

The Lord's Lovingkindnesses.

Isaiah 63:7-9.

Sunday evening, March 15, 2009.

I. Remembering and Mentioning the Lord's loving kindnesses. Vs. 7.

- A. Remember that this follows the vision of the Lord's trampling of His enemies in the winepress of His wrath. Vss. 1-6.
- B. Times of great judgments in the earth are times when the Lord's children especially ought to draw near to Him with thankful remembrance of His mercies toward them. Exodus 15:13,16, 17 speaks this way about the judgment on the Egyptians in the Red Sea. This is also the response of the multitude gathered in the heavenly temple in the book of Revelation as they respond with prayer and praise to the judgments of the Lord upon the earth. Rev. 7:9-12; 11:15-19; 15:1-4; 19:1-4
- C. Note the source of these loving kindnesses: "according to His mercies." It is God's undeserved goodness of which we are the recipients. The opposite is implied, namely that we were deserving of judgment but received loving kindness.
- D. Note the language of abundance: "All that the Lord has bestowed;" and "The great goodness toward the house of Israel;" and "According to the multitude of his loving kindnesses."
- E. Note how these mercies and loving kindnesses of the Lord form the subject matter of His praise. It is by way of remembering and mentioning these mercies that the Lord's people praise their God and Redeemer. "I will mention the loving kindnesses of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord..."

Applications:

1. How little do we remember the loving kindnesses of the Lord!
2. When we do remember them in times when the Lord's judgments are manifested in the earth, how soon we forget them again!
3. How quick we are to complain and how slow to remember... and to praise!
4. How formalistic is the best of our praise so very often; motions of praise without our hearts and souls; without any real remembering.
5. Yet with the Lord there is forgiveness and restoration even from this.

II. The essence of that loving kindness. Vs. 8.

"He said: surely they are My people..."

- A. The essence of God's covenant; His relationship with His people, is always "I will be their God, and they shall be My people."
- B. The essence is always our acceptance with God.
That acceptance rests on three works of God which He does in our behalf.
 1. He justifies us. He declares us righteous in His sight because of the finished work of Christ. He has forgiven us all our iniquities.
 2. He adopts us. He accepts us as His very own children and makes us a part of His own family. God Himself becomes our Father.
 3. He sanctifies us. He conforms us to Himself so that our union with Him and

our walk with Him may more and more become a happy union and a happy walk; So that our sinful natures may more and more pass away and die and be buried with Christ, and so that more and more we may be raised with him in newness of life.

Application:

As Christians we need to often reflect on who we are; we are the Lord's children; that gives us identity and worth; here is the foundation for a healthy self image, and the cure for self image problems. We so often long to be someone great or important apart from the Lord. What we are apart from the Lord has been crucified with Christ; we need to let that go. What we are in Christ, we are by the grace of God, so that there is no boasting or glorying in ourselves; only a thankful remembering of His loving kindnesses.

C. "Children who will not lie (practice falsehood)"

This is not to be taken as a description of what the Lord's children are by nature. Rather the Lord is looking to what they will become by grace. This is evident by what follows:

D. "So He became their Savior."

If there were no falsehood in them they would not need a Savior, but now the Lord is their Savior so that they will become children who do not practice falsehood.

III. The expression of God's lovingkindnesses. Vs. 9.

This is a most tender and vivid description of the love of God toward His own. It looks back on the Exodus, yet it is fulfilled in Christ.

A. "In all their afflictions he was afflicted" (Egyptian bondage).

In Christ we have a High Priest who is moved with our infirmities. Hebr. 4:15.

B. "The Angel of His Presence saved them."

The word Angel means literally Messenger; it is a reference to The Lord Jesus who went with His people during the Exodus. 1 Corinthians 10:4.

In the Lord Jesus God comes near to man and his presence is with man.

C. "In His love and pity He redeemed them."

Out of Egypt to be sure, yet even more so out of our bondage to sin by the greater Moses, the Lord Jesus.

D. "He bore them (picked them up or took them up) and carried them all the days of old."

1. Underneath them were the everlasting arms of God Deuteronomy 33:27.

2. "All the days of old." Those arms were always there in good days and bad.

Applications:

1. This passage teaches us the intimate involvement of the Lord with His people. It shows us what goes on in his heart. In all our afflictions He is afflicted, and He bears both our afflictions and ourselves! We are not alone in what we go through; we are not forsaken.
2. It shows us in a visual way that the Lord picks us up and carries us, even all the days of our lives. Do you know yourself carried through life?