

Jesus Christ, The Good Shepherd of Israel

Isa 40:10-11 ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. ¹¹ He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.

I would remind you that the context of the passage before us this morning is a call to the church, to the body of that heavenly Jerusalem that elect people called Zion, to cry out, to lift up their voice and proclaim with John the Baptist, "Behold your God" as he did on that day when he pointed to Jesus as he approached the river Jordan and proclaimed, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". Without question the whole of this passage is a prophetic proclamation, a revelation about the coming Messiah, about who He is and what He will accomplish for His church.

I felt that I passed over these two verses too lightly in the messages thus far so I want to take added time to emphasize the great comfort we find in these verses for; we see both the strength and the power of our Lord and the tenderness and kindness of our Lord.

Also, by way of introduction I would have us note that there is a clear declaration of the deity of the coming Messiah here in this passage. Listen to what Isaiah proclaims in verse 10 "Behold, **the Lord God** shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold His reward is with Him . . ." He does not merely say a prophet will come, or a man will come who will rule upon David's throne, but he clearly says, - "**The Lord God** shall come". This is why John the Baptist that promised messenger spoken of here who would prepare the way of the coming Messiah said that he was not worthy to even carry the sandals of this promised Messiah. And again in Malachi 3:1 we read, "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And **the Lord**, whom you seek, will suddenly come to **His temple**, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the Lord of hosts. It is evident that Jesus the Christ is truly God manifest in the flesh.

Now to the text before us - two things are to be noted; 1.) The promised Messenger of the covenant will come with authority; He is truly God manifest in the flesh 2.) And this very God of might and power will come as the gentle Shepherd of His flock. And may I add, these two qualities put together in one person is the basis of comfort to God's people.

I want you to marvel at the greatness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ and the greatness of his love for His people, the great tenderness He has toward His people. I speak of His love for you dear flock, and of His relationship to you as His special people.

A. He will come with power, with authority and with reward. - *Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him;*

1. He came in a show of humility but not without authority.

- a. His authority over sin, sickness and death was seen in His miracles he performed.
- b. His authority over creation was seen.
 - (1) Authority in providence - sea of Galilee - storm, walked upon the water
 - (2) Authority as Creator - Water into wine - feeding 5,000
- c. Authority over angels
 - (1) Ministered to Him in the wilderness
 - (2) He did not need Simon Peter's little sword
 - (3) He could have called 12 legions of angels
- d. Comfort God's people, their last great enemy has been defeated
 - (1) In His death and resurrection He conquered death, and hell itself for His elect.
 - (2) Satan himself received a deadly blow when Christ died upon the cross and rose again.

2. He came with reward - *His reward is with Him.*

- a. It is a reward not of merit but of grace and mercy.
- b. It is a reward to all those who in faith diligently seek the Lord - for they shall find Him.

- (1) Important to remember that even your faith is a gift from God (Eph 2:8,9)
- (2) And that it is a reward Christ gained for you

- c. And the reward is forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.

B. He comes as the Good Shepherd

Isa 40:11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.

- 1. He referred to Himself as the Good Shepherd - *John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd.*
- 2. A Shepherd guards, protects and leads His sheep.
- 3. First we need to be reminded that we were straying sheep

Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

1 Peter 2:25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- 4. It is with that same strong arm He will gather His lambs

He will gather the lambs with His arm

- a. It is the Shepherd who seeks the lost
- not the lost lambs who seek the Shepherd
- b. Take comfort - Not one of His elect will be lost

- 5. He will gently lead His church - *and gently lead those who are with young.*

- a. Our Savior is gentle and kind
 - (1) A smoking flax He will not quench
 - (2) A bruised reed He will not break
- b. The weakest amongst us He gently carries in His bosom. - *and **carry them in His bosom,***
- c. Do you not see in all this His great love and concern He has for his flock
- d. Their interests are his interest.
- e. Indeed He is the Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep.

- 6. He will feed His flock

- a. He has given us His written Word as our strength and our comfort
- b. He has given us His covenant promises that we need never hunger for hope

- 7. And to His under-shepherds He commands - feed my sheep (John 21:17)

- a. Desire the sincere milk of the Word
- b. The nourishment of the Word

CONCLUSION: This is indeed one of the most tender descriptions of our Lord that we find here in this passage - *He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.*

Truly the Lord is our Shepherd we shall not want

He leads us in "green pastures"

Beside the still waters

In the night seasons He is the very door of our protection

Without question goodness and mercy shall accompany us in this life, and in eternity we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.