

In This Mountain

This is a delightful passage full of gospel truth and containing many insights concerning the saving and keeping work of Jesus Christ. How blessed the Lord's remnant people have been to have received, read and recalled these promises in their periods of trouble and fear. Long before Babylon and Rome ever rose in power to afflict the Jews or worry the church their destruction had been foretold. However, with the eye of faith it is Christ's own glory we see shining in the chapter.

Mt Zion, the church

The 'Lord's mountain' is a type of the redeemed church of Christ. Sometimes Isaiah calls it Mt Zion or the mountain of the Lord's house. Sometimes it is described as a high mountain for the lofty esteem in which God views His beloved people. God speaks of the church as 'my holy mountain' where His throne dwells. Chapter 24 ended with the Lord reigning in Mt Zion in the midst of 'his ancients'. These are Christ's spiritual people, all those loved with everlasting love, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, secured in the covenant of peace and viewed in Christ before the world began.

The song of the 'ancients'

The chapter begins with a statement of praise for God's glory. This is a song of victory following the account of God's worldwide judgment against sin. It is Isaiah's song but it is sung by all God's people in all ages. Despite the troubles, trials and persecutions that beset the church of Jesus Christ, the elect not only persevere, they do so with praise on their lips and worship in their hearts. They confess, 'thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels (or decrees) of old are faithfulness and truth'.

Wonderful redemption

While the Lord has granted many amazing deliverances to His people throughout history it is the work of redemption that most fully exemplifies God's wonderful works to the children of men. Our Lord Jesus is our strength and defence as poor and needy sinners. He is our 'refuge from the storm', our 'shadow from the heat' when the blast of condemning law, the devil's accusations and the flesh come raging against our souls.

Tears wiped away

Even death itself has no more dread for the Lord's people. By dying and rising again our Lord Jesus has defeated death. It is no longer the penalty for our sin. Christ confirmed His power and authority to deliver from death's grip all for whom He died. Death is swallowed up in victory. 'The Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth.'

A table fitly spread

Isaiah foresees three great works God purposes to do in the church amongst His elect people 'in this mountain'. First, He will give gospel blessings to nourish our souls and to refresh and strengthen our spirits. These are likened to a feast of good things. 'A feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees.' The Father promises not only to save His people but also to bless with all spiritual blessings those He calls by His Spirit to follow and worship Christ.

A veil removed

Second, the Lord will 'destroy the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations'. Here we have the lifting of spiritual ignorance in gospel days. Blindness and natural antipathy towards God is removed, not by man's will but by God's power. The rending of the veil in the temple at Jesus' death spoke of the opening of a new and living way into the presence of God. Similarly, the lifting of the veil speaks of the new birth and eyes, once blind, opened to see the way of life by Christ's death.

An enemy humbled

Finally, we learn that 'Moab shall be trodden down under him and he shall bring down their pride'. Moab is given here to represent all the foes of God's remnant people. Our Saviour in His death defeated all our enemies and it is absolutely true that all for whom Christ died will be saved. Yet, in God's purpose, the Lord will also have His people witness and

experience their deliverance from all manner of opposition inflicted by the world, the flesh and the devil. The spiritual victory accomplished on the cross will be confirmed, corroborated and attested in time by the humbling of all the Lord's enemies and ours.

Amen

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