

The LORD Will Never Forget Zion

Isaiah 49:14-26

Halifax: 14 November 2010

Introduction

Last week we began a new section of Isaiah's prophecy that begins in chapter 49.

- In this section, Isaiah focuses on the work that will be done by the Servant of the LORD (Jesus Christ) for the salvation of Israel and the world.

Last week, we saw how the Servant Himself would be discouraged in the midst of His work,

- but how His heavenly Father came to Him to reassure Him that His work would not fail!
- We have to remember that while He was yet alive, He was despised and rejected by His own people.
 - He had to bear with the difficulty of that.
 - How could He expect to be the Saviour of the world when His own people did not even accept Him?

But there was tremendous encouragement given to the servant (and to all who love Him).

1. First, there was the encouragement that God had called Him to His work (of bringing salvation) from the womb.
 - He did not appoint Himself, but was called to this work.
 - It would not fail because it was God's work.
2. Secondly, there was the encouragement that He was thoroughly furnished for this great work!
 - His mouth was made like a sharp sword—He would conquer with the Word.
 - He speaks life into the souls of sinners and destruction to His enemies.
 - Though the sword was hidden for a time, it would break forth when God appointed it to do so.
3. And thirdly, there was the encouragement of God's promises.
 - His heavenly Father promised that He would not only give Him the to raise up the lost sheep of the house of Israel,
 - but that He would also make Him to be His salvation to the nations!
 - He Himself would be the covenant of their salvation and they would flood into His kingdom from all directions!

God's words to His Son brought great encouragement to Him.

- No doubt, these words encouraged Jesus when He had to bear the long and hard days of His ministry on earth in the flesh...

- Surely He was able to look at what the Father said here and draw great comfort from it, knowing that His labour would not be in vain.
- Isaiah called upon the whole earth to break forth in joyful worship because of what God had promised to His Son!
 - And well we should, for He did this for our salvation if we are among those He has chosen who come to receive it!
 - It is a matter of great encouragement to us that the Father promises to prosper the work of Christ for our salvation!

But my brothers and sisters, sometimes we are almost beyond encouragement!

- Sometimes we see how far we have drifted from the LORD and how far His people are from what we are called to be and we nearly despair of all hope.
 - You feel like the prodigal son who had sinned his life away.
 - Instead of serving the Lord, you have squandered His inheritance...
 - You have not hungered for His Word...
 - You have not spent time in real prayer—just the formal stuff...
 - You have not laboured to glorify Him but have been slack...
 - And like the prodigal son,
 - You suppose that the most you can be is a servant in God’s house.
 - An inheritance is out of the question.
 - Like the prodigal, you say to yourself:
 - Luke 15:18-19: ‘I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."’
 - Like the publican, you cannot lift up your eyes to heaven.
 - You are too ashamed.
 - All you can do is ask God for mercy.

Such were the sentiments of Zion according to Isaiah in verse 14 of our text.

- Isaiah had just said:
 - Isaiah 49:13: Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted.
 - But Zion could not sing.
- Look at verse 14:
 - Isaiah 49:14: But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, And my Lord has forgotten me."
 - Isn't that awful?

- They do not see themselves as benefiting from Christ’s work but as forgotten by the LORD.
- Even though God has promised so many great things to His Servant,
 - Zion is not looking at the Servant but only at herself.

But there is great encouragement given to Zion—and to you—in our text.

- Just as our Lord spoken words of encouragement to His Son in the first part of this chapter, so now He speaks words of encouragement to despondent Zion.

I. See first of all that the LORD says that He will *never* forget His people!

A. It may seem like at times.

1. It may seem like it for the corporate church...

a. It can be so discouraging to see children grow up in the church without a heart for God...

- to see covenant children living in cold indifference to His promises and His mercies...
- We say, “Where is the LORD in all this?”

b. It can be discouraging to see all the division in the church...

- Even brothers who both claim to love the Lord Jesus can become envious and competitive and live as rivals instead of as brothers...

- And how discouraging it is for us to be caught up in the middle of divisions and to be hated by those who are supposed to be known for their love...

- and to find that same hatred and coolness in our own hearts toward our brothers.

- How can we say that we love God if we do not love our brother?

- What hope is there for us?

c. And then there are all the differences in doctrine...

- We almost despair of believing anything because people we respect are saying different things...

- We do not know what to think and feel like we want to be Christian agnostics who say it is impossible to know rather than to seek to grow in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine.

d. And then there is all the worldliness in the church—

- as we see professing Christians making a mockery of God's name by pettiness, by divorce, by adultery and fornication, by covetousness, by Sabbath breaking, by idolatrous worship...
 - What hope is there?
 - Surely the Lord has forgotten us?
2. And then it may seem like you yourself have been forgotten by Him...
- I have already described this...
 - You feel like the prodigal son who had sinned his life away.
 - Instead of serving the Lord, you have squandered His inheritance...
 - You have not hungered for His Word...
 - You have not spent time in real prayer—just the formal stuff...
 - You have not laboured to glorify Him but have been slack...
3. It may seem like God has forgotten you...
- But I am here to tell you that it is not that God has forgotten you...
 - The problem is that you have forgotten Him.
 - You have taken your eyes off of Christ for too long!
 - You have been living apart from Him and that is why you have lost all sight of and all comfort from His grace.
 - Let a man get into pornography or let him start coveting,
 - or let an individual start to fall into self pity...
 - or bitterness...
 - You are looking at what you want and then you have nothing but you can provide.
 - You have taken your eyes off of the LORD and what He wants and you have no assurance of His grace...
 - How can you expect Him to be with you when you are not seeking His kingdom and His righteousness?
 - Is He going to bless a bank robber who prays and asks for help on his next robbery?
 - No, the bank robber is not pursuing the will of God.
 - He cannot expect to find grace from God in His labours.
 - He is left to Himself.
 - So it for you when you are not seeking God's kingdom and righteousness.
 - You take your eyes from Him and then you complain...
 - "Surely the Lord has forgotten me!"

TRANS> It is not so!

- He has not forgotten you, but you have forgotten Him!

B. The LORD Himself gives us assurance that He does not forget us!

1. First He speaks about the best of human relations—that of a mother for her baby.

a. This is where you find compassion in its best!

- There is nothing like the compassion of a mother for the child that she has born... the child who is so small, so dependent, so much—hers.

- Here you see the strongest attachment of all.

- And the Lord asks...

- Verse 15: "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb?"

- It is unthinkable!

b. But the Lord says something shocking in response to this!

- He says "Surely they may forget!"

- Oh what a base and wretched thing it is for a mother to forget her own child!

- It is a shocking thing.

- And I could wish that it were more shocking to us than it is, but our society has become so debased that mothers frequently abandon their children...

- They have them torn to pieces and sucked out of their wombs in abortion mills.

- Mothers are naturally tender toward their children, but sin has ruined our nature and makes us all capable of such things.

- I hope that all of you realise that you are capable of such things but for the grace of God.

- Indeed, the Lord says,

- "They may forget!"

- Such terrible words...

c. But then He says these wonderful words...

- "Yet I will not forget you!"

1) Our gracious Lord compares His forgetting of us to this most reprehensible of all forgetting...

- to that of a mother forgetting her babe!

- He is saying that for Him to forget us would be more debased in His eyes than for a mother to forget her own child!
- 2) Do you see what our LORD is doing by making this comparison?
- He is showing us how far it is from Him—how contrary to all that He is—to ever forget us!
 - He is telling us how impossible it is for Him to ever do it!
 - He is telling us in a way that is more powerful than just telling us straight out...
 - Isa 49:15: Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.
- 3) Oh my brothers and sisters! Let these words sink into your heart!
- They will do you so much good!
 - Don't you ever charge the Lord with such a thing as forgetting you!
 - It is so contrary to Him—it is so far from anything that He would do!
 - It is not that He has forgotten you...
 - It is that you have drifted away from Him...
 - You have taken your eyes off of Him.
 - He will never forget you!
2. And if that is not enough, he adds two other illustrations of His constant care for us...in verse 16.
- a. In verse 16 He says:
- Isa 49:16: “See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands”
- 1) The idea seems to be that it is as if God's hands belonged to us... as if our names were on them...
- because He is constantly at work for us as His people—constantly doing things for us.
 - Now of course God does not really have hands, but it is talking about Him working for us.
- 2) We may think of Jesus words in John 5 where He says that He and His Father have been working until now...
- working for us—working for our salvation when we have ruined ourselves by the fall...
 - working for us to establish a kingdom of righteousness for us...
 - working for us to bless us and to preserve us!

- 3) The ultimate expression of this is found in the work of Jesus on the cross!
 - So much of Him has been spent for us—so much labour for us—
 - Dare we ever suppose that He could have forgotten us?
 - What ingratitude to even suggest it!
 - How He has spent and spent Himself for us—and we say that He has forgotten?

- b. And then we have the third illustration at the end of verse 16 where the Lord says:
 - Isa 49:16: “Your walls are continually before me.”
 - 1) You may think that He is not protecting you, but the truth is that your walls are continually before Him.
 - You have taken your eyes off of Him so you do not see this
 - You think that trouble is coming into your life at random...
 - as if He had forgotten to defend you...
 - as if something had slipped in that He did not notice!
 - Job never entertained such a thought...
 - He wondered why God had sent his troubles, but he never doubted that the LORD had sent them.
 - He knew that his walls were continually before the LORD.

 - 2) Do you know that dear brother or sister?
 - He is committed to you and to your salvation!
 - Nothing is allowed by Him in your life unless it is subservient to your salvation!
 - Nothing is allowed into the church unless it is subservient to the church’s salvation.
 - Our walls are continually before Him.

 - 3) And look at this in the corporate way—for the church as a whole...
 - Our walls are continually before Him so that our sons will come to us and our enemies will go away from us...
 - Do you see that in verse 17?
 - Isa 49:17: Your sons shall make haste; Your destroyers and those who laid you waste Shall go away from you.
 - The sons come and the enemies go away.

- In other words, there will be many converts who will come into the walls of Zion because of God's work...
- And there will be enemies who will go out from us because they were not of us!
- We think we are ruined and that the city of God is about to disappear,
 - but our walls are continually before the LORD and He is gathering a multitude that no man can number!
 - And all the hypocrites will be cast into the outer darkness.

TRANS> Never doubt the commitment of the One who gave His only Son for you.

- It makes no sense to doubt it!
 - It is an insult to doubt it.
 - You are the one who has forgotten Him.
 - He will never forget you.
- But see further...Our Lord has more encouragement for us!
 - He has more to say about what His grace will accomplish for His church!

II. In verses 18-23, He seems to be saying that He will amaze us with His grace!

- The idea is that the day is going to come when we, who think that we are forgotten,
 - will look around us and we will realise all that God had done!
 - We will see the Kingdom of righteousness and we will see all those that God has brought into it and we will marvel at what He has done!
 - I don't know and I don't really care if it will be that our eyes are opened to see the marvellous things that He has done that we have missed...
 - or if it is that He still has a whole lot more great things to do for us than He has yet done!
 - I think it will probably be both,
 - but the thing that is certain is that we will look around and see how God has brought sons into His kingdom and driven our enemies away.
- You see how He tells us in verse 18 to lift up our eyes, to look around and see all the sons that He will bring to us!
 - He is telling us to look at what He had done!
 - He is speaking to Zion, to the city of God, to the church as a whole...
 - He speaks to her as a mother who feels that she is desolate and cast off...

- And He says,
 - Look around and see what my grace has done!
 - Look around and see what my grace will do!
 - Look and you will be amazed...
 - He speaks of three ways that we will be amazed by the sons that He will bring to us:

A. First, in verse 18, He shows us that we will be amazed by the beauty of our sons.

- He says,
 - v. 18: “As I live,” says the LORD, “You shall surely clothe yourselves with them all as an ornament, And bind them on you as a bride does.”

1. What a marvellous picture!

- Cities have glory in various ways...
 - For some it is the natural beauty of the sea or of mountains...
 - For some it is the glory of their buildings and their rich furnishings...
 - For some it is the power of their armies and their city walls.
 - For some it is their craftsmen and their merchants.
 - They are clothed with these various kinds of glory that they are known for.
- But the LORD swears that the glory of Zion will be in her sons.
 - He says that she will be adorned with beautiful sons in the same way a bride is adorned with ornaments!
- The church’s glory is in the transformed lives of sinners who have become her sons!
 - Paul says to the converts in his day,
 - 1Th 2:19: For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?
 - The LORD transformed them by His grace and power to love one another.
 - He is building His church with living stones.
 - And these stones are known by the love they have for one other.
 - They are seen to be Jesus’ disciples because of their love.

2. I read an illustration of this love from Lucian of Samosata written in the late 160’s.

- He wrote about one Peregrius whom Lucian said was a rank charlatan who adopted Christianity and was put in prison.
 - Lucian makes fun of the Christians, saying:

- When Peregrinus was put in prison, the Christians thought it a terrible disaster, and did everything they could to try and get him out. When this proved impossible, they helped him in every other way they could think of. First thing every morning you would see a crowd of old women, widows and orphans waiting outside the prison.... They brought him in all sorts of food, talked to him about their religion... Delegates even arrived from other Christian communities in Asia Minor, to help him by petitioning for his release and trying to comfort him.
 - Lucian went on to comment about the Christians' gullibility, but in doing so he tells us of their beauty as those transformed by grace:
 - They are always incredibly quick off the mark, when one of them gets into trouble like this—in fact they ignore their own interests completely. Why, they actually sent him large sums of money by way of compensation for his imprisonment, so that he made a considerable profit out of them! For the poor souls have persuaded themselves that they are immortal and will live for ever. As a result, they think nothing of death, and most of them are perfectly willing to sacrifice themselves. Besides, their first law-giver has convinced them that once they stop believing in the Greek gods, and start worshipping that crucified sage of theirs, and living according to His laws, they are all each other's brothers and sisters. So, taking this information on trust, without any guarantee of its truth, they think nothing else matters, and believe in common ownership—such that any unscrupulous adventurer who comes along can soon make fortune out of them, for the silly creatures are very easily taken in.
3. But so often Zion's sons are not like this!
- It seems impossible that the church would have sons like this today.
 - As in Isaiah's day, we are not very lovely.
 - Such love is hard to find among us.
 - That is why the LORD swears that He is going to do this.
 - It will be by His grace and power that Zion will have sons like this.
 - This is what He will give to Zion by His grace.
 - Lift up your eyes and look for this brothers and sisters...
 - We can read about such sons in the bible and in our history books...
 - We can look in hope for God to provide them in future days when He perfects love in all of us...
 - And you can even see them now!
 - Even among our own number...
 - Yes we are not what we should be...
 - but how different you are by God's grace!
 - Some of you were murderers and adulterers and blasphemers...
 - And God has transformed you by His grace!

- It is staggering what He had done!

TRANS> Look around at what God has done and be amazed at the beauty of the transformed lives with which Zion is adorned!

- And know that in the future, He will amaze you even more with this.
 - That is the first thing.
 - The second amazing thing is found in verses 19-21.

B. He shows us that if we look around, we will be amazed by the multitude of our sons.

1. In Isaiah's day, Zion was filled with desolate places.

- Already, the Northern kingdom had gone into exile and soon the Southern kingdom would follow.
 - The population had been greatly diminished by war.
- And so it is in our day.
 - We see empty churches.
 - We hear of the diminishing numbers of those who profess Christ in our land.
 - We find few who are true comrades in the gospel.

2. But look at what Isaiah says in verse 19!

- Isa 49:19: "For your waste and desolate places, And the land of your destruction, Will even now be too small for the inhabitants; And those who swallowed you up will be far away.
 - When the population is small, people don't live in the desolate places.
 - They all crowd around the rivers and the fertile places or along the coast.
 - Just look at the way our population is distributed in Nova Scotia.
 - But the Lord is saying that Zion will have so many sons that even the desolate places will be filled up!
 - There will not be enough space for all of them!
 - Wouldn't that be a great problem to have?

3. A very happy illustration of the multitude of Zion's children is given to us in v. 20-21.

- Zion, the mother, who thought herself to be bereaved and childless,
 - overhears her children quarrelling about the lack of room they have!
 - The LORD says:
 - Isa 49:20-21: The children you will have, After you have lost the others, Will say again in your ears, 'The place is too small for me; Give me a place where

I may dwell.' Then you will say in your heart, 'Who has begotten these for me, Since I have lost my children and am desolate, A captive, and wandering to and fro? And who has brought these up? There I was, left alone; But these, where were they?'"

- She is trying to figure out where they all came from!
 - She lost her children to the exile!
 - She is desolate and alone.
 - Where did they all come from?
 - She has no way to explain it, but there they are!

- Do you remember Elijah when he thought he was all alone and the Lord showed him that had reserved 7000 who had not bowed the knee to Baal?
 - The Lord has His people and He has been gathering them from the four corners of the earth for 2000 years!
 - It is impossible to number them all!

 - And even today there are billions of Christians in the world.
 - Just consider the statistic that that there are on average more than 450 Christians martyred each day!
 - These are our brothers and sisters in the LORD!
 - We are not desolate!
 - And the LORD has many more to gather in before the end!

TRANS> But where will they all come from?

- This is the third amazing thing about Zion's sons...

C. In verse 22-23, He shows us the surprising places from which our sons will come.

1. The LORD says that Zion's sons will be brought to her by pagan nations!

- Isa 49:22-23: Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, And set up My standard for the peoples; They shall bring your sons in their arms, And your daughters shall be carried on their shoulders; Kings shall be your foster fathers, And their queens your nursing mothers; They shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth, And lick up the dust of your feet."

- This was an especially shocking thing to say in Isaiah's day because the nations of the world outside of Israel had nothing to do with the true and living God!
 - How could they bring sons into the house and family of God?
 - How could it be that the kings and queens of these pagan nations would be taking care of the church's sons?
 - How could it be that these monarchs would bow to Zion and lick up the dust of her feet?

- The picture here is not that they have lost their power, but that they are using their power and authority to serve the church!
 - Instead of using their power to oppress, they are now using it to serve their brothers.
 - They are laying down their lives for others...
 - They are doing what Jesus said in Luke 22:26:
 - Lu 22:26: "he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves."
2. How could such a state of affairs have come about?
- a. Well we saw how could come about last week in Isaiah 49:6...
 - The LORD is going to give the nations to His Son as His inheritance because of the Son's faithfulness and work.
 - God is going to make His Son to be a light to the Gentiles!
 - He is going to make Him to be His salvation to the ends of the earth.
 - They will come from afar, from the north and from the west and from the land of Sinim.
 - b. And here in verse 22, God says that He will lift His hand in an oath to the nations!
 - He is going to make His covenant with them—
 - His covenant of grace ratified by the blood of Jesus will be extended to them.
 - He will promise to them the remission of sins by the blood of Jesus!
 - He says that He will set up His standard for them...
 - Just what we saw in Isaiah 11—
 - He lifts up His banner and the nations come.
 - Jesus tells us what that banner is in John 12:32 when He says,
 - John 12:32-33: And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." This He said, signifying by what death He would die.
 - And now Jesus has been lifted up and all that Isaiah spoke has come true...
 - We are, most of us if not all of us, not of the stock of Israel...
 - We are from the nations who were cut off from God.
 - But have seen Christ lifted up on the cross and have come to Him for salvation.

- We are bringing sons and daughters to Zion, to the city of God, by the grace of God.
- The city is being filled up from pagan nations!

TRANS> This is the doing of the LORD!

- He is doing just what He said that He would do...
 - By this we know that He is LORD and that none that wait for Him will be ashamed.
 - Zion is not forsaken!
 - Zion is not forgotten!
 - Lift up your eyes, look around and see! All these gather together and come to you!
 - Be amazed at their beauty as transformed by Him.
 - Be amazed at their number as they flood in to fill the church...
 - Be amazed at whence they have come—from the pagan nations of the world!
- And you my brothers and sisters!

III. Do not doubt—the Lord still is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think!

- Before, doubt was expressed about His commitment
 - “Has He forsaken us?”
 - “Has He forgotten us?”
- A. But now doubt is expressed because of the power of our enemies.
 1. Zion hears what God has said, but she looks at herself and at her strength and the great question of doubt rings out in verse 24...
 - Isa 49:24: Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, Or the captives of the righteous be delivered?
 2. In Isaiah’s day, they looked at the strength of their enemies and they saw that they were mighty—sort of like Israel when they first spied out the land of Canaan.
 - The people are giants and their cities are fortified up to heaven!
 - There is no way we can conquer them!
 - And at the time of the exile, they looked at their own guilt that had caused the Lord to deliver them into their enemies’ hands
 - They realised that their enemies were in that sense “righteous” in that God had raised them up to punish them for their iniquities.
 - How could the prey be taken from the mighty or the captives of the righteous be delivered?

3. And in our day, we see the same thing.
 - We see how men are held captive by Satan, by sin, by the world, by death...
 - We see how strong these enemies are and we do not see how they could ever be set free.
 - We also see how mankind has been delivered to these enemies by the wrath of God because of their guilt.
 - We see those that we are witnessing to and those that we are praying for,
 - and we even see ourselves, still struggling with our sins and we say:
 - Shall the prey be taken from the mighty?
 - Shall the captives of the righteous be delivered?
 - I am where I am because of my sin!
 - I am where I am because I have squandered away God's inheritance.
 - My children are where they are for the same reason.

TRANS> And my brothers and sisters,

- Be assured that as long as you look at yourself and your own resources,
 - there is indeed no deliverance for you or for anyone else!
- That is why Zion was not encouraged when the Father promised all the things He promised to His Son in Isaiah 49:1-12!
 - She was not looking at the Son for her strength
 - She was looking only at her own resources.
 - Turn your eyes from yourself to the LORD!

B. Be assured that it will be no problem for Him to deliver our sons from their hand!

- In verse 25, there are two things that He says He will do that correspond to the doubts expressed in verse 24...
 1. Was there doubt because of the strength of the enemy? doubt that we could be rescued from our enemy's strong hand?
 - Verse 25 says:
 - Isa 49:25: But thus says the LORD: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, And the prey of the terrible be delivered;
 - What is Assyria? What is Babylon? What is the world? What is Satan? What is death? before the LORD of glory?
 - If He had purposed to set His people free, He will set them free and nothing can stop Him.

2. And was there doubt because of guilt?
 - a. Was Israel not going to Babylon because of sin?
 - Are we not delivered over to Satan in death because of our guilt?
 - Do these captors not have a righteous cause for holding us in their grip?
 - How can God help us when we are justly held captive?
 - b. Look at our text—the end of verse 25.
 - The Lord says...
 - Isa 49:25: For I will contend with him who contends with you, And I will save your children.
 - The “contend” speaks of Him acting as our advocate, or our lawyer to plead our cause!
 - And He has grounds by which He pleads for our release...
 - Then penalty of our sin has been paid by Jesus Christ.
 - We cannot justly be held captive if we are looking to Him for our salvation because He has already borne our iniquities.
3. And so the LORD promises that He will deal with our oppressors!
 - In verse 26, He says that He will feed them with their own flesh and make them drunk on their own blood.
 - They will not feed upon the crucified lamb, so they are left with only themselves to feed upon...
 - They become the cursed sacrifice.
 - They become that which is devoured by God’s wrath and judgement
 - not to be raised as Jesus was,
 - but to be cast into the outer darkness, away from Jesus, away from his people, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

TRANS> And when the LORD does all this...

- When He sets His sons free from captivity and brings them even from the pagan nations to fill and adorn His city by their transformed lives...
- And when He destroys our enemies...
 - Then we will know that He is Lord.
 - Everyone will know that He is LORD...
 - We will know it and our enemies will know it.
 - Just as Egypt knew and Israel knew in the Exodus.

C. Then you will know what you have been doubting...that the Lord rescues Zion!

1. As it says at the end of verse 26,

- Isa 49:26: All flesh will know that I, the LORD, am your Saviour, and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.
- When His work is complete, your doubts will end—you will know who He is in truth.
- a. You will know that the LORD is your Saviour—
 - He is the One who delivers you from the power of the enemy... from Satan and sin and the world and death...
 - You will know that He does this for whole church, for all of Zion, until Zion is filled with a multitude of sons.
- b. You will know that the LORD is your Redeemer—the next of kin who comes along to pay what you own so that you can be freed in righteousness.
 - You will know that He does this for Zion... for the whole church!
 - All of our iniquities were laid on Him and He bears them all away for us so that by His blood the church is accepted of God, cleansed from all her guilt.
- c. You will know that the LORD is the Mighty One of Jacob...
 - No one is able to stop Him, no one is able to hinder Him!
 - How did you ever suppose that His power might fail?
 - It is not possible.

2. So people of Zion, you who belong to the city of God...

- Do not despair, but turn your eyes upon the LORD who is your Saviour, and your Redeemer, and the Mighty One of Jacob.
- He has not forgotten you but you have forgotten Him!
 - You have been looking at what you want instead of what He wants.
 - You have been filled with covetousness and lust and revenge and all sorts of ugly things that you want...
 - instead of with yearning for His glory to be seen in you and for you to be holy as He is holy.
- And because you have been looking at what you want,
 - you have nothing but yourself to trust in and that is why you despair.
- But it is time to turn your eyes to Him...
 - To yearn for His will, for His kingdom, for His glory!
 - You can rely upon His strength and His grace and His power for that!