

## Remembering The Days Of Old.

Isaiah 63:8-14

Sunday evening, March 22, 2009.

### I. A Holy Trinity as Savior. Vs. 8-10

- A. Jehovah God is the speaker in Vs. 8 who said: "Surely they are My people, children who will not lie." He also becomes their Savior.
- B. In Vs. 9 He sends the "Angel of His Presence" to save them and to bear them and carry them all the days of old. This is the Messiah; the Lord Jesus as the Good Shepherd of His sheep.
- C. In Vs. 10 the Holy Spirit is presented as the third Person of the Trinity. That He is presented as a Person is obvious from the fact that the Holy Spirit manifests the personal quality of being grieved.

#### Application:

All three Persons of the Godhead are actively involved in the salvation of his people. All three are of the same mind, and working toward the same end. They are the threefold cord that shall not be broken. Ecclesiastes 4:12. In this we should find strong consolation, and a sure ground for our faith.

### II. From gratitude and greater faithfulness to rebellion. Vs. 10.

- A. In Vs. 7 the reaction of the Lord's people to the vision of "The Man coming from Edom whose garments were red from treading the winepress of God's wrath" is recorded.
  - 1. It is a drawing near to the Lord in worship and praise.
  - 2. It is a remembering of "all that the Lord has bestowed on us," and "The great goodness toward the house of Israel," and "The multitude of His loving kindnesses."
- B. Vs. 10 records that Israel's reaction had not always been such. Following the Lord's judgment on Egypt and the deliverance of His people through the Red Sea, followed a life of rebellion against the Lord, and one of grieving the Holy Spirit.
  - 1. Exodus 23:21-23 speaks about the Angel of the Lord: "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way, and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My Name is in Him."
  - 2. Exodus 16:1-3, 17:1 and 32:1 make it clear that the people rebelled against the Lord from the very time they came up out of the Red Sea.

#### Application:

- 1. How easy it is to forget the Lord when all is well with our earthly lives. This is a form of rebellion for the Lord has bound Himself to us, and we have been bound by covenant to Him. Have you forgotten the Lord?
- 2. How easy it is to complain about and against the Lord in the midst of the hardships of life. This too is rebellion for it charges the Lord with unfairness or with foolishness where the Lord would humble us and draw us to Himself in closer fellowship.

### III. From Ally to Enemy. Vs. 10.

Because of the people's rebellion and grieving of the Holy Spirit, the Lord turned from an ally into an enemy of His people, and He fights against them.

How do we understand this "Enemy?"

1. We need to understand the nature of this "Enemy" covenantally. The Lord does not become an enemy in the sense that He abandons His people and the relationship He initiated with them. Much the opposite; the whole history of the nation of Israel demonstrates that they could not get away from the Lord who

had

called them to Himself.

2. The Lord does make Himself an enemy in the sense that He fights against their hardness of heart; against their unbelief; against their independent natures; in short against all that they are in their carnal selves.

Application:

Is not the Lord the same still?

1. Has He not become our ally in the Person and in the finished work of the Lord Jesus?
2. Yet is He not our enemy in terms of all that we are "in the flesh, and by nature?"

Are not our fleshly natures "under the law, and condemned by the law?"

As such Paul writes: "I through the law, am dead to the law..." Gal. 2:19.

Just as the law brought the Lord Jesus to the cross when He took our sins on Himself, so our old and fleshly natures are joined to Christ and his cross, and are crucified with Him. It is practically speaking in surrendering to, and in embracing the cross in our lives that we find God's peace.

#### IV. "Then He remembered the days of old..." Vs. 11-13.

In the affliction of their fleshly natures they learned to do two things:

A. They remembered the days of old and what the Lord had done for them.

B. They started to look for Him saying: "Where is He ..."

1. Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock? (Moses.)
2. Where is He who put His Holy Spirit within them? Vs. 11.

Application:

It is in Remembering the Lord, and in looking and seeking, in asking and knocking that we find Him again as our ally. This much is evident from the Lord's teaching in Luke 11:5-13. Note in this passage how the Lord is presented to us as our sufficiency, but also as the one who gives and restores His Holy Spirit to us. The same truth is also set before us in what follows in Isaiah 63:14.

#### V. The Lord as our sufficiency and rest.

The passage pictures a weary beast going into a valley; alongside a wadi; a stream alongside of which the grass is green. It is God's Spirit who leads him here and who becomes his sufficiency and rest. So the Spirit of God also shepherds His people to the living water and the green grass which He gives us in Christ.

Do you know Him as such?