

The Comfort Found in the Doctrine of Election

Isa 44:1-5 "Yet hear me now, O Jacob My servant, and Israel whom I have chosen. Thus says the Lord who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; and you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring; They will spring up among the grass like willows by the watercourses.' One will say, 'I am the Lord's; another will call himself by the name of Jacob; another will write with his hand, 'The Lord's,' and name himself by the name of Israel.

This passage is a continuation of the comfort and encouragement of God's people in the face of a coming trial when God's elect remnant will be taken away captive into a foreign land. The great comfort we as God's people find in the sovereignty of God in our election, and in His perfect providence. As you know we have been looking at Christ and His kingdom in Isaiah, and in a sense this is stepping away from that subject matter, but in another sense it is looking at God's personal and caring involvement in the fulfilling of that great promise. First when we read the words, "yet now hear" God wants us to understand the purpose of trials in our life, that is, the Kingdom of God will come in the midst of conflict. It will include the suffering Savior and the persecuted church. Secondly God want us to know that the doctrine of election is not some cold dead propositional statement, oh, don't misunderstand it is a propositional statement, but it is a statement of His love and care for His people, Thirdly we shall consider the significance of this message from God to us.

A. Yet now hear -

1. What has been one of the themes of Isaiah?
 - a. You are going to be going through a great trial
 - b. I have purposed this trial for my glory and your good
2. What do we know about trials in our life?
 - a. They can be for teaching

*James 1:2-4 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith **produces patience**. But let patience have its perfect work, **that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.***

Ps 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken.

- b. They can be for chastening

1 Cor 11:31-32 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

- c. Both was true in the trial that took place in Isaiah's day
 - (1) The captivity was chastening because of the idolatrous rebellion in Israel
 - (2) The captivity showed forth the glory of God and the strengthening of God's elect
 - d. Another thing we know about trials is that they are never outside of God's purpose (Rom. 8:28)
 - (1) Every things that comes to pass is for our good
 - (2) The trial about to overtake the descendants of Abraham were purposed to bring about the end of David's secular throne and provide in time a means of the perfect fulfilling of David's eternal throne
 - (3) But through it all God brought His faithful remnant back and through that remnant the Seed of Abraham was born who has become the most glorious blessing the world could know deliverance from sin and death and life everlasting
 - (4) This was not fully understood until the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost
 - e. We do not have to know what God is doing we just have to know that He is God and nothing can deter His purpose and plan which has been and always will be for the good of His elect

B. You are the chosen creation of God - Thus says the Lord who made you and formed you from the womb, who will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; and you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen.

1. Herein is one of the greatest doctrines of Holy Scripture
 - a. It is God who has purposed a most perfect means of salvation
 - b. It is God who has saved us by that means of salvation
 - c. Fear not, it is God who has chosen us, and no one can pluck us out of His hand
 - (1) Without God's merciful choosing of us not one of us would be saved this morning
 - (2) God look down from heaven – not one person upon the face of the whole earth was seeking God

- d. God's salvation alone provides for us a perfect righteousness

Ps 71:16 I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.

- e. When we read God saying "whom I have chosen" we are made to understand that we do not serve God, because we decided to, or because we are entitled to it, or deserve it, but because he renders us fit by a free election

- 2. We have been formed from the womb, before our very birth

Ps 22:10 I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb You have been My God.

- a. In our most helpless state we are under God's protection
- b. God in His providence molds us bring us to faith making us aware that in us dwells no good thing
- c. Thru this molding process God gave to us the ability to believe, to trust and to serve
- d. Kept by the power of God

*1 Peter 1:4-5 An inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are **kept by the power of God through faith** for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

- 3. It is not the fact that they were Jacob and Jeshurun, that is, the seed of Abraham that made them special
 - a. It was the fact that God chose them to be His special people
 - b. It was the fact that God made and formed them to be His chosen people

(1) Calvin writes:

"You, Jacob, are indeed nothing in yourself, but God Your Maker will not despise his work; no nobleness of birth would secure you against perdition, but the adoption which the Heavenly Father has been pleased to bestow upon you will be abundantly sufficient for redeeming you."

(2) John the Baptist said it thus:

Matt 3:9 And do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

(3) And to us who are Gentile believers that have been grafted into the Olive Tree Paul warns:

Rom 11:19-21 You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.

- c. God's purpose of election under the Old Covenant is summed up for us by Moses in Deut 7:6-8

"For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your father

- d. God's purpose Concerning the elect under the New Covenant

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Conclusion: The significance of all this can be found in these words, "Fear Not".

I will pour water on the thirsty

We live in a God hating environment dwell which God calls a dry and thirsty land but God will grant us times of refreshment

I will pour out My Holy Spirit on your descendants

These times of refreshment will be the presence and power of the Holy Spirit encouraging and strengthening the church throughout its history until Jesus comes in glory and power

My blessing on your offspring

The remnant will always know God's blessing even in times of great conflict

God will always and continually provide for His church in whatever state they find themselves

Jesus spoke it in these words: - *"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.* (Luke 12:32)