

## The Promise of Our Deliverer

Isa 49:8-10 I will preserve You and give You as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages; that You may say to the prisoners, 'Go forth,' to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' 'They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures shall be on all desolate heights. They shall neither hunger nor thirst.

Last Lord's day, we noted that our Lord was to be made a "covenant" to the people and it is that Covenant head that would stand as our advocate before God. We further noted that this was not for the Lord's advantage but in behalf of God's elect and in a very personal sense in our behalf. Our Lord has been appointed to be the mediator of a better covenant. The covenant God made with Abraham was a covenant based upon their obedience, but the Jews by their sins had revolted from God and thus the covenant had been broken and thereby annulled by God, as we read in Hebrews 7:18-19, "*For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, **for the law made nothing perfect**; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.* Then as we read further on in Hebrews 8:6, "*But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.*" The writer of Hebrews then goes on to explain had the first covenant been faultless there would have been no need for the second. For under the law the breaking of the covenant makes null and void the promise given to Abraham, but under this new covenant we learn that although we have and do break God's law God now says, "*For **I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.***" In that He says, "*A new covenant,*" He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away. Heb. 8:12-13 Even David after having sinned so grievously did not offer a sacrifice of a bull or goat but instead said, "*For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart — these, O God, You will not despise.*" Ps 51:16-17 His prayer is a prayer **for covering**, "*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*" (Ps 51:7) **and for mercy**, "*Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies.*" *Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*" (Ps 51:1) It is the renewal of that covenant which had been broken or dissolved, that is now ascribed to Christ. Therefore, Christ is the only means of peace with God, whether it be for the saints under the Old Covenant or for us today as Paul states in Ephesians 2:17, "Christ is our peace, to reconcile both them that are far off, and them that are near." This passage this morning will show that it includes all the following blessings: To restore the land, bring forth the prisoners of darkness, Feed the hungry with good things, protect them from harm, Lead them on a safe path, and to have mercy upon them.

A. To restore to the land - to restore the earth, to cause them to inherit the desolate heritages.

1. This first, is God's promise to those who had been led away captive to Babylon, which promise was fulfilled when the 70 years were accomplished
2. But it goes much deeper than this, for it also applies to the elect, their deliverance from sin and their hope of heaven
  - a. We were that lost sheep that the shepherd went searching for and brought back to the fold
  - b. As God's people we have been redeemed from the desolate land of sinful rebellion
  - c. The Bible speaks of us as having been alienated and enemies but now reconciled through the death of our Lord, and will now be presented above reproach. (cf. Col 1:21-22)
  - d. We walked in a desolate land of disobedience but now we will escaped the wrath of God that will come upon the sons of disobedience. (cf. Col. 3:6-7)
  - e. In Gal 1:3-4 we read that we have been delivered from this present evil age by our Lord Jesus Christ
  - f. Now we hear the precious comfort of our Lord, "Fear not little flock it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (cf. Luke 12:32)
  - g. Now we hear the gracious call of our King – "*Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,*" (Matt 25:34-35)
  - h. Like the prodigal son in the pig pen we have been restored to the Father's house
  - i. As creation was affected by the fall, even so the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Rom 8:21)
  - j. God will bring to us a new heaven and a new earth.

*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. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."* Rev 21:2-4

- k. And the nations of those who have been redeemed will walk in its light and there shall be no night there. Rev 21:24-25

- B. The prisoners shall be released from death's dark prison - You may say to the prisoners, 'Come forth,' to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.'
1. When Christ read those words from Isaiah 61, that He was anointed to proclaim to captives deliverance, and then announced to those in that Synagogue, *this day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears* (cf. Luke 4:18-19)
    - a. This prophecy in chapter 49 has been fulfilled in Christ
    - b. As the slaves of Babylon were set free from their captivity we also who are in Christ have been set free from our captivity of sin and damnation
  2. God has rescued us from the power of the darkness, and has brought us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have the redemption through His blood. (Col 1:13-14)
  3. We who were slaves of sin have been set free and have become slaves of righteousness. (Rom 6:17,18)
  4. The call goes forth to sinners, "Come forth" the same as the call to Lazarus
    - a. Sinners are dead in their sin and trespasses (cf. Eph 2:1)
    - b. The sinner must first be quickened even as Lazarus was brought to life before he could come forth from the tomb
    - c. Salvation is a glorious miracle, it is God quickening dead sinners and bringing them to life
    - d. In the Book of Revelation it is called the "first resurrection"

*Rev 20:5-6 This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*

- C. As our Shepherd our Lord will lead us even in troubled times - "They shall feed along the roads, and their pastures shall be on all desolate heights"
1. We shall be fed
    - a. Our Lord Himself is our bread, He is that bread that has come down from heaven (cf. Jn. 6:51)
    - b. We will neither hunger or thirst

*John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.*

2. The church shall be led along side roads and desolate heights
  - a. We will be as pilgrims in a world that rejects our Lord
  - b. We shall often be hated by all around us
  - c. This should not offend nor surprise us since they hated our Lord also
  - d. In the world we will have tribulation but our Shepherd is our comfort and our guide

*John 16:33 In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

CONCLUSION: One again in Isaiah we see our Lord and the hope and comfort of the church

Heaven is our hope

With Abraham we are but pilgrims who "wait for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Heb 11:10

His deliverance is our means of escape from the wrath of God  
And The Lord Himself is our guide and provider

Be of good cheer – I have overcome the world  
Be of good cheer – we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us