

THE RIGHT TO ðBARE ARMSö

Part I

Isaiah 53

March 7, 2010

“A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, and the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

This second amendment to the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution gives all Americans the right to bear arms. The debate has long been whether this amendment should afford the general public along with the militia that right. Though vigorously debated, (even this past week before the Supreme Court), not every one believes the right to bear arms is a good thing. Many in America, even in the highest offices believe we can love our enemy into cooperation. The right to bear arms and a willingness to defend our country must be preserved or the freedom we enjoy will be lost. A military second to none and the will to deploy it is our best defense.

In the spiritual warfare of the church against the world the right to bear arms is also the subject of much debate. In this conflict, *ðthe weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.”* (2 Corinthians 10:4) The true Church is the bride of Christ; bought with his blood and borne by him who is together it's architect, foundation, builder and Head. He alone is responsible to defend and deliver her. The religious world argues that Christ has met his responsibility and the sinner has his responsibility. The world argues that Christ's death did not satisfy law and justice, it only made sinners savable if they meet some condition. But the Scriptures oppose such doctrines and declare otherwise. In **Galatians 5:2** Christ challenges such doctrine with this warning; *“If ye be circumcised Christ shall profit you nothing.”* (Accept Jesus, walk an isle, rededicate, tithe, any exchange.) If you think anything but the imputed righteousness of Christ can recommend you to God, his person and work will do you no good. God will accept no contribution from the sinner toward his salvation.

We might not know for sure the intent of those who wrote the second amendment to our Constitution but those enlightened are sure of whose responsibility it is to the purchase and protection of the Church of God.

Read Isaiah 52:10. *“The Lord has made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”*

Though mans right to bear arms might be challenged, it is foolish to argue against God's right to bare his arm. He not only has that right, He is the arm. Americans have a constitutional right to **bear** (possess) arms. God alone has the wherewithal to **bare** (expose) his holy arm.

The word ðbareö in the Hebrew means to ðuncover, loosen.ö It is used metaphorically of a soldier preparing for battle by uncovering his arms to allow freedom of movement. (We bare our arms when we roll up our sleeves.) The word ðarmö in the Hebrew means power. It comes from the root word, which means ðto sow, to produce.ö It literally reads,

“The Lord has uncovered his power. (He has rolled up his sleeve and all the world will see his salvation.) (ARM)

So we see that the arm made bare is the power of God revealed. **Romans 1:16-17** says the gospel is the power of God unto salvation because therein “*is the righteousness of God revealed (God’s arm made bare) from faith to faith.*” The Arm of God is Jesus Christ. The gospel has uncovered Christ Jesus as the Arm of God. (**Psalm 77:15**); “*Thou hast with thine own arm, redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph.*” (“Christ has redeemed us by his blood”)

God’s arm made bare, exposes, reveals all He is in the engagement of every attribute of his redemptive character in the salvation of his Elect, and he has “*shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,*” his HOLY ARM. (2 Corinthians 4:6)

In **Isaiah 53** we see how God made bare his holy arm in:

- 1. The incarnation of Christ. V1-3, V-2** “*He shall grow up before him.*”
- 2. The humiliation of Christ. V4-9, V-4** “*He was smitten of God and afflicted.*”
- 3. The exaltation of Christ. V10-12, V-12** “*I will divide him a portion with the great.*”

Since we cannot possibly cover all this in one lesson, I will focus our attention today on the incarnation. **God made bare his holy arm in:**

The incarnation of Christ. V1-3

Since the gospel is the good news that God has purposed from eternity and performed in time to make bare his holy arm, it is appropriate to begin with the incarnation of Christ for it is on the rock of Christ’s incarnation that Christianity stands. We have heard about the woman’s seed since Genesis 3. His prophets had prophesied about it for millennia but in the incarnation of Christ (that woman’s seed) God made bare his holy arm.

In the first 3 verses of **Isaiah 53** we have commentary on the incarnation of Christ. Several truths stand out in these verses that will give us a better appreciation of Christ. **The incarnate Christ:**

- 1. Fulfills the promise made by God. V-1**
- 2. Fits this Person who is of God. V-2**
- 3. Forbears with the people of God. V-3**

1. Fulfills the promise made by God. V-1

Webster defines incarnation as the union of Deity with humanity. The eternal Son of God, second Person of the blessed trinity took into union with his Deity, true sinless humanity, body and soul. He was made flesh. This one time act by this one of a kind person was necessary to the salvation of his people and the glory of his father.

The writer of Hebrews said of Christ in 10:5, “*sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not, but a body hast thou prepared me.*” Sacrifice and offerings would be the prescribed way for Israel under the Old Covenant. But Christ, as the Mediator of the New Covenant

would usher in, according to **Hebrews 10:20**, a “*new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say his flesh.*”

The Mosaic sacrificial system, with the shedding of the blood of bulls and goats, which could never take away sins, would be abolished by way of fulfillment by the shed blood of the Anti-type, God the Son incarnate. As God absolutely considered he could not die. But this man who is God did die (“*He died, the just for the unjust.*”) 1 Peter 3:18.) This is attributed to his humanity. In **Hebrews 2: 17**, the writer said, “*Wherefore in all things it behooved (It was due him, it was incumbent upon him) him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*”

As the faithful High Priest of spiritual Israel, he offered his sinless humanity upon the Altar of his Deity to satisfy the Law’s demands against those he represented, thereby making reconciliation to God. **2 Corinthians 5:19**, “*To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the ministry of reconciliation.*” His ambassadors beseech sinners to be reconciled to him based on 2 Corinthians 5:21. “*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*” This message (of reconciliation) is the report spoken of in **Isaiah 53:1**. This “**Report**” is that promise made by God to send his Son into the world

Several questions surface when we read V-1. “*Who has believed our report?*” Who are the our? What is our report? *To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?*” What has the arm of the Lord revealed?

1. Since God, through the prophet Isaiah is speaking here, it is obvious the OUR is the Triune Godhead: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Not three Gods but One God, subsisting in three distinct Persons, each performing their unique offices and speaking the truth in unity. (Unity of report) The report (promise) of one does not oppose the others. God the Father honors the Son. **Read John 8:54.** “*If I honor myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me.*” Said He of Christ in Matthew 17:5, “*This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him.*” God the Son honors the Father. **Read John 7:18.** “*He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory; but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.*” Had not God the Son become incarnate, and spoke to us, we could not know God. Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, in **John 16:13**, “*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*” There is no contradiction between the three persons of the God Head.

The OUR includes God’s messengers only as they deliver the same report. **Read 2 John 9-11.** “*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, (report) receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*”

It’s evident the our are those who faithfully declare God’s gospel.

2. *Who hath believed our report?*” The answer is in **Matthew 7:14**. “*Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life and few there be that find it.*” A little flock, (Luke 12:32), but still a multitude no man can number. (Revelation 7:9) They are those to whom the Arm of the Lord is revealed. No others will believe. (We will see why shortly.)

3. What is our report? Is it not God’s promise concerning the successful, finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ? Is it not concerning that One God promised Moses in **Deuteronomy 18:18**? Listen to the promise. “*I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words (my promise) in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.*”

Jesus is that prophet. He is the subject of the Promise. He is the sum and substance of our report. He said this in **John 7:16**: “*My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.*” It is that report God put in Christ’s mouth. John the Baptist said of him in John 3:34, “*For he whom God hath sent (Christ) speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.*”

It is that report Christ delivered to his Prophets and apostles. Jesus said in **John 17:8**, “*For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.*

It is the report of every redeemed, justified and regenerated sinner. **Read John 17:6**. “*I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.*” What is thy word? It is their report.

It is the true gospel. It opposes that other gospel in **Galatians 1:6-7**. “*I marvel that you are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel which is not another, but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*” Our report is that body of doctrine, which is written and witnessed concerning the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ in the salvation of His sheep. It concerns his person, who he is (God-Man) and his work, what he accomplished for his people. What is our report? Simply stated it is God’s promise to deliver every sinner for whom Christ died from sins bondage and bring them into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Romans 8:21)

4. “*To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?*” To whom is the promise given? To those who believe. It is to these alone Jesus said in **Luke 8:10**, “*Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God: but to others I speak in parables, that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.*”

So if Christ is the sum and substance of our report what does it say about him? What does the holy arm of the Lord made bare expose, reveal, and uncover in the incarnation of Christ? That he is the fulfillment of the promise of God. Who hath believed our promise? “*Moses wrote of the promise.*” Isaiah wrote of the promised Messiah; *unto us a child is born, unto us the Son is given.*” Deity united with sinless humanity. Do you believe the promise? “*The promise is unto you, and unto your children, and to all that*

are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” (Acts 2:39) That “*Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord (believe the promise) shall be saved.*”

The incarnate Christ fulfills the promise of God. V-1

The incarnate Christ fits this person who is of God. V-2

For he shall grow up before him.”

The ðHEö is Christ. The ðHIMö is Israel. ðShall grow upö Jesus grew up before his fellow Israelites. God, absolutely considered cannot grow up. “*I am the Lord, God, I change not.*” But this person who is God did change. From his conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary and his birth “*in the fullness of the time*” he grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom and the Lord was with him.ö (Luke 2:40) This is attributed to his humanity. This man, who is God, is totally fit to the offices appointed him. In his office as Prophet he delivered the word of God in its purity. In his office as Priest he offered upon the altar of his Deity the perfect sacrifice for sins. He offered his sinless humanity a ransom for his people. In his office as King he sits at the right hand of the Father in glory, insuring every sinner for whom he died receives every benefit he earned for them by his obedience unto death and his righteousness imputed. (His blood is the double cure)

“He shall grow up.”

He grew up before Israel a Person with two natures: truly God in the essence of his Deity: true humanity, body and soul without sin. (They didn’t see it) Since God cannot increase or diminish, this change is attributed to his humanity. Growing up is a natural human trait. “*As a tender plant*” speaks of his **humanity** and the uncertainties of physical life. There is no creature as helpless as a newborn baby. Offspring of the animal world are capable almost immediately to provide for themselves. It was years before the Christ child could go it on his own. Like a tender plant he had to be cared for to survive. Jesus, the Christ, the eternal Son of God was conceived in the womb of a peasant woman by the Holy Ghost. He was born in a stable. He was sought by Herod. He fled to Egypt. This dependence can only be attributed to his humanity. Fragile, limited, uncertain. Humanity is ever changing and stands one heartbeat away from eternity. Job 14:1. “*Man, that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble.*”

Christ Jesus, the God-Man “*was touched with the feelings of our infirmities, yet without sin.*” He grew up as a tender plant.

“As a root out of a dry ground.”

Jesus grew up as a tender plant and he grew up a root out of a dry ground. This speaks of his **Deity**. This God-Man, God the Son incarnate grew up out of a dry ground. (Barren, Lifeless) For four hundred years there had been only silence from God to the Nation Israel. Since the Prophet Malachi no word from God was heard. This Christ, of whom Peter said in John 6:68, “*Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life,*” was silent. The land of God was barren, dry, and unfruitful. **But wait.** öGod has not cast away his people which he foreknew.ö (Romans 11:2) **Read Isaiah** 11:1. öAnd there shall come forth a rod (a root) out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Jeremiah 23:5. *“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.”*

In order for a root to grow out of dry ground, it must grow deep to find moisture. This root, this offspring of the lineage of Jesse has His roots in eternity. He is God the Son incarnate, one person, two natures. Truly God in the essence of his Deity, very God of very God, second Person of the Trinity, Creator, Governor and Sovereign Lord over all: and yet true humanity, body and soul without sin. Set up in eternity to be that root out of a dry ground and he fits the bill perfectly. He is the eternal God. Sinners are forbidden to worship another man. But this man who is God demands our worship. Man cannot give life, but this man who is God alone gives life.

He is the only begotten Son of God: one of a kind: not another like him. This seed of woman promised so many thousands of years before sprang up out of a dry ground. According to **John 1:14**. He, the eternal God *“was made flesh and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”* He, the incarnate Son of God is fitting to this person who is God.

1. The incarnate Christ fulfills the promise of God. V-1

2. The incarnate Christ fits this Person who is of God. V-2

3. The incarnate Christ forbears with the people of God. V-3

What a loving and gracious Father we have who is longsuffering to us ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

This wonderful Savior sent of the Father, is unrecognizable to his own Elect by nature. (*“We esteemed (counted him not) him not.”*)

Because of our self-righteousness, self-love and religious pride, we see no beauty in him. *“He has no form of comeliness.”* This Person with two natures is unattractive to even his own sheep. Nothing in his demeanor or character causes sinners to desire him. Men by nature always judge according to the outward appearance. If we could just see a sign or experience something we would believe. No we wouldn't. Those of his day saw his miracles and believed not. Jesus told his hearers; *“though one rise from the dead you will not believe.”* (What will cause a sinner to believe?)

Jesus said in John 6:63, *“The words I speak unto you, they are Spirit, they are life.”* We rather see a sermon than hear one will convince no one. The gospel is the power.

By nature when we hear his word we despise him, we esteem him not. We hide our faces from him. The scriptures say **“they all forsook him and fled.”** We reject his report. **But wait.** Though we esteem him not, he does not fail to esteem his elect. *“Who hath believed our report,”* those to whom the arm of the Lord is revealed. Who are they? They to whom the Lord is long suffering, not willing that any should perish.

Such a person was Isaiah, *“a man of unclean lips who lived among a people of unclean lips.”* (Isaiah 6:5) But now he asks; *“who hath believed OUR report.”* What precipitated this change in Isaiah? **Read Romans 2:4.** It was the forbearance of God. *“Or despiseth thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long suffering; (Yes we did) not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth to repentance?”* God extended his mercy to Isaiah the only way he ever has: He made bare his holy arm. Isaiah like all, experienced

the "power of God unto salvation" when he heard God's report concerning the incarnate Son of God ("*And was made willing in the day of God's power to believe.*")

Aren't you glad he fulfilled the promise of God? Aren't you glad he is fitting to the person of God? Aren't you glad he forbears with the people of God? Even today, as his arm is bared will you "believe our report"? Friend, "*there is salvation in none other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.*"

The church has a Savior, God the Son incarnate. He has saved his people by the blood of his cross. He is saving them by his mighty arm made bare. Those for whom Christ died shall see his salvation.

Americans have the right to bear arms. God has the might to bare his arm.

By Winston Pannell