

Series: Isaiah
Title: Prayer Answered
Text: Isaiah 51: 12-16
Date: March 3, 2013
Place: SGBC, New Jersey

Today our text is our Mediators answer to our prayer. As we read our text, I will give you our divisions.

Divisions: 1) Our Savior reminds us God is our Comforter and Creator—v12: **I, even I, am he that comforteth you: who art thou, that thou shouldst be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass; 13: And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?** 2) Our Savior reminds us God is the Lord of hosts—v14: **The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail. 15: But I am the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts is his name.** 3) Our Savior reminds us his purpose in all things is our salvation—v16 **And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.**

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Proposition: The answer Christ gives from the Father into our hearts is to correct us and remind us that his very purpose for creating this world and for all that comes to pass in it is our everlasting salvation.

I. CHRIST OUR MEDIATOR REMINDS US GOD IS OUR COMFORTER AND OUR ALL POWERFUL CREATOR

Isaiah 51: 12: I, even I, am he that comforteth you:

Christ is our Comforter, our Consolation. He reminds us God shall continue to comfort us.

Isaiah 51:3: For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Isaiah 66:13: As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Christ comforts us so we can comfort one another.

2 Corinthians 1:4: Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

John 14:18: I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Application: Brethren, the LORD says, “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people.” So let us seek to be a comforter to one another, brethren. I can assure you that as you seek to comfort your brethren, the Spirit of God will greatly comfort you.

So the Lord asks us a question, in verse 12, “**who art thou, that thou shouldst be afraid of a man that shall die, and of the son of man which shall be made as grass?**” Man is not one we should fear.

Isaiah 40:6: The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: 7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. 8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

We saw before, after declaring that his word shall proceed from him, Christ said the same thing in verse 7:

Isaiah 51: 7: Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings. 8: For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and the worm shall eat them like wool: but my righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation from generation to generation.

Application: What are some ways you and I fear man?

1) A young believer is out with friends. The group wants to do something you know is not honoring to your Savior. But you are fearful of what they will think of you if you walk away, if you call home, if you tell them to let you out of the car. The Master says, “**who art thou, that thou shouldst be afraid of a man that shall die.**”

2) Someone comes to hear the gospel. They know they are hearing the gospel. But because of the influence of family or friends they stop coming. That is “fearing man”, rather than God.

3) Maybe it is something fiercer than those examples. On one occasion rulers in government threatened Peter and John, commanding them not to preach Christ to the people:

Acts 4: 19: But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20: For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Those days are coming again. I showed you last time that Christ has worked a definite repeated order of events throughout history. The pattern is: bondage before deliverance. Pharaoh bound Israel then the LORD came and delivered his remnant. Babylon bound Israel then he came and delivered his remnant. The elect were bound in Jerusalem when Christ came in person and set them free.

This world will once again persecute the church then Christ shall come the second time and deliver us. Things will get very bad before Christ returns the second time. We have never really been persecuted for the gospel. Those who don't have root to stand with us now, they will surely be on the side of our persecutors in that day for fear of men. What will we do as days get worse and worse? Cling closer to our Redeemer. Christ is our Comforter—cling to him.

Illustration: The buffalo calf and the wolves.

Christ reminds us that not only is God our Comforter but our Savior is God our all-powerful Creator in verse **13: And forgettest the LORD thy maker, that hath stretched forth the heavens, and laid the foundations of the earth; and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?**

Our Maker “stretched forth the heavens.”

Is 40: 12: meted out heaven with the span...22: stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

He made all things for himself—even the wicked for the day of evil—even the oppressor—that he might make his power and mercy known on you whom he has called. So he asks, “Why have you **“feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy?”** **“Where is the fury of the oppressor?”** Where is Pharaoh? The king of Assyria? The king of Babylon? The scribes and Pharisee’s who tried to silence the gospel?

Isaiah 54: 5: For thy Maker *is* thine husband; the LORD of hosts *is* his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called...15:...whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake. 16...I have created the waster to destroy. 17: No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

We vainly imagine that if we get the favor of the “man in charge” then we can get judgment to go in our favor. But the judgment of the elect of God is in his hand.

Proverbs 29:26: Many seek the ruler’s favour; but every man’s judgment cometh from the LORD.

Luke 12:4: And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5: But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

Application: Sinner, one of the reasons you have never openly confessed faith in Christ is because you fear men: you fear the reproach of friends or family. Take for example: a man who believes but has never confessed Christ publicly in baptism because he fears offending a family member—that is fearing men. If you fear God and believe on Christ then confess him. The Lord may use your witness for the good of your family member.

II. CHRIST OUR SAVIOR REMINDS US THAT OUR GOD IS THE LORD OF HOST

Isaiah 51: 14: The captive exile hasteneth that he may be loosed, and that he should not die in the pit, nor that his bread should fail. 15: But I *am* the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts *is* his name.

When men become captives, they hasten to be loosed, so they won’t die chained in the pit, so their bread should not fail and they die in the prison house. Sinner, you are captive to sin. The pit you are in is the pit of your own corruption, of sin and death. Your bread has failed. You are “without God, without Christ and without hope in the world.” You have no bread, no life.

Isaiah 50: 1: Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.

Believer, we too become captives in many ways even after the Lord Jesus calls us. But we have no excuse. It is the fear of man, it is our fleshly man, our unbelief. Our Lord says the problem is worsened when we see our captivity, then try to hasten our deliverance by our own hand, he says, in verse **15: But I *am* the LORD thy God, that divided the sea, whose waves roared: The LORD of hosts *is* his name.**

Believer, you who have truly been born of the Spirit of God, Christ our Savior is “the LORD THY God.” And you who have never confessed Christ, it may just be today, that the Lord is revealing in your heart that he is the “LORD thy God!” Only the LORD God can save us.

Like as Christ divided the sea, whose waves roared for his ransomed to pass over, Christ divided the sea of sin and death for his elect on the cross. He bore the fury of the waves of just judgment in his own body on the tree in the place of those given him of the Father. Now, the law’s yoke is removed off his people so we can walk freely across the sea on dry ground. He divided sin off his people as far as east is from the west. He conquered death by his death, as he conquered the Red Sea

Job 33:24: Then he is gracious unto him, and saith, Deliver him from going down to the pit: I have found a ransom.

The LORD of hosts is his name. The GodMan Mediator has all power in heaven and in earth given as the reward from the Father for accomplishing so great salvation for his people.

Colossians 2:15: *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, **triumphing** over them in it.

Christ is the Lord of the armies in heaven and earth. The king of Babylon said himself:

Daniel 4: 35: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

Therefore our Sovereign Savior is able to save in every way: in a natural sense, over all government, and in the spiritual sense. He is the LORD of lords; —**the LORD of hosts is his name!**

Application: Sinner and saint, look to no other. The largest most ferocious and furious oppressor in this earth is a little ant in the hand of God our Redeemer—

Proverbs 21:1: The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

III. CHRIST OUR SAVIOR REMINDS US THAT THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH HE IS DOING ALL THINGS IS OUR SALVATION

Isaiah 51: 16: And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand, that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.

It is the Lord our Redeemer who has called us, “**And I have put my words in thy mouth, and I have covered thee in the shadow of mine hand.**” He put his words in our mouth, like the Father did him when he came and redeemed his people. I stand here before you this hour a helpless, powerless, earthen vessel. But I stand here as one in whose mouth the LORD of lords has put his words. I stand here with absolutely no power to take my next breath, but I stand here covered in the shadow of his hand.

The purpose for which he gives us the words of eternal life, is that he might accomplish the purpose for which God the Father sent him. He says in verse 16, **that I may plant the heavens, and lay the foundations of the earth, and say unto Zion, Thou art my people.**

The new heavens and the new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness are the heavens and the earth spoken of here. Christ plants the new heavens by planting his word in the hearts of each of his people through the hearing of the gospel. Christ lays the foundations of the earth by laying each of his elect upon Christ our one Foundation. Because the purpose which God the Father purposed in himself was:

Ephesians 1: 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

So that God who is invisible, might bring his elect children together in the GodMan, so that we might see God face-to-face in the face of Christ Jesus, and God might “**say unto Zion, Thou art my people.**” You see Zion is his people, not a mountain of dirt in the middle east. His church is his people: not a building of sticks and stones. His kingdom is his people, not a political kingdom in this sin-cursed earth.

He made this heavens and earth so that after all came under the curse he might show his glory, make his power known, his grace known, by saving a remnant into that new heavens and new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. Everything there is the creation of the Lord our Righteousness. God the Father entrusted the work to God the Son and “he shall not fail, till he hath set judgment in the earth and the isles—all his elect from among every nation in this earth—shall obey his word.

God who preserves us is the God of absolute, unalterable purpose; and his purpose is the purpose of grace, to save us from our sins into his presence, perfect and spotless so that we can have perfect communion with him. So sinner cast your care into his hand. And brethren, fear not.

Romans 8: 31: What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

Illustration: We are so fearful because we think our stuff is our security. Our worry hinders us from communion with God our Father. Imagine if Scott were in a far country. One of you called him and said, “William has Christine and the children locked out of the house. He is saying that he is worried, that he needs a roof over his head, he needs clothes, he need food. So he has them locked out because he can’t afford to share with them anything in his house.” Then Scott calls me and tells me to go and tell William, “Son, why are you worried? I own the whole house, everything in it, the ground it sits on and I own you. I will provide everything for you.” Well, brethren, God our Father has sent me here today with this message for you, his children, “All that we call our own belongs to God, and by purchasing us with his blood, we belong to God.”

Romans 8: 32: He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

Fear not man! Fear the Lord! Cast all care into his hand and rest in him.

Amen!