

## The Heritage of The servants Of The Lord.

Isaiah 54:11-17.

Sunday evening, August 17, 2008.

### I. The objects of the promise. Vs. 11.

A. "You afflicted one..."

Israel, through her own doing had become the afflicted one.

B. "Tossed with tempest..."

Like Jacob she could say: "All these things are against me." Gen. 42:36.

C. "And not comforted." or "without mercy."

How lonely and forsaken she was made to feel! Like a widow indeed!

Application:

How often do we feel that we are there, in that place. We cry out "How long O Lord!" And it is there in that place that the Lord meets us with His promise and mercy.

### II. Outward prosperity. Vs. 11,12.

A. Vs. 11b reads literally "Behold, I will lay your stones in puk." Puk was a black mineral compound women used to outline their eyes. See Jezebel doing this in 2 Ki. 9:30.

Much the way eyeliners and mascara cause the eyes to stand out, so Israel's colorful gems will stand out as the Lord outlines them by setting them in "puk."

B. Foundations with sapphires; pinnacles of rubies; gates of crystal, and walls of precious stones. These descriptions remind us of New Jerusalem as it is described in Rev. 21

Application:

Ultimately the glory of earthly Jerusalem is prophetic of the glory of New Jerusalem.

Ultimately the glory of the earthly must give way for the glory of the heavenly.

Ultimately the glory of the old covenant must give way to New covenant glory.

Ultimately the glory of the old creation fades before the glory of the new creation.

Ultimately God's people have always been strangers and pilgrims in earthly Jerusalem, or any other city. Always they waited for that better city and country to come. Hebrews 11:13-16. When the glory of our earthly Jerusalem fades, the glory of New Jerusalem becomes accented; it comes into focus, as though it were set in "puk."

### III. Inward prosperity Vs. 13.

A. "All your children shall be taught by the Lord..."

This is quoted by the Lord Jesus in John 6:45 to show that one must be taught inwardly by the Holy spirit in order to come to the Lord.

Application:

This passage, and the Lord's use of it in John 6:45 impress upon us the fact that outward forms of religion are not enough. A genuine work of being taught by God's Spirit is absolutely necessary.

B. "and great shall be the peace of your children."

Peace with God, and peace in our earthly relations is one of the great legacies of

a genuine work of the Holy Spirit. Phil. 4:4-7; Prov. 16:7.

#### IV. Righteousness as the foundation of God's gracious work. Vs. 14,15.

- A. In righteousness you shall be established.
  - 1. By imputation of Christ's righteousness in justification.
  - 2. By being made righteous in the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification.
- B. You shall be far from oppression; fear, and terror.

In view are here the terror and fear and oppression that come from the Lord in answer to their hardness of heart and rebellion, as vs., 15 makes clear.
- C. Opposition on the part of the world still remains, however...
  - 1. "Not because of Me..." That is not because I am forming them, and using them, as the rod of My anger, and...
  - 2. "Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake"

This means that they must be destroyed for the sake of New Jerusalem and her children.

The text could also read: "must fall to your side."

This would mean that the children of New Jerusalem are more than conquerors in that they not only subdue their enemies, but they turn them into friends and brothers. Romans 8:37.

#### V. God's sovereignty as a shield. Vs. 16,17

- A. God says that He has created the blacksmith who forges weapons.

He also says that He has created the warrior who destroys with those weapons.
- B. Since He has sovereignly created both, He sovereignly controls both and guarantees their outcome.
- C. No weapon formed against New Jerusalem and her children shall prosper.

Every lying tongue, and every form of lying propaganda shall be silenced and condemned.

Application:

Here is the future of evolution and naturalism. Here is the future of Post-Modernism.  
Here is the future of every high thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

#### VI. Conclusion Vs. 17.

- A. Remember how it starts; with the afflicted ones; tempest-tossed; not comforted.
- B. Remember the work of grace: Inward and outward restoration; Taught of the Lord; Peace; No more the objects of wrath; Under God's sovereign protection.
- C. This is the heritage of the Lord's servants; of New Jerusalem.
- D. Their righteousness is not their own; it is of Me says the Lord.