

Because Of The Anointing

The continuing reference to the Lord's outstretched hand shows the enduring nature of the judgment the Lord will send on wicked Israel and Judah. I am sure we do not understand the total abhorrence and antipathy God has towards sin. In hell God's holy wrath will never be pacified. His hand will be stretched out still in everlasting punishment. The Lord's complaint is with the rich and powerful who exploit and rob the poor by passing laws to deny them justice. Isaiah would have the Jews know that soon their ill-gotten gains will be taken from them by the king of Assyria and they will be captured and killed.

Assyria, too, will be punished

The prophet then turns his attention to the Assyrians whom he describes as a rod; a tool in God's hand to dispense justice. Pompous Sennacherib, king of Assyria, is lifted up with pride. He fancies his victories flow from his own wisdom and strength. Isaiah says soon, he too, shall be broken and humbled. Assyria is likened to an inanimate object, an axe or a saw in the hand of a workman. When it has served its purpose it shall be cast aside.

The remnant will return

Now Isaiah returns to comfort the Lord's people and remind them again their salvation is assured. Yes, the rod would fall upon Judah and Israel. The distress of the nation would be profound. It would not, however, be the end. The rod would chastise, the staff that is Assyria would wound, but it would not completely destroy. Despite all appearances a remnant, the remnant, will be preserved through these dark times and shall return to the Lord as God had decreed.

Isaiah's gospel

This is the prophet's gospel for the Lord's elect and it contains all the meat and matter of the gospel we still believe today. It points to the Lord our Righteousness. Isaiah speaks of God's sovereignty, God's covenant purpose, and God's converting and preserving power. He is the mighty God (v. 21) who saves His people and gathers His elect according to His purpose. He is the covenant God (v. 22) who promised salvation to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob or 'Israel'. He is God who redeems, converts and gives rest to His people by breaking their yoke and setting them free (v. 27).

Christ appointed

Now we are brought to see the ground and reason for every believer's confidence and comfort in Christ. Isaiah tells the people, 'the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing'. Isaiah is speaking of Christ. He who is anointed for the destruction of our enemies is the Messiah and our thoughts are being turned again to chapter 9 and verse 6 where the glorious identity of the child born of a virgin and God's given Son is revealed in His wonderful, glorious character.

Christ anointed

This is pure, sweet gospel. Our Lord Jesus was 'anointed with the oil of gladness above (His) fellows' says the psalmist. He was 'anointed with the Holy Ghost and with power', says Peter, to heal and do good to the souls of chosen sinners according to God's sovereign mercy and promised grace. The salvation of all the elect of God of every age is fixed in God's covenant purpose which Jesus of Nazareth was appointed, and anointed, to fulfil.

Believing brings peace

Men and women of faith in every age find peace and hope in trusting Christ alone for their acceptance with God. In Christ we are holy before God and spotless under the law. When we grasp our acceptance is wholly in Christ and our righteousness is completely from Him, and through Him, we experience liberty and peace. We need fear the Assyrian no more. We need fear Satan no more. Our Mighty God has come to deliver His people from their sins and the Prince of Peace has prevailed.

Sufficient grace

Paul applies these verses to the salvation of God's elect, those saved with a spiritual and eternal salvation. He writes in Romans 9 'a remnant shall be saved'. We are saved because Christ was appointed to stand in our place and anointed to fulfil every obligation and duty required of us. We rest in Christ's complete satisfaction for sin, and the fulness of His provision to meet our every need. We are safe and secure because our Saviour was anointed for the work of bringing us

to God.

Amen

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