

The Glory of Zion.

Isaiah 66:12-14.

Sunday evening, June 28, 2009.

I. "I will extend peace to her like a river." Vs. 12.

A. A river imparts life to the surrounding countryside by way of its life giving water. As long as the water keeps flowing all the needs of the surrounding countryside are met, and all is well.

So the Lord will extend His grace and goodness to Zion and her children.

1. The Lord has done so in the finished work of Christ.

He has made peace by the blood of Christ's cross. Ephesians 2:13,14.

He has taken our sins out of the way; He has been reconciled to us. 2 Cor.

5:18.

"Having been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.." Romans 5:1.

The Lord still extends this peace to us like a rolling river in the preaching of the gospel.

2. The Lord is also doing so in the present work of Christ.

The Lord Jesus has been exalted at the Father's right hand. He has been seated in the heavens; meaning that He has been seated in His office as King; that all power has been given to Him in heaven and on earth.

There is a peace that flows from that. In the Holy Spirit, and by faith we are invited to slip "through the veil," and sit with the Lord at His table, and sit

with

Him on His throne. There, in that place, we are made to see and to taste that all is well, and there is a peace that flows from that.

It is a peace that passes all understanding for it flows from within the veil. It springs as the river of life from the throne of God. The world can not know it nor can it understand it.

3. This peace that flows like a river also regards the future work of Christ.

The Lord will finish the good work he has begun.

There is going to be an end of sin.

There is going to be an end to all foolishness, ignorance and unreasonableness.

There is going to be an end to all sorrow and sadness and suffering.

There is a peace that flows from that hope, and it is a peace that flows like a river.

II. "And the glory of the gentiles like a flowing stream." Vs. 12

Haggai 2:7 says: "I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire (delight) of all nations, and I will fill this temple with glory says the Lord of hosts."

1. In the course of history the nations are being sifted and shaken. They are unable to come to a place of rest; a place they can call home, a place of belonging, until they come to the "Delight" of all nations; that is the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Look at all the forms of government we have invented, and all are weighed down with sin and corruption, and none have brought us to our resting place. Look at

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social experimenting of communism, socialism, and capitalism. All are weighed down with sin and corruption, and none have brought us to our resting place. Look at the economic, the financial and educational institutions we have built. All are weighed down by sin and corruption, and none have brought us to our resting place. Look at all the entertainment we have provided for ourselves, and none of it has brought us to our resting place.

A day is coming when the nations will acknowledge Jesus as Lord, and their glory, that is their hearts, will be brought into the fold of Christ.

Application:

What is the Desire of your heart? Our hearts also can find no rest until we purpose to seek it in Christ alone. Christ stills the ever blowing tempest of desires in our hearts, and He replaces it with Himself. In His presence our hearts can say with the apostle Paul: "I have all; I abound; I am full." Phil 4:18.

III. "Then you shall feed; on her sides shall you be carried." Vs. 12-14.

The remainder of the text continues the imagery of mother and child. Not so much God's old and new covenant people as perhaps Zion as a whole as the mother and individual believers in it as the children.

1. The language of care, comfort and compassion continues.
 - Zion as the mother feeds her little ones.
 - She carries them on her sides.
 - She dandles them on her knees.
 - She comforts them like a mother.
 - All of it happens in Jerusalem; that is Jerusalem above.
2. When a soul is made to see this, or an individual or a nation, three things happen. That is the text gives us these three.
 - "Your heart shall rejoice." The heart comes home; it enters into its resting place; it enters into the joy of the Lord.
 - "Your bones shall flourish like grass." A whole new life and vitality are imparted to the soul. With this we are enabled to serve the Lord. It is the life given to good works, before ordained, that we might walk in them. Eph. 2:10. It is the walking and not being weary; the running and not fainting of Is.

40:31.

- "The hand of the Lord shall be known to His servants." The Lord shall be known in a whole new and intimate way. We shall know the hand that holds us, that guides us and protects us. We shall know it from nearby for we shall hold that hand, and it shall hold us.

Application: Do you know something of this rest and this joy; this new life and vitality; have you come to know something of the hand that holds you? This the Holy spirit would teach us by making us new creatures on the inside.

3. Another aspect of the Lord's character shall be known: His indignation. It shall be known to His enemies. It will never be known experientially by His children; that is by Zion.

With that comment Isaiah introduces the next thought given in vss.15-17.
We shall deal with it the next time.