

God's Everlasting Comfort for His Elect - Part 3

Isaiah 30:23-26 ²³ Then He will give the rain for your seed with which you sow the ground, and bread of the increase of the earth; it will be fat and plentiful. In that day your cattle will feed in large pastures. ²⁴ Likewise the oxen and the young donkeys that work the ground will eat cured fodder, which has been winnowed with the shovel and fan. ²⁵ There will be on every high mountain and on every high hill rivers and streams of waters, in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. ²⁶ Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound.

One must always keep in mind there are two main messages in the Book of Isaiah. One is the warning of God to the rebellious people who refuse to hear God's word. It contains a rebuke of them for their rebellion and a promise of coming judgment for their lack of repentance. The land will be ravaged, Jerusalem with its temple will be destroyed, and they will either die or be carried away as captive to Babylon. Then there are the words of comfort to the remnant, to the elect. They too will be carried away into Babylon, they too will know sorrow and trial, but God will bring back a remnant to Judah, Jerusalem and the temple will be rebuilt. And then there is the promise of the coming Messiah, and the worldwide extension of the church with its inclusion of the Gentiles. Sometimes these messages are intertwined. And as it is here in this passage it can be understood to be a message of comfort to the elect of all ages. As Calvin understood the promise in verses we are considering this morning, that they were to be received as spiritual instruction to the church over all, he wrote; "It was indeed no despicable promise which he made of an abundant produce of the fruits of the earth, but the chief ground of gladness and joy is, when God restores to us pure and sound doctrine; for no scarcity of wheat ought to terrify and alarm us so much as a scarcity of the word; and indeed, in proportion as the soul is more excellent than the body, so much the more ought we to dread this kind of famine, as another prophet also reminds us." Here he refers to Amos 8:11 "*Behold, the days are coming,*" says the Lord God, "*That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.*" I would remind you that Isaiah has already noted that the elect will hear and respond with obedience to the Word as we noted last Sunday.

Thus far in this series we have seen that God is exalted in His relationship with His people. That is, He chooses us, He redeems us, He gives us understanding. It is God's plan of salvation. Then last Sunday we saw that God is attentive to the cry of His people. He has heard their cry, has noted their weeping and responded with a saving grace. This morning we shall see the outcome of that response, that is; the blessings of God will always abound upon His people. Now as I noted in my opening introduction to this series in Isaiah 30 that I found agreement with Calvin that the abundance promised was not to be taken in the literal sense, but as I said then I will repeat this morning, "now as we read the passage before us this morning it might appear as though God is saying that in this life you will only know prosperity and comforts, but I am in full agreement with Calvin, these words are not to be taken in the literal sense but in the spiritual and emblematic sense. The blessing that we know may not be material or physical blessings as such but speak of the blessing all saints rich and poor alike have in Christ." What then are the blessings that the church may expect from God? 1. God will bless the preaching of His Word. 2. He will enlighten His elect revealing the truths of the Old Covenant.

A. Blessings spoken of here are to be understood in the symbolic and not material sense

1. Jesus said it is better to enter heaven in poverty than to be a rich man and be cast into hell

Luke 16:25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.

2. Jesus said lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven - not here on earth (cf. Mt. 6:20)
3. What was the wealthiest church of the seven churches of Revelation?
 - a. The poorest was Laodicea that had need of nothing - *Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' — and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked —* Rev 3:17
 - b. The richest was Smyrna the poorest of all seven - *I know your works, tribulation, **and poverty** (but you are rich).* Rev 2:9
4. Moses esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. Heb 11:26
5. Paul counted all things but dung that he might win Christ. (Phil. 3:8)
6. What profit if one gained the whole world and lost his soul. Mark 8:36
7. What could be a greater gain than being in the presence of our Lord world without end?
8. I think then that we can understand that God is not promising His church worldly wealth, but is here giving us the promise of Spiritual wealth

B. God will bless the preaching of His Word - *He will give the rain for your seed with which you sow the ground, and bread of the increase of the earth; it will be fat and plentiful*

1. Proper to understand that the seed here can be understood as the Word of God - Luke 8:11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.
2. First need to understand the Word of God is of greater value than the value of gold itself. - *More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold.* Ps 19:10
3. What are the products of the Word? - Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.
4. It will accomplish what God has purpose for its use

*Isa 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and **it shall prosper** in the thing for which I sent it.*

5. One of the worst famines man can know is the famine of the Word of God (Amos 8:11)
6. This is why Paul instructed Timothy - preach the Word.
7. Streams on the highest mountain - Word is watered where one would least expect an abundance of water.

C. He will enlighten His elect revealing the truths of the Old Covenant - *Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound.*

1. The moon will be as the light of the sun, the sun will be sevenfold
 - a. The disciples did not understand purpose of the cross
 - b. On the road to Emmaus Jesus opened their eyes

Luke 24:25-27 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded (explained) to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

2. The understanding of the Old Testament teachings concerning the Messiah were opened up to the Apostles as they taught the converted Jews and Gentiles
 - a. note the understanding of Peter on the day of Pentecost
 - b. When David spoke of his flesh not seeing corruption - re: resurrection of Christ
 - c. Christ would sit upon the throne of David
 - d. Promise to David that His Seed would sit at the right hand on the throne of heaven (cf. Acts 2:26-35)
 - e. Although before Pentecost the disciples had asked, will you restore the kingdom?
3. The depth of understanding Paul had in regard to the makeup of the church in the New Testament
 - a. Light shining in the darkness
 - b. He revealed the addition of the Gentiles which had been a mystery up to this time (cf Eph. 2:11-14; Eph. 3:1-6)
4. The depth of instruction regarding the shadows of the Old Testament and the fulfilling of the shadows in the person and work of Christ as revealed in the Book of Hebrews.
5. We look at the Old Testament Scriptures today and ask - "why didn't you see that?" But we have the advantage of the sun shining seven times brighter.

CONCLUSION: This blessing of the preached Word is now known world wide

It is as if Satan has been bound and the Word has free communication in the hearts of God's elect

The knowledge of Christ is world wide

The wound inflicted upon God's people at the time of the fall has been healed - , *in the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound.*

The Temple of the Lord has been repaired, the wounds sins have inflicted upon God's elect have been healed.

Amos 9:11-12 "On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; that they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,"

*1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.***

*John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who **takes away the sin of the world!**"*

1 Cor 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Rom 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus