

THE HAPPY CONDITION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- INTRO:** -Our text comes as the conclusion of a series of blessings Moses pronounced over the twelve tribes just before his death.
 -This is closely related to the introduction of the chapter: blessings God's people will receive from the Lord!
 -These pronouncements will be realized. Why? Only because there is none like unto the God of Jeshurun. None like unto him!
 -What is the truth for Israel of old? What is the truth for the church today? "The eternal God is thy refuge!"

I. OUR GLORIOUS GOD.

- A. The PICTURE painted.
1. There is first the picture of God riding powerfully upon the heavens to speedily come to his people's help (vs.2, 26).
 2. There is second the picture of God as a shelter, a covering, the shadow of God's wings like a roof to protect them.
 3. The third picture is God's arms stretched forth to sustain them from beneath.
- B. A God of infinite perfections.
1. Moses mentions only one by name (vs. 27): his eternity. "The eternal God...the everlasting arms:"
 2. The idea of these is that God has no beginning. He is before the beginning and he has no end, he is everlasting.
 3. This is the same idea that we find in Ps. 90:1, "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations..."
- C. God is full of infinite perfections.
1. To mention only some: immutability, independence, omnipresence, omniscience, righteous, holy, love, grace, & power.
 2. Surely in the pictures and description of God in our text we see the glory and greatness and power and love of our God.
 3. We know this exalted and glorious God because he came down to show himself to us his recreated people.
 4. We see God and his attributes revealed in creation, and esp. in the work of redemption.
 5. The central revelation of this glorious God is in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ!
- D. This God is Israel's God.
1. He is not the God of all humans. His grace and love and care are not intended for all.
 2. He has chosen Israel (the church) and he is their everlasting covenant God.
 3. Of this God, Israel is most ill-deserving. She is a stiff-necked people, rebellious. There is absolutely nothing good in them.
 4. Yet this people hath Jehovah formed for himself; they shall show forth his praise (Isa. 43:21).

II. ISRAEL IS A "PEOPLE SAVED BY THE LORD."

- A. A very present help.
1. The passage speaks of God riding upon the heaven "**IN THY HELP**".
 2. Always God's people are surrounded by enemies bent upon their destruction. Do you know them? Do you see them?
 3. Listen as Moses describes our God as "the **shield** of thy help, and who is the **sword** of thy excellency!"
 4. Can you also relate to this in the 30 years that God has given to us as a congregation?
- B. A safe retreat: watchful, loving care.
1. God is our asylum, a refuge, our hiding place. Moses uses the same word in Ps. 90: "our dwelling place".
 2. But God is not only an abiding place, he is also a refuge because God's people are always threatened with danger.
 3. As God was that refuge in the past, he is now, and always will be. Underneath are the everlasting arms.
 4. Those are arms on which palms our names are engraved (Isa. 49:16), arms of strength that lift us up and embrace us.
- C. The church shall dwell in safety alone.
1. God is the antitype of the cities of refuge to which sinners could flee for refuge and be safe from avenging justice.
 2. In Christ Jesus, we are safe for evermore. He is our hiding place! His arms wrought our salvation. He snatched us up.
 3. His everlasting arms are under us. We are safe. We rest alone. We are set free in liberty.
- D. The church shall see her children's children.
1. Vs. 28 speaks of the fountain of Jacob. Israel dwelling in the promised land will be gathered in her generations.
 2. They will dwell in a land of corn and wine, the heavens dropping down her dew.
 3. These are material blessings that picture the spiritual blessings of God's people in his church, and one day in heaven.
 4. What blessings we celebrate as God's church in the 30 years he has given us as a congregation!

III. THE COMFORT THIS GIVES: "Happy are thou O Israel: who is like unto thee?" (vs.29)

- A. Moses looks back and looks forward.
1. He traces God's help from Sinai through the wilderness, the defeat of Sihon and Og and speaks prophetically of the future.
 2. We today look back at God's goodness and help these past 30 years, and have certainty regarding his help in the future..
- B. These blessings come to us only through our covenant eternal God and his everlasting arms.
1. Every time that the church depends upon the arm of flesh, she is put to shame.
 2. But as our eyes are upon the God of our salvation, we weather the storms of life and are perfectly safe and blest!