

Series: Isaiah
Title: The Servant's Inheritance
Text: Isaiah 54: 13-17
Date: April 27, 2014
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In Isaiah 54: 17 we read this, **Isaiah 54: 17: This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD...**

The LORD is Jehovah—our triune God, manifest in the person of Christ Jesus the Son of God. “Heritage” means inheritance or portion or estate. “This is the inheritance of the servants of the LORD.” Every believer is a “servant” of the LORD.

So our subject is: The Servant's Inheritance

Are there any believers here who are interested in what Jehovah promises to us, who serve him?

Proposition: In our text, the LORD God promises each of his people education, justification, protection and vindication.

This by no means exhausts this subject. The Holy Spirit declares to every believer **“all things are yours.”** (1 Cor 3: 21) Also, we have already seen in this chapter a great part of our inheritance in the verses we have covered. Christ our Husband promises to make us—the church, his bride—fruitful. (vv1-3) Christ our Redeemer makes an everlasting covenant, promising, we shall never be ashamed or put to shame, but shall have everlasting mercies from his hand. (vv4-10) Christ our Builder promises us—we—his temple—shall be adorned with the precious stones of Christ and his grace. (vv11-12)

I. SO TODAY, LET'S BEGIN WHERE IT ALL BEGAN FOR US WHO NOW BELIEVE, ALL THE CHURCH'S CHILDREN SHALL BE SPIRITUALLY EDUCATED—TAUGHT OF GOD—Isaiah 54: 14: And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

Every individual elect child of God shall be taught of God in the new heart. What shall we be taught? He shall teach us his Son and all his glories! It pleased God from eternity for Christ, his Son, to have all preeminence. So God will see to it that Christ has all preeminence in the hearts of each of his saints. That means God will teach each child in the heart our total depravity, our total unrighteousness, our total helplessness and our total unworthiness in sin. He will teach each of his children that salvation is entirely of God's grace—from election, to redemption, to regeneration, to sanctification, to preservation, to resurrection, to glorification—all is of God's free and sovereign, distinguishing, grace. God will teach each child that Christ Jesus is All and in all his people. The effectual result is that we shall all come to Christ in saving faith.

John 6: 44: No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 45: It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Once, God has drawn us to Christ in saving faith then shall we find great, everlasting, abounding peace—“great shall be the peace of thy children.”

II. THE PEACE CHRIST IS, AND THAT CHRIST GIVES, IS FOUNDED UPON THIS SECOND PART OF OUR INHERITANCE—JUSTIFICATION—Isaiah 54: 14: In righteousness shalt thou be established:....

In righteousness—as opposed to oppressive injustice and robbery, oppressive fear and oppressive terror—by which Satan cast us down by Adam’s transgression in the garden and held us—until Christ saved us.

The chief attribute of our God is holy righteousness; the chief characteristic of Christ’s kingdom and reign is holy righteousness; the foundation on which his church is built is perfect holy righteousness

Ours but Not of Us

This righteousness is ours—but it is not produced by us—

Ecclesiastes 7:20: For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

Romans 3:20: Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Not one of us here—nor any sinner on this earth—can keep the law of God nor put away our sins by anything we do. We cannot make ourselves righteous and justified by our deeds. But we must be righteous or God will not receive us. How then can a man be just with God?

Our righteousness is Christ our God and Savior—**Isaiah 54: 17:…THEIR righteousness is OF ME, saith the LORD.** All is by the person and finished accomplishments of Christ Jesus.

God the Son took a nature like his people and Christ Jesus fulfilled the righteousness of the law for all God’s elect so that in Christ we have perfectly established the whole law of God.

Matthew 5:17: Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil....19:…whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Christ is that Great One in the kingdom of heaven. He has done the law and he teaches each of his redeemed that it is finished!

Furthermore, Christ purged the sins of all God’s elect when he took our place on the cross.

Hebrews 9: 26:…now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

1 John 3:5: And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Christ established every elect child of God in perfect righteousness, which shall be imputed to each one for whom Christ died through faith in Christ when we are born of God and brought to forsake our filthy rags for Christ our Righteousness.

Romans 4: 21: And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22: And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23: Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24: But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25: Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. 5: 1: Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

And because Christ is God eternal, this work is eternal. He not only restored us completely in righteousness, but he has made you who believe, everlastingly righteous.

Christ our Righteousness is the totality of our inheritance, and is by far, the most important part of our inheritance. Every other aspect of our inheritance listed in this chapter is rooted and grounded and flows from Christ and the truth that he has established his people in his perfect righteousness.

III. Not only is our inheritance education and justification, THIRDLY, OUR INHERITANCE IS PROTECTION—Isaiah 54: 14:...thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

First and foremost, this has to do with the oppression and fear and terrors of the Devil and his messengers of oppression.

Hebrews 2: 14: Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Brethren, because of Christ our Righteousness in whom we are established in perfect righteousness forever, though Satan and wicked impostors join hands in every way to oppress and terrify us, our Lord Jesus will see to it that they accomplish nothing.

They Shall Gather Together

God gives us a sure expectation—**Isaiah 54: 15: Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me.** The enemies of Christ shall surely gather: often in the name of Christ, often in disguise, often as personal friends and loved ones. They shall surely gather together—those who are enemies to each other will gather together as friends to persecute Christ and his church. The enemy shall gather together in great numbers—to the physical eye they gather in greater numbers than the church of God. But remember, the young man with Elisha when he saw all that host surrounding him. He said,

2 Kings 6: 15:...Alas, my Master! How shall we do! 16: And [Elisah] answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 17: And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Our Lord says, “They shall surely gather together but not by me.”—that is their heart is not to do God’s will; their heart is not to exalt Christ and abase man but to exalt man. But rest assured, the enemy is under God’s sovereign control!

They Shall Fall for Thy Sake

God promises us, **Isaiah 54: 15:...whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.** Those who are God’s elect among them shall be conquered by God’s grace through the gospel and shall fall before God in submission to him and join with us. And those who are God’s enemies shall fall by God’s sovereign power and justice.

Hebrews 10: 12: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13: From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

God says this shall come to pass “for thy sake.”—or “because of the love that I bear toward you.”

Psalm 105: 12: When they were *but* a few men in number; yea, very few, and strangers in it. 13: When they went from one nation to another, from *one* kingdom to another people; 14: He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes; 15: *Saying*, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

The Enemy and Their Purpose

Where does the enemy come from? Why would God even allow the enemy to exist amongst his people? They serve God’s purpose. The Lord, in absolute sovereignty brings forth the manufacturer—**Isaiah 54: 16: Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire.** And God overrules the instruments they make—**and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work;** And God overrules the user and the use of those instruments—**Isaiah 54: 6:...and I have created the waster to destroy.** Brethren, Christ led captivity captive. He shall use the destroyer to destroy the destroyer; his enemies to destroy his enemies.

Revelation 13: 10: He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

So since God rules even the destroyers, he gives his people this sure promise—Isaiah 54: 17: No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper. This is true of the whole church, as well as each individual member of his body.

Proverbs 12: 21: There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.

Brethren, through the scriptures over history, we see at times the LORD would not allow the enemy to even touch his people.

- Pharaoh at the Red Sea
- Haman toward Mordecai and the Jews
- Joshua and Israel at Jericho

Other times, though the LORD may allow the enemy to touch his saints, yet he glorifies his name by it, gives us grace to endure it and betters his saints by it. But God never allows us to be separated from the love of God in Christ Jesus. This is the most important and best news we could receive from God. Listen:

Romans 8: 38:...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 91: 1: He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2: I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. 3: Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

IV. So our inheritance is education, justification—and because we are made righteous in Christ—we have divine protection. FOURTHLY, GOD PROMISES US THAT OUR INHERITANCE SHALL BE VINDICATION—Isaiah 54: 17:...and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.

We Shall Condemn Satan

The devil is the accuser of the brethren. But get this:

Revelation 12:10: And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

God says of all those for whom Christ died, who are brought by Christ to put their trust in Christ,

Romans 8: 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34: Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

The Lord Jesus guards us, as our righteous Advocate before God the Father.

1 John 2: 1: My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

We Shall Condemn the Enemies of the Gospel

Furthermore, those who would rise against us by discrediting our gospel, we shall condemn. Every false gospel is created by Satan—"he is the father of lies." The devil raises up religions, Christ casts them down. The only religion that will stand the test of eternity is the gospel of Christ and him crucified! But if we preach Christ we can expect to be treated like the world treated Christ.

Matthew 10: 24: The disciple is not above *his* master, nor the servant above his lord. 25: It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more *shall they call* them of his household? 26: Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. 27: What I tell you in darkness, *that* speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, *that* preach ye upon the housetops. 28: And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

We Shall Condemn Those Who Lay Personal Charges

Furthermore, every individual slander and accusation against your own person you shalt condemn—even those made by our own old fleshly, sinful man. Christ teaches us through the Holy Spirit, through the apostle Paul, through his word:

Romans 12: 19: Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20: Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21: Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 Corinthians 4: 3: But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. 4: For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

In the great day of judgment, Christ shall declare that there is no condemnation for you who are in Christ, he will declare that our gospel was true, and that every charge laid against us was false and “every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn.”

Brethren, what an inheritance we have by the righteousness of Christ Jesus: fruitfulness, everlasting mercy, precious stones for precious stones. And as we have seen today, education for they shall be all taught of God; justification for we shall be established in righteousness and great peace; protection for no weapon formed against thee shall prosper; and vindication for 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.” (v17)

Amen!