

God's Promises Are Yea and Amen

Isa 27:7-13 *Has He struck Israel as He struck those who struck him? Or has He been slain according to the slaughter of those who were slain by Him? In measure, by sending it away, You contended with it. He removes it by His rough wind in the day of the east wind. Therefore by this the iniquity of Jacob will be covered; and this is all the fruit of taking away his sin: when he makes all the stones of the altar like chalkstones that are beaten to dust, wooden images and incense altars shall not stand. Yet the fortified city will be desolate, the habitation forsaken and left like a wilderness; there the calf will feed, and there it will lie down and consume its branches. When its boughs are withered, they will be broken off; the women come and set them on fire. For it is a people of no understanding; therefore He who made them will not have mercy on them, and He who formed them will show them no favor. And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will thresh, from the channel of the River to the Brook of Egypt; and you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel. So it shall be in that day: the great trumpet will be blown; they will come, who are about to perish in the land of Assyria, and they who are outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.*

This chapter began with the victorious King and His victory over the great dragon who has deceived the world. And then we saw how this victorious King by His love and special care for His vineyard, will gather His elect from all the nations of the world. His chosen from all eternity and this will result in a glorious kingdom over all the earth which today is His church throughout the nations. Without question we have seen that, time and time again, Isaiah has revealed the coming King and His kingdom that would be made up of all the peoples of the earth. At the same time we need always to be aware that Isaiah is also speaking to the elect of his day. Here in we shall learn of God purpose and design concerning His ancient people of the Old Testament. How he dealt with a people that were not always obedient nor humble in His presence yet because of His covenant with Abraham we shall see how God worked His purpose in their midst. We shall consider then in the closing verses of this chapter, 1) God's firmness with Israel, 2) God's gentleness with Israel, and 3) God's purpose in Israel or God's reason for restoring the people to the land

A. God's firmness with Israel - *Yet the fortified city will be desolate, the habitation forsaken and left like a wilderness*

1. God had formed His people into a theocracy
2. But Jerusalem will be brought to destruction
 - a. Because the people of Isaiah's day were given over to idolatry

Jer 2:4-5 Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: "What injustice have your fathers found in Me, that they have gone far from Me, have followed idols, and have become idolaters?"

Jer 8:19 Listen! "Is not the Lord in Zion? Is not her King in her?" "Why have they provoked Me to anger with their carved images —

- b. God did not forsake Zion, Zion forsook the Lord
2. Because of this the Kingdom of Israel will come to an end - *For it is a people of no understanding; therefore He who made them will not have mercy on them, and He who formed them will show them no favor.*
 - a. There will never again be a throne in the land of Israel
 - b. Even the disciples in Christ day expected that Jesus would restore the Kingdom to Israel
 - c. But throughout Isaiah there is no promise of an earthly, temporal restoration of the kingdom

B. God's gentleness with Israel - *Has He struck Israel as He struck those who struck him? Or has He been slain according to the slaughter of those who were slain by Him? In measure, by sending it away, You contended with it.*

1. Any consideration of the ancient people of Israel will reveal that God could have cast them off at any time, and brought a fierce and final judgment upon them.
 - a. In chapter one Isaiah described them as a sinful nation, a people **laden with iniquity** - v. 4
 - b. He went on to say from the sole of the foot even to the head, there is **no soundness** in them - v. 6
 - c. And thus the question, has God struck Israel or has He slain Israel as He has brought judgment upon the ungodly nations

2. Soon they will be carried away into captivity - *He removes it by His rough wind in the day of the east wind.*
 - a. Yet it will only be in measure, that is, not a full and final destruction - *In measure, by sending it away, You contended with it.*
 - b. God will chasten His people but will never destroy His people

1 Cor 10:13 No trial has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tried beyond what you are able, but with the trial will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

c. They will be removed as it were by the east wind and carried off into Babylon

3. But God will deal with them only in measure

- a. They will be sent into exile
- b. But they will not perish

C. God's purpose in Israel or God's reason for restoring the people to the land - *Therefore by this the iniquity of Jacob will be covered; and this is all the fruit of taking away his sin*

1. God uses chastisement as a means of bringing His own people to their senses.
2. That is, they will be brought to repentance
3. (See Daniel's prayer in Daniel chap. 9)
4. In the land of Babylon they set aside their idolatry as exemplified by Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
5. Thus God will restore them to the land - *And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will thresh, from the channel of the River to the Brook of Egypt; and you will be gathered one by one, O you children of Israel.*

CONCLUSION: What is the reason or purpose of God in not destroying Israel but restoring them to the land

It is true the theocracy will be fully destroyed, that is, the kingdom will not be rebuilt

Nevertheless, the people themselves will not utterly perish from off the earth, for God is yet mindful of His promises of salvation.

The return to the land was simply God means of fulfilling His promise to Abraham

Gen 22:18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed

The return to the land was simply God means of fulfilling His promise to David

2 Sam 7:16-17 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever. According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

In this we can have full confidence

2 Cor 1:20 For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God

Isa 14:24 The Lord of hosts has sworn, saying, "Surely, as I have thought, so it shall come to pass, and as I have purposed, so it shall stand:

Always be mindful dear saint of God,
the Old Testament is the history of God's promised redemptive plan

It is His story of the salvation of His people

It is His story of our salvation