

Series: Isaiah

Title: Effectual Gospel, Effectual Prayer

Text: Isaiah 51: 9-11

Date: February 24, 2013

Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Let read Is 51: 9-11. This is a prayer. It was by the gospel that Christ effectually produced this prayer in the church in Isaiah's day. From Isaiah 48 up to Isaiah 51: 8, the one speaking through Isaiah has been Christ. Then this prayer breaks forth—either from Isaiah or from the church.

Proposition: True prayer is the fruit Christ produces by the revelation he gives through his gospel.

Division: I want to show you 3 fruits which Truth produces: 1) Submission; 2) Praise; 3) Assurance

Title: Effectual Gospel, Effectual Prayer

I. TRUTH PRODUCES PRAYER OF SUBMISSION—Isaiah 51: 9: Awake, awake! put on strength, O arm of the LORD!

“Arm” means power and wisdom. The arm of God is Christ Jesus.

Isaiah 53: 1: Who hath believed our report? [our report is our gospel] and to whom is the Arm of the LORD revealed? 2: For HE shall...

The gospel itself, the report itself, is “the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth...for therein is the righteousness of God revealed.” (Rom 1: 16, 17). To us who are called “Christ, the Power of God and the Wisdom of God.”—“to whom is the Arm of the LORD revealed?” (1 Cor 1: 24) Let's review this sermon Isaiah preached. (Is 48: 16). Remember, Christ is speaking.

Christ is the Sent One--Isaiah 48: 16: Come ye near unto me, hear ye this! I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me. Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the Way that thou shouldest go...

Christ is the Covenant of his People--Isaiah 49: 1: Listen, O isles, unto me;...The LORD hath called me [from eternity and] from the womb; [God came in human flesh]...3 And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified...8: [The LORD God raised Christ and him]...for a Covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;...v9: to say to the prisoners, Go forth;...11: And I will make all my mountains a way, and my high-WAYS shall be exalted...16: Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands;... 24: Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? 25: But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children...26: I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

Christ is the Servant--Isaiah 50: 1: Thus saith the LORD [God our Redeemer the Arm of the LORD]...2: Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness:...4: The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary:...6: I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting...7...I set my face like a flint...8: He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me?...who is mine adversary? let him come

near to me...10: Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the VOICE of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

Christ Assures the Church--Isaiah 52: 1: Hearken to me...ye that seek the LORD 2:...I called [Abraham] alone, and blessed him, and increased him...3:..[I] shall comfort Zion:..and [I] will make her wilderness like Eden,... 4: Hearken unto me, my people!...[the gospel] shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment [verdict, covenant] to rest for a light of the people, 5 My righteousness is near; [“in thy mouth and in thy heart, that is, the word of faith, which we preach;”] v6:...the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished. 7: Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, 8: For the moth shall eat them up like a garment,...but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

The Work is in Christ's Hand

In eternity, when God the Father chose a people in Christ, the Father made Christ his Arm and made him our Mediator and Head. Thus, he gave Christ all power and dominion. Christ began by creating all things.

Colossians 1: 16: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.—by the Arm.

In picturing himself, the Lord gave the first Adam dominion. But Adam sinned, bringing all under the curse. Therefore, the world by wisdom knew not God.

Isaiah 40: 10: Behold, the LORD God will come with strong hand, his Arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. 11: He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

God the Father purposed in himself for Christ to redeem his elect by his obedience, by his blood, by his Arm; for Christ to dispense every spiritual blessing from God our Father to each of his elect by his Arm; for Christ to gather his elect in one body, under one Head, by his Arm.

Christ Produces Submission in Prayer

Therefore, when Christ sends his gospel, Christ declares this in our hearts, speaking in his Spirit and there is Light. Christ becomes to us the Power of God and the Wisdom of God! The effect he produces is: the heart bows in adoring submission, praying, “Awake! Awake! Put on strength O Arm of the LORD!”

He does not need us to ask him. Our prayer does not cause him to do what he already purposed to do.

Ezekiel 36: 37: Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will yet for this be enquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them;

Through his gospel, he humbles us to pray to him, confessing our inability, so that no flesh glories in his presence and he brings us to glory only in the Lord.

Illustration: My father's arm.

Christ's eye of pity makes his child look to him; Christ's gracious ear makes us cry to him, His loving heart melts our heart, His strong arm makes us cast all our care into his hands.

II. TRUTH PRODUCES PRAISE FOR WHAT HE HAS ALREADY DONE—Isaiah 51: 9: Awake, as in the ancient days. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon? 10: Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?

Back in Isaiah 50: 2, Christ said, "behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea."...Here the church praises Christ, saying, you cut Rahab [Egypt] and wounded the dragon? [Pharaoh] You dried the sea, making a way for the ransomed to pass over? (Ps 89: 10; Ezekiel 29: 3)

History Repeated

Throughout history, scripture shows us Christ performing for his people a definite, repeated order of events.

Concerning Egypt, Christ called Moses in the burning bush, sent Moses to Egypt to Pharaoh. By his word, Christ cut Egypt with plagues, by same word God passed over Israel in Goshen. By his word, Christ wounded Pharaoh judging all the firstborn; by same word he put Israel under the blood of the lamb, God passed over. By his word, at the Red Sea, Moses preached, "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day:"; same word dried the sea the ransomed passed over. Then drowned Pharaoh and his army. The Arm of the LORD did that.

Concerning Israel in Babylon, Christ did it again in Isaiah day when he wounded Babylon and delivered his remnant. Babylon was beside the Euphrates River, using it for a defense. His word sent Cyrus, dug ditches and dried up the river, wounding Belshazzar and his nobles as they feasted in drunkenness. So the Arm of the Lord took the city, redeeming his children out of captivity.

On the cross Christ fulfilled the same spiritually. Christ's Arm defeating Egypt and Babylon, was repeated on the cross. By his obedience unto death, Christ dried up the river of sin for his people and "destroyed him that had the power of death, that is the devil, and delivered his children, who through fear of death, were all our lifetime subject to bondage." (Heb 2: 14-15)

Let's see Christ repeating events showing the power of his Arm. Christ gave one commandment in garden. Adam sinned. After that the world by wisdom knew not God, God the Father sent the Voice. He called Adam, taught Adam he broken law, clothed him, saved him.

Likewise, God gave commandments to Israel. Israel sinned. But after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, God sent Christ, who sent Isaiah with his gospel. He gathered his remnant in Israel in Babylon, said, Isaiah 48: 16: "Come ye near unto ME, hear ye this;...now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me." He told them, "Your sins separated you" into Babylon. God sent Christ to deliver them. Years later, Israel's sin put them in Roman bondage. But after the world by wisdom knew not God, God sent Christ in person. Christ gathered his elect from Israel: Peter, his disciples. Christ preached this same gospel, saying, Isaiah 48: 17: "Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the Way that thou shouldest go." He told them "You have not kept God's law." He said "my Father has sent me to fulfill the law for you. I'm the Way, the Truth and the Life."

In Isaiah's day, Christ looked over Israel in bondage in Babylon and said, Isaiah 48: 18: "O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, 19: Thy seed also had been as the sand,...his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before me." Years later in person, Christ

looked over Israel, and said, Matthew 23: 37: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! 38: Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.”

In Isaiah’s day, Christ gave his remnant this command, Isaiah 48: 20: “Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans...” Years later in person, Christ commanded Peter and his elect he had gathered, “Let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of [Judea] depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. [“Them that are in the countries” were his elect Gentiles] (Lk 21: 21) Christ told them that because the political nation Israel had become spiritual Babylon. He tells us, return not to that old ways, I’ve fulfilled the law for you, my true Israel, now follow me.

In Isaiah’s day, Christ gave his remnant the command to preach, Isaiah 48: 20:, “with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob.” Years later in person, Christ commanded his apostles, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mk 16: 15) From Pentecost afterwards, they went forth preaching, even to Gentiles, Isaiah 49: 1: “Listen, O isles, unto ME.” Christ called us, tells us to declare his name here where we are.

And as it was when Christ delivered his elect out of Egypt, out of Babylon, out of Jerusalem, so it is for us here today: Isaiah 48: 21: “And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them:...the waters gushed out.” Paul said, “That Rock is Christ.” Christ provided for us.

See how the Arm of the Lord repeats his work again and again. He does so in the hearts of his redeemed, through the Holy Spirit, through the gospel: Christ dries up the river, the power, of prince of the power of the air, so he can’t bind his child. Christ the Life enters in heart, delivering us from Satan, our sin-nature, and the law of sin and death. And from then on we follow the Arm of the LORD.

So by the gospel, Christ produces praise in prayer, we praise Christ, asking him to, “Awake, as in the ancient days, art thou not it that hath done all these wonderful works for your people!”

III. TRUTH PRODUCES PRAYER OF ASSURANCE—Isaiah 51: 11: Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

Beholding, what Christ has done in the garden, in Egypt, in Babylon, on the cross, and in our hearts we are assured of what Christ shall do. In all of these repeated events in history, one thing is consistently revealed—CHRIST WINS! AND HIS PEOPLE WIN BY HIM!

Christ Shall Dry Up the Power of our Enemies

Christ revealed to John in the book of Revelation what Christ is doing now and shall do fully in the end. Since Christ ascended to his throne, like he did in Egypt, Christ has been sending his angels and pouring out “vials of wrath” on the inhabitants of this earth. In Revelation you can’t help noticing how they resemble the plagues he poured upon Egypt.

Our text speaks of him “cutting Egypt in pieces and drying up the rivers.”, which means their power.] So in Revelation 16: 12, Christ showed John one the last plagues, “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.” In the last of these last days, Christ our King shall dry up all the power of all our enemies like he

dried the Red Sea and the river Euphrates then delivered his remnant out. Doing so Christ shall prepare deliverance for those he has made kings and priests unto God.

Our text speaks of how Christ **wounded the dragon**, Pharaoh and Babylon's king. So Christ showed John that in the end, Revelation 20: 10: And the devil [the Dragon] that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever...15: And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Christ Shall Deliver us to Mt Zion

Isaiah 51: 11: Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion;

It was Christ carried Israel to earthly Mt. Zion the first time. Christ returned them to Mt. Zion in Isaiah's day. But greater than that mountain Christ carried all his elect in his body to the true Mt. Zion when he arose and sat down at the right hand of the Father. Christ's carried each of us there through faith when he worked grace in our hearts. We see him sitting there now by faith. Likewise,

1 Corinthians 15: 24: Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25: For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26: The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Christ assures us verse 6, "the heavens [and earth] shall vanish away like smoke,...but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished." Christ showed John in Revelation 21: 1: And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2: And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Christ Shall Bring All to Rejoice

Isaiah 51: 11:...and everlasting joy shall be upon their head. Something caught my attention here. Should that say "heads." Listen to Isaiah 35: 10: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. But our text says, "**everlasting joy shall be upon their Head.**" Everlasting joy shall be upon our Head, Christ Jesus, when the fullness of his body is complete.

Revelation 21: 3:...he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

We shall rejoice as well, brethren, **Isaiah 51: 11:...they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.**

Revelation 21: 4: And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Christ Shall Make our Wilderness Like Eden

Our Savior assured us in verse 3, "he will make her wilderness like Eden." Listen to this description of heavens Zion: Revelation 22: 1: And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2...there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3:...no more

curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: 4 And THEY SHALL SEE HIS FACE.

Wisdom dictated these words to Solomon, “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.” (Ecc 1: 9)

Brethren, since God the Father entrusted all to Christ Jesus his Arm, these works we have seen: is what has been, and shall be; what is done, and what shall be done. And there is no new thing under the sun.

Therefore, by his Wisdom and Power, in our hearts, believers pray without ceasing: in submission, in praise and in full assurance. We have a glorious past, a glorious present, and a glorious future.

And this is our prayer:

Revelation 22: 17: the Spirit and the bride say, Come....come, Lord Jesus. Amen!