

The Good Providence of the Most Upright

Isa 26:7-8 The way of the just is uprightness; O Most Upright, You weigh the path of the just. Yes, in the way of Your judgments, O Lord, we have waited for You; the desire of our soul is for Your name and for the remembrance of You.

Verse seven can be literally translated, 'The path belonging to the righteous is altogether right.' We must understand that this is the response of faith, not a description of the path or life experience God may see fit to bring our way. One commentary on this passage spoke of it thus, the believer, like the pilgrim of Psalm 84 who treats the valley of Baca, the valley tears, **as if** it were full of springs. We read in Psalm 84:5-7, "*Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a spring; the rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion.*"

Isaiah here, being that prophet that has been called upon by God to bring the announcement of a coming chastening upon the people of Israel and, at the same time he has been given a pronouncement of hope and comfort. And I want you to hear that hope and comfort this morning for the message of Isaiah is not only for the elect of Isaiah's day, or Daniel's day during the time of their captivity in Babylon but is for the elect of all ages, for you gathered here this morning. And my prayer is that you may be comforted and strengthened in this day by the words of the prophet.

A. God will make straight the path of His elect for He is Most Upright

1. Isaiah continues to follow the theme that God will guide and direct the pathway of His people
2. We learn here that God will make the path of His elect the straight
 - a. This does not mean that it may not be troubled from time to time
 - b. Jesus made it quite clear that we would know tribulation and trial
 - c. God may not always lead you on an easy path, but this one thing we do know it will be "a right path" it will be the path that is best for us

B. The history recorded for us in Scripture give evidence to this truth

1. For Israel from Egypt to the Land of Canaan it was a path of chastening and preparation
 - a. As exemplified by Israel in the wilderness journey to the promised land

Ps 107:4-9 They wandered in the wilderness in a desolate way; they found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses. And He led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city for a dwelling place. Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.

- b. We know that God was always present - pillar of fire by night, the cloud by day
 - c. We read of His most holy and glorious presence in the tabernacle
 - d. We see His providence in providing their needs, manna, quail, water
 - e. We are made aware of His presence on Mt Sinai showing His power and His authority
2. For Job it was a time of trial that may humbled him and brought him closer to God in his faith
 - a. It brings about a submissive trusting that God's way is best as we hear from the lips of Job upon hearing the news of all his great losses

Job 1:20-22 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

- b. Hear Job's response "Though He slay me yet I will trust in Him;" (Job 13:15)
- c. Notice carefully the work that was done in Job's heart increasing both humility and faith

Job 42:5-6 "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

- 3. Or as we see in particular of Isaiah's message to the church of his day.
 - a. Although it was a time of chastening and trial God was present with His people in Babylon
 - b. It no doubt seemed to be a time when it appeared the kingdom of David had come to an end with no hope in sight
 - c. There was that promise of the remnants return - *Isa 10:21 The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the Mighty God.*
 - d. It must be noted it was not God's purpose to destroy but to restore
- 4. As David rejoiced in the chastening of the Lord

Ps 119:71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.

- 5. Let us heed Peter's instruction to the elect in that apostolic age
 - a. A trial in our life is never to be consider strange or out of the ordinary

1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

- b. Rather one may be assure it will be to the praise and honor and glory of God

*1 Peter 1:6-7 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may **be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.***

CONCLUSION: Let us always keep two things in mind, first - God's glory and secondly eternity in mind

Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

I share this quote from Motyer's commentary on this verse referring to Israel's wilderness journey

So, life is in the hands of the Lord; the path runs in a direct line from conversion to glory and places rough in prospect are smooth in retrospect.

Ps 107:7 And He led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city for a dwelling place.

How important it is to learn that God's way is always the right way

Let us this morning acknowledge how much we need heavenly direction, and to confess with Jeremiah

O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. O Lord, correct me, but with justice; not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing. (Jer 10:23-24)

Let us ever exhibit the confidence of David, "*He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*" (Ps 23:3-4)

Let us be comforted in these truths

The rod of God's correction is always good

The staff of His comfort is ever present

He leads us in paths of righteousness

The Lord is our Shepherd what more could we want

'The path God provide to the His people is altogether right.'