

Viral Messages #2

Hosanna

April 5, 2020

In Isaiah 32:1, the prophet introduces a king.

"Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice."

Then comes verse two, which contains a fourfold picture of safety and security.

A hiding place from the wind.

A cover from the tempest.

Rivers of water in a dry place.

The shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

"A man will be as a hiding place from the wind,

And a cover (shelter) from the tempest

As rivers of water in a dry place,

As the shadow of a great rock in a weary land." Isa. 32:2

Isaiah in these verses is beginning to flesh out the protective, comforting presence of the King who reigns in righteousness. The Living Bible states the verse this way:

"Look, a righteous king is coming! And honest princes will rule under him. He will shelter Israel from the storm and the wind. He will refresh her as a river in the desert and as the cool shadow of a large rock in a hot and weary land."

Proverbs 18:10 states that "the name of the Lord is a strong tower" in which to find safety. Paul states in Col. 3:3 that our lives are hidden in Christ.

Turn with me to Isaiah 26:3-4.

(Read)

Steadfast is from a term that means "to lean, to rest, to support."

It's the idea of being sustained as a result of leaning on something supporting you.

The words **"of Mind"** come from one verb that means "to frame" or "to fashion, to form" in the original Hebrew language, the phrase has the idea of **"a frame of mind"**.

If you put the two thoughts together, they convey this:

"A frame of mind that is receiving support from leaning and therefore is being sustained."
That brings us to the main verb, **"will keep"**. The term means **"to guard from danger, to watch over."**

Follow me here.

The frame of mind that is being supported as a result of leaning:

"the Lord will keep in perfect peace".

In the original language the word for peace, "shalom" is repeated. Not literally "perfect peace" but "peace, peace".

In the Hebrew a term was repeated for emphasis. So here the idea is of unending security, a sense of uninterrupted, perpetual rest and calmness. It doesn't come from some human being, or from the acquisition of things. According to the prophet's words, it comes from the God upon whom the person leans.

Now how does God know when to give us that rest? In verse 3 it says,

"Because we trust in Him".

In the Arabic (occasionally closely related to the Hebrew), the term for "trust has a very picturesque meaning:

"To throw one's self down upon one's face".

The imagery used by Isaiah is of someone jumping and letting all of your weight fall in an almost relaxed manner. Releasing yourself knowing that in God's provision you will be caught.

The thought here is that you abandon all other crutches you could lean on, and place all of your fears, all of your being, and all of your circumstances and all of your failures, and all of your sins on the only One who can support you.

Remember that poor widow, gave out of her poverty, knowing that all she had to lean on was not enough. So she let it go...and fell into the arms of her Father.

If you read on in verse 4 it says that God is an **"everlasting Rock"**. This everlasting Rock will be perpetually supportive, solid enough to hold your weight. Solid enough to keep you from falling.

So how are these verses spoken by Isaiah even relevant to us here today? I'll tell you why:

(Today is lamb selection day).

Seven centuries before Jesus' birth, Isaiah wrote one of the most powerful chapters in all of the O.T.

Turn with me again to Isaiah 53:3-4. Lets read together Isaiah's description of our Lord in His final days.

(Read)

In Hebrew, the root word used in both verses for "sorrows" is **"kaab"**, which means "to be in pain."

Literally, Jesus was a “Man of Pains.” And as you read on through verse 12, Isaiah catalogues still more of His sufferings.

- Pierced, crushed, chastened, scourged. **(Vs 5)**
- Oppressed, afflicted, and led to slaughter. **(V 7)**
- Put to grief **(Vs 10)**
- Anguished **(Vs 11)**
- Poured out to death. **(Vs 12)**

A covering is placed between the people and a Holy God who recognizes the sinfulness of the people, yet is also providing the gift of mercy and forgiveness to the people at the same time.

Jesus is the Lamb of God, whose blood marks the doorposts of our hearts.

At the coming judgment, God will pass over us, like He passed over the Hebrew families in Egypt and lead us home. Jesus did not come down to show off His perfection, or to wow us with His power, or even to make our lives more comfortable, but to offer Himself to God as our sacrificial substitute. The Lamb of God was born to die.

1 John 2:1-2 says:

“If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

I want you to circle the word “propitiation”. The word’s origins in Hebrew come from the Hebrew word “kippur”.

This was the word for mercy seat and the word for “atonement”. When the lamb was sacrificed, the animal’s life was sacrificed in behalf of the people. This substitution is what atonement means.

Deliverance comes through the blood of a pure lamb. Through the blood, God’s wrath toward sin was satisfied once and for all.

We can’t escape the fact that the Bible is a bloodstained book. The word “blood” occurs more than four hundred times in the Old and New Testaments.

The blood was considered the symbol of life. The law of Moses declared in Lev. 17:11

“For the life of a creature is in the blood and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one’s life.”

The cross of Christ is where atonement was made. The New Covenant was ratified. Mercy was applied to those who did not deserve it.

Every time a Jewish man watched the priest slaughter a sacrificial lamb for him and his family, he knew that an innocent, beautiful creature was taking their place...

Suffering the fate they should have suffered for their sins. There could be no escaping the awareness that the magnitude of their sin required such a death.

Just before the sacrifice, the worshiper who presented the lamb laid both of his hands on it. By his touch, he signified that he understood the exchange..

"What happens to the lamb should have happened to me".

Jesus Christ is God's Lamb for you and me.

The cross is our doorway into the Holy of Holies. Into God's presence. It is how we enter into "Peace Peace".

This is the place where our chains are lifted. Our idols defeated. Our pain, shame and fear are removed. Here at the cross.

Mercy applied.

The apostle Paul had some remarkable things to say about mercy.

In Ephesians 2:4-5 he says this:

"Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our transgressions"

Paul writes this in the early years of his ministry. Later, and much older, hobbled by years of hardship, tattooed with scars, he writes and speaks of mercy still.

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance,"

He writes to Timothy; **"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy, so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life."** 1 Tim. 1:15-16

Hear me "beloved". Jesus Christ is God's Lamb for you and for me. And as we come to the cross, let us come humbly, laying trembling hands upon the Lamb.

He will hear us whisper through our tears:

"What happened to you, Lord Jesus, should have happened to me."

Let us remember too, that one day...and for all eternity...this sinless, spotless Lamb who was slain will reign, and is reigning, receiving all praise, honor, glory and power!

"The greater the struggle; the more glorious the triumph".

Selah.