

Amazed by Grace

Isaiah 54-55

Isaiah 44 and 45 tell us of the grace that would come to both Israel and Gentile nations because of the work of the suffering Servant of the Lord, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. God's grace changes everything.

- I. Grace Restores _____ (54:1-17).
 - A. From barren to _____ (1-3)
 - B. From fear to _____ (4-10)
 - C. From ruin to _____ (11-17)
- II. Grace Rewards _____ (55:1-13)
 - A. An invitation to _____ of God's satisfying _____ (1-5)
 - B. An invitation to _____ for God's successful _____ (6-13)
 - 1. Abundance of God's _____ (6-9)
 - 2. Reliability of God's _____ (10-11)

We are frequently told, indeed, that the great danger of the theological student lies precisely in his constant contact with divine things. They may come to seem common to him because they are customary. As the average man breathes the air and basks in the sunshine without ever a thought that it is God in his goodness who makes his sun to rise on him, though he is evil, and sends rain to him, though he is unjust; so you may come to handle even the furniture of the sanctuary with never a thought above the gross earthly materials of which it is made. The words which tell you of God's terrible majesty or of his glorious goodness may come to be mere words to you— Hebrew and Greek words, with etymologies, inflections and connections in sentences. The reasonings which establish to you the mysteries of his saving activities may come to be to you mere logical paradigms, with premises and conclusions, fitly framed, no doubt, and triumphantly cogent, but with no further significance to you than their formal logical conclusiveness. God's stately stepplings in his redemptive processes may become to you a mere series of facts of history . . . It is your great danger.

But it is your great danger *only* because it is your great privilege. Think of what your privilege is when your greatest danger is that the great things of religion may become common to you! Other men, oppressed by the hard conditions of life, sunk in the daily struggle for bread perhaps, distracted at any rate by the dreadful drag of the world upon them and the awful rush of the world's work, find it hard to get time and opportunity so much as to pause and consider whether there be such things as God, and religion, and salvation from the sin that compasses them about and holds them captive. The very atmosphere of your life is these things; you breathe them in at every pore: they surround you, encompass you, press in upon you from every side. It is all in danger of becoming common to you! God forgive you, you are in danger of becoming weary of God!