

Intro: -The Spirit in our text describes Christ as the one sent from God to protect and deliver the house of David from its enemies.

-This is an aspect of Christ's character that many do not like to dwell on. He is the battle bow in the hand of the Almighty.

-He shall smite the nations who have filled the cup of their iniquity, and rule them with a rod of iron, dashing them to pieces (Ps. 2:9)!

I. THE INSTRUMENT OF WAR

A. The battle imagery:

1. We have the imagery of war, a warrior, a battle that is ongoing that ends in victory over enemies.
2. We are the church militant!
3. We are called to fight against sin, Satan, and self.

B. At the head of God's people there is a captain that is leading us in the war.

1. An able and sure Captain is indispensable at the head of the army.
2. Many types are given in Scripture. But they are all pictures of the great Captain of our host.
3. We might despair if we fought in our own ingenuity and strength, for our enemies are many.
4. We must look and depend upon our elder brother to fight for us.

C. The important principle: ***Redeemed with Judgment***

1. The coming of the salvation of Zion always goes hand in hand with judgment upon the ungodly world.
2. The judgment of the world is the salvation of the church and vice versa.
3. Examples: a. the flood b. the exodus c. conquest of Canaan d. destruction of Edom

4. So also in the last days when Christ comes again. We should not be troubled when God's judgments are in the earth.

II. THE EXALTED CHRIST SPRINKLED WITH BLOOD.

A. He is the man *out of God*.

1. In Zech. 10:4 and Isa. 62:11, the help and salvation is emphatically from God.
2. Isa. 62 & 63 personifies that salvation as it is embodied in the person of the Savior (reward & recompense with him).
3. The point of Isa. 63 in the context of 62 is that the salvation of Zion is also the destruction of Zion's enemies.
4. He is the strong man who has entered the strong man's house and has spoiled him (Luke 11:21,22 Matt. 12:29 Mk 3:27).

B. He is the man who comes out of Edom *covered with blood*.

1. Isaiah is puzzled with this vision, does not immediately recognize him because the salvation of the Lord is red in apparel.
2. This man is glorious in his blood-spattered apparel, majestic, marching forth in great strength.
3. "Who is this? Wherefore art thou red?" It is the One who has trodden the winepress alone.
4. Pictured is not the suffering servant of God but the Christ in his exaltation. The blood on him is not his own, but of enemies.
5. Pictured is this man in the process of trampling the nations in the winepress of the wrath of God, staining his garments.

C. He is the Battle Bow *of vengeance*. (Not common grace!)

1. He will tread down his enemies "in mine anger, and trample them in my fury" (Isa. 63: 3).
2. This vengeance is unique. He tramples the wine press *alone!* These words were fulfilled centrally in the death of Christ.
3. As he bore God's wrath alone, so also now he executes the wrath of God alone. He crushes the head of the serpent!
4. He is the avenger alone. The 'Christian' nations who are given the sword do not use it for God's cause.
5. Edom is singled out in Isa. 63, descendants of Esau who was Jacob's bitterest enemy; he was an enemy of God!
7. History is about this conflict of the ages: the ungodly reprobate wicked cast into the winepress of the wrath of God.

III. THE MOTIVE OF CHRIST'S WARFARE.

A. The motive of the battle bow is wrath and vengeance: "The day of vengeance is in mine heart (Isa. 63:4)."

1. Day of vengeance is in principle the day of the cross, when Christ saved his people, but also condemned the world.
2. It is the entire new dispensation which is both the year of Christ's redeemed and day of wrath for the wicked.
3. The ultimate day of vengeance is the final outpouring of God's wrath upon the wicked in the great day of the Lord.
4. Christ is the lovely & lowly Savior, but with regard to the wicked reprobate, he is the awful and terrible avenger of sin!
5. We are warned not to be found with Edom, in Edom, and on Edom's side. God has his battle bow against him!

B. The vengeance of the Battle Bow is at the same time love towards his people.

1. They are his redeemed ones purchased with his blood in love. He loves them and stands with them as the persecuted ones
2. Vengeance is for all the injury done to his people, his flock, his church with himself at the head.
3. It concerns God's cause, the cause of his Zion, the destruction of his enemies, the maintaining of his justice.
4. It concerns the defense of God's people and the protecting of his house.
5. When we see his judgments in the world, know that redemption draws nigh!