

No Justice And No Intercessor.

Isaiah 59:15-21.

Sunday evening, November 30, 2008.

I. The Lord's displeasure. Vs. 15, 16.

- A. That there was no justice.
 - 1. There was no just perception of reality; only distortions, lies, misconceptions.
 - 2. There was no right speaking about the nature of reality; only lies.
 - 3. There was no just living or acting in accordance with the nature of reality.
- B. These are conditions we find in the time of the great flood in the days of Noah. These are also the conditions we may expect shortly before the second coming of the Lord, for, "It shall be as it was in the days of Noah..." Matt. 24:38 AV.
- C. The Lord was displeased that there was no man, that is to say no intercessor.
 - 1. There was no man who could stand between fallen man and his holy God to bridge the gap.
 - 2. It is not speaking of there being no one who followed the Lord. There was Isaiah himself and there was a godly remnant. However there was no one who could negotiate a true solution to man's fallen dilemma.
 - 3. No one could bring a holy God in the presence of fallen man, or fallen man in the presence of his holy God, and make the two acceptable to each other and bind them together in an inseparable union.
- D. This state of affairs constitutes "the Lord's displeasure."
God did not create the earth to be in this kind of a state.
It is an affront to the goodness and grace of God.
For this reason the Lord has undertaken to redeem the earth.
We see here that the primary moving force toward redemption is found in God Himself, and not in man.

II. The Lord's own arm, and His own righteousness. Vs. 16.

- A. Since salvation, or a remedy for the deplorable conditions on the earth, could not be found with man, the Lord's own arm worked salvation for Him.
The arm of the Lord stands for His strength; strength the Lord hid in the weakness of the cross of Christ, which is the power of God to salvation to all who believe.
- B. At the cross of Christ the Lord furthermore worked out a just and a righteous salvation for us. Here the chastisement for our sins fell on the Lord, and by His stripes we were healed.
- C. Righteousness was the guideline of the whole work of redemption. Righteousness shaped every aspect, from the incarnation to the righteous life of the Lord on earth, to His substitutionary death on the cross.

III. The armor of the Lord. Vs. 17.

- A. He put on righteousness as a breastplate.
 - 1. The entire proceeding from beginning to end was a righteous one.
There is no cheating; no unrighteousness with God.
 - 2. In the righteous life and the substitutionary death of Christ the justice and the

righteousness of God were perfectly fulfilled and satisfied.

- B. A helmet of salvation on His head.
 - 1. Here the brainchild of salvation lay perfectly protected from every opposing thought and enemy distraction.
 - 2. Here the focus of God was maintained; here the saving purposes of God lay protected from every attack of the enemy.
 - 3. With this regard we may say that the Lord is a single minded God.
- C. The garment of vengeance for clothing.

The Lord takes vengeance on His enemies whose doings has brought the earth in such ruins.

 - 1. These are the powers of darkness first and foremost. Hence the demons trembled in the presence of Christ and begged Him to be allowed to enter a herd of swine. They also asked Him if He had come to torment them before the time was ready. Matt. 8:28,29.
 - 2. They are also those who have aligned themselves with the powers of darkness by rejecting the Lord and siding with the enemy. John 8:44.
 - 3. This vengeance fell first and foremost on the Lord Jesus as He endured the righteous vengeance of God over the sins of man on the cross.
- D. He was clad with zeal as with a cloak.
 - 1. Here is the great divine drive behind the plan of salvation.
 - 2. The Lord will not stop; He will not give up until the very last and least of His designs are accomplished. "The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isaiah 9:7.

IV. Judgment leading to redemption. Vs. 19, 20.

- A. "According to..." The judgment is repaid in kind and in measure.
- B. The results are redemptive in nature. The nations humbly own the righteous rule and judgment of the Lord.
- C. A summary statement is given regarding the work of the Lord.

"When the enemy comes in like a flood." The reference is to a raging torrent coming down one of the many dry wadi's in Israel after a rainstorm. It sweeps away anything in its path.
- D. "The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him." This standard bearer is none other than the Redeemer Himself; the Lord Jesus Christ. He has swallowed up this raging torrent coming at us by His cross, and He has channeled it around us, emptying it out into the bottomless pit, where it will be sealed and remembered no more. He comes to His remnant.

V. The new covenant in its fullness. Vs. 21.

Notice how this is the counterpart to the conditions described in vs. 14,15.

- A. Justice, the right perception of reality, is turned back; here it is established as God's word will not leave the mind and mouth and heart of God's people.
- B. Truth falls in the streets; but here it is established forevermore.
- C. Equity cannot enter; but there is plenty of room for her here.
- D. Righteousness stands afar off; but here she has been brought near.