know that God wills and does judge righteously yet do we not as God's people desire that all mankind should be saved? For although the ungodly are not moved by the threatening judgments of God, the godly tremble at the slightest token of His anger. I know that I feel a certain uneasiness for this nation as it has come to ignore God and His laws, accepting abortion and homosexual marriage as a right and has turned to a pluralistic view of religion often even in the church itself. And if we find ourselves grieved at what is taking place around us, what do we suppose was being experienced by the Prophet, who before his eyes he was beginning to see those calamities which he was forth telling taking place?

Thus as God was revealing to him picturesque views of the dreadful disasters that would soon fall upon mankind, no doubt being overpowered by grief and anxiety he turns to the Lord and cries out, *"Lord You are my God."* For throughout all his writings; there is that comfort to God's elect, that not only among the Jews but there is being promised a hope to people of all the nations of the world. For he clearly reveals how, in time, all this will be to the advantage of the remnant, the elect, the Church of the living God. Calvin writes, "Isaiah therefore remains firm and steadfast in his calling, and does not allow himself to be drawn aside from his purpose, but continually relies on the expectation of mercy, and therefore perseveres in celebrating the praises of God." Thus we shall see in this chapter a cause for praise, continued threatenings, and comfort to the people of God. We shall see that the whole history of mankind is really "His story" the story of how God has purposed from all eternity the coming of a Redeemer, the means of providing that Redeemer and the means of subduing for Himself a people out of all nations who were formerly incorrigible, who exhibited no fear of God nor desire to seek Him, yet, from that mindset He will bring them to repentance and faith in the very God they once despised.

A. A cause for praise - *You are my God.*

1. Being perplexed and concerned as noted above Isaiah's thoughts turn to God and cries out, "O Lord You are my God I will exalt You.
2. We can learn a most useful teaching here
 - a. When our minds are perplexed
 - b. When we are troubled with distress or afflictions, we need to;
 - (1) immediately to resort to God,
 - (2) and rely on his providence;

3. Why? Even the smallest trials can overwhelm us if we do not look to God and trust in Him in every situation that may affect us
4. Let us ever hear the call of our Savior

Matt 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

1 Peter 5:5 Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

5. Although in concern and conflict Isaiah gives to God the praise which is due to him;
 - a. This is only possible when we have a firm reliance on His unmerited favor
 - b. When we know Him to be "Our God" - (cf. Rom. 8:28)
6. We may not always understand the ways of God
 - a. Like Peter we may even feel compelled to rebuke the Lord (cf. Matt. 16:23,24)
 - b. But we must learn to let God be God even when we do not fully understand His purpose
 - c. This is only possible
when we have a firm reliance
on His unmerited favor
 - d. When we know Him to be "Our God" we can say with full confidence

7. When we are fully convince of the sovereignty of our God we can say with confidence

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

8. Because of the certainty of His salvation we can be fully convinced that the Lord is our God.

John 6:37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

9. Our assurance is solidly founded upon a covenant promise

Heb 8:10-11 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

John 10:28-29 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

CONCLUSION: Therefore as God's people we can have a certainty of our salvation, and be fully convinced that the Lord is our God

That certainty will result in continual praise and thanksgiving to God

In contrast those who have not tasted the goodness of God have no desire to praise God

But Those who have tasted the goodness of God cannot help but to praise God

Praise to our God then should be our greatest joy

Ps 33:1 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For praise from the upright is beautiful.

Ps 147:1 Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.

Let us then take great delight in praising his name.