

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

During Solomon’s reign, the nation of Israel enjoyed a prolonged period of worldly peace and prosperity. Yet Solomon, like all men by nature, departed from those things which the LORD had taught him, and brought shame upon himself and his nation as he worshipped other gods. Still the LORD did not rend the kingdom from him, in honor of HIS promise to Solomon’s father; David. In this we see illustrated the glorious covenant of redemption which HE will ever uphold, which is based solely upon HIS promise to our greater DAVID. “He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation. Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.” How blessed are the sons of GOD because of that everlasting covenant with CHRIST wherein the FATHER bestowed all blessing on HIS SON, “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.”

Only for David’s sake, was Solomon spared, yet the LORD did promise to take the kingdom from Solomon’s son. Once Solomon was dead, it was not long before Israel was divided into the northern and southern kingdoms of Judah and Israel and many kings, some good and some bad (ruled over their kingdoms constantly being besieged and harassed by a vast array of enemies. Yet the LORD preserved to HIMSELF a remnant even in these times and spoke to them through many prophets.

Jeremiah was brought on the scene in time to prophesy of the certain destruction of Jerusalem, but no one believed him. When he spoke the truth, false prophets arose to contradict him and to ultimately deliver the nation up to its ordained end. The risings and fallings of those; identified as the children of Israel, were ordained to occur by HIM who would demonstrate; that HE will never forsake those who are the people of HIS choice. Isaiah spoke of the type of righteousness which is accepted with the FATHER and the total lack thereof in the sons of men when he says, **“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.”**

The LORD does indeed have regard unto RIGHTEOUSNESS and the MAN that doth wait upon HIM. Isaiah inserts one of the biggest “buts” in all of the scriptures as he sets forth the complete unacceptability of any righteousness which a man might assume that he possesses or could presume to bring unto the LORD. Man’s “*righteousnesses*” are as vile and stinking cloths, (ie. filthy rags) unto HIM who will not look upon sin. The very best intention of man is as rotting garbage before the LORD.

The total impotence of men by nature is seen in the wasting of Jerusalem and how the Jews were powerless to defend their city against the forces of the Chaldeans. It was necessary that they as a nation be brought down to the dust that they might discover their own barrenness as they had become a proud people, disregarding the word of GOD, even as Jeremiah wept before them and warned them of their impending doom. The only manner in which a man may be found as “righteous” before the LORD, is for HIM to supply it for those who cannot provide it for themselves. Thus, Jeremiah goes on to say “come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God.” This is the place of greatest rejoicing for those who have been shown what true RIGHTEOUSNESS actually is.

Let us declare “the work of the LORD our GOD” as HE raises up the Chaldeans as a mighty people and Nebuchadnezzar as powerful potentate, so that they might be used as an axe to chop the tree of Israel to the ground. Yet this was but a means to an end, and the power of Babylon was soon brought down to a greater ignominy than Israel. For Israel was favored by GOD in a covenant sure and steadfast, while Babylon was merely a tool in HIS hand to work HIS perfect work in that people that HE loved, and whom HE destroyed for daring to bring harm to Israel.

The carnal nation of Israel is but a type and foreshadow of that true Zion, which HE chose in CHRIST from the beginning. Let us declare “the work of the LORD our GOD” as HE provides a perfect RIGHTEOUSNESS for them through imputation. CHRIST is the RIGHTEOUSNESS of HIS people, and they shall never perish because of “the work of the LORD our GOD.” Is CHRIST your righteousness?

“Thy free grace alone,”#11If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net