

Trusting In God Our Rock of Ages

Isa 26:1-6 In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; God will appoint salvation for walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, that the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in. You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength. For He brings down those who dwell on high, the lofty city; He lays it low, He lays it low to the ground, He brings it down to the dust. The foot shall tread it down — The feet of the poor and the steps of the needy."

Think on this, this morning Christian you are dwelling in a strong city, wherein God has appointed His salvation for its walls and bulwarks. You are dwelling in perfect peace, in shalom, shalom. You are kept by God in that peace because you are trusting by faith alone, in Christ alone, by the grace of God alone. Again, we know that these words were written to comfort the elect of Isaiah's day who would soon be carried away into Babylon as captives. But here they are encouraged with the promise of returning to the land of Israel, rebuilding the city and temple with the hope of once again dwelling in the land and worshipping God in His temple. At the same time the church of all ages, who have found themselves surrounded by Babylon have that hope that there is coming a day when they shall be caught up to be with the Lord, dwelling with Him in His kingdom and worshipping in that heavenly temple where God Himself dwells. With Israel of old in verses four through six we are commanded to 1) Trust in God. 2) We are assured that we can trust in God for He will bring down the lofty city and 3) we are assured that if we humble ourselves we shall be victorious.

- A. Here God's people are instructed to trust in God *Isa 26:4 Trust in the Lord forever, for in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength.*
1. The reason? Because Jehovah the Lord is the everlasting strength and the Hebrew word here can be translated "everlasting rock or the "Rock of Ages"
 2. We have no strength in ourselves, but we serve the Most High God who is ruler over the heavens and the earth
 3. He instructs us remain steadfast in confidence forever to the end of time - *For in Jah Jehovah is the strength of ages.*
 4. In a sense we are being instructed to be aware of the attributes of God

WSC - God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

5. Thus our faith must rise above all world and its continual opposition
 - a. For none of the attributes of God are temporary or passing
 - b. For God will always and continually be like himself.

Mal 3:6 "For I am the Lord, I do not change.

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

- B. We can trust in the Lord because He will bring down the lofty and the proud - *For He brings down those who dwell on high, the lofty city; He lays it low, He lays it low to the ground, He brings it down to the dust. "*
1. We now have exhibited before us the power of God
 - a. This is revealed to us in the Book of Daniel where we read of Babylon's destruction (cf. Daniel 5:17ff)
 - b. The proud are brought down by the power of God
 - c. The lowly and despised replace them
 - d. Great is the consolation when it is added that the poor will be exalted - *The foot shall tread it down the feet of the poor and the steps of the needy.*

*Fear not little flock it is your Father's **good pleasure** to give you the Kingdom*

2. What we understand here is that there is no authority or power above God
 - a. The horse and its rider are helpless against God
 - b. The walls of a Jericho are no defense against God
3. The Battle of the ages was won when our lowly Savior was raised from the dead and ascended into the heavenly places having all power and authority

*Eph 1:20-21 ". . . Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, **far above all principality and power and might and dominion**, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

- a. In the eyes of the world the church may seem small and insignificant
 - b. The world simply has never understood who the God is that we serve
4. In essence Isaiah is telling the elect of God you have no reason to be frightened at the greatness of Babylon
 5. There is coming a day when heaven's angel will announce *"Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."* (Rev 14:8)
 6. But the church will hear, *"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord."* (Matt 25:23)
 7. For the King will say to those on His right hand *"Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"* (Matt 25:34)

CONCLUSION: For Scripture tells us that those who humble themselves before God, confess their sins and trust in Christ alone have eternal life. - *The foot shall tread it down — The feet of the poor and the steps of the needy*

Matt 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

This passage does speak of that day in history when Ezra and Nehemiah - surrounded by enemies returned and rebuilt the wall, the city and the temple

But more importantly it speaks of that coming day
 When the church will be caught up to be with the Lord
 And they shall indeed be free of all enemies
 And shall have eternal "shalom" "shalom", perfect peace.

Rev 21:3-4 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 21:23-27 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

There was a time I use to sing - Is my name written there?

But now trusting in God, in the imputed righteousness of Christ
 I can sing - Open the gates that we may enter in

Indeed this is the cry of God's people - Open the gates that we may enter in