

# Calling Out A Nation

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Isaiah #25

Isaiah 55:4-13 – February 18 2017 – Wednesday

## I. A WITNESS GIVEN, 55:4-5

### A. Christ The Witness, 4

1. The word *him* in verse 4 points to Jesus, the Messiah
2. Jesus is the mystical David.
3. God gave Jesus to be a witness as the mystical, or spiritual, David.
4. Ezekiel 37:24-25 *And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. 25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.*
5. Jeremiah 30:9 *But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.*
6. Hosea 3:5 *Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.*
7. John 18:37 *Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*
8. Revelation 1:5 *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,*

### B. What Did He Witness?

1. He bore witness of who he is; he is God – John 14:1 *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*
2. He bore witness of his Father by his works – John 14:11 *Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.*
3. He bore witness to his own sufferings – Mark 8:31 *And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.*
4. He bore witness to his Messiahship – Mark 14:61 *But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? 62a *And Jesus said, I am:**
5. He bore witness of his second coming – Mark 14:62b *and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.*
6. . . . and many more things: his eternal existence, his sonship, as Mediator, as Lord, of truth, etc., etc.

## II. A WITNESS CALLING, 5

### A. God called a *nation*, Israel, to be his

1. Exodus 4:22 *And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:*
2. Hosea 11:1 *When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.*  
See Matt. 2:15

### B. God called *nations* to be his

1. Ephesians 2:11-13 *Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*
2. Matthew 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*
3. Mark 11:17 *And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.*

## III. A WITNESS FOR SEEKING, 6

### A. "Seek the Lord while he may be found"

1. The Lord could be found, in that day, in the tabernacle and in the temple.
2. In New Testament days, the Lord may be found anywhere.
  - a. He may be found in the home
  - b. He may be found in school
  - c. He may be found in church
  - d. He may be found in all daily activities
  - e. He may be found in secret places.
  - f. This should both frighten us and comfort us.
3. The Lord may be found at any time while the Gospel is still being preached, while people are still witnessing the Gospel story, while churches are still having services, while the Lord is still in Heaven.
4. The day will come when no one can seek the Lord; it will be too late.

### B. "Call upon him while he is near"

1. He was near the Jews in the tabernacle and the Temple, but the temple is now destroyed; so they have (in their own minds) no place to seek the Lord or to call upon his name.
  - a. Their priests cannot perform their duties without the temple, and no blood sacrifices can be made without the temple.
2. He is near in the churches of the Lord for calling upon him.
  - a. We call upon him for praise and worship in our hymns and in our prayers.
  - b. We call upon him for worship and instruction through the preaching of the word.
  - c. We meet together often so the whole spirit of the church may as a church bring glory to God through our calling upon him in worship.
  - d. We call upon him in our tithes and offerings.

- e. We call upon him in our ordinances, baptism and Lord's Supper.
- 3. One day we will not be able to call upon him – 2 Corinthians 6:2 (*For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*)
- 4. Sinners in whom the Lord is doing the work of the Holy Spirit may call upon the Lord in the process of salvation.
  - a. Romans 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
  - b. Romans 10:14 *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

#### IV. A WITNESS OF FORSAKING, 7-9

- A. "Let the wicked forsake his way" 7
  - 1. Every person who has not been saved by God's grace is wicked in God's eyes. We are all sinners. Some of us have been saved by God's grace.
  - 2. Faith in Jesus Christ includes repentance from our sins, a forsaking of our wicked way. A sinner must "repent and believe the Gospel."
- B. God will "abundantly pardon" 7
  - 1. Every pardon to a sinner is an abundant pardon, because our sin is so horrible in God's presence.
  - 2. We have all sinned against a holy God, so all sin is horrible to him.
  - 3. No matter how many or how few sins we have committed, all sin is against an eternal, holy, and just God.
  - 4. We all deserve to be punished forever in Hell.
  - 5. But God will abundantly pardon. He will forgive.
- C. God's Thoughts Not Our Thoughts, 8-9
  - 1. God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours.
  - 2. Therefore, we cannot easily understand what God is doing and how he accomplishes things.
  - 3. All of us want to know more about the process of salvation, but we do not know how God thinks. We are prisoners to our own thoughts from an earthly standpoint.
  - 4. The only exception is when the Holy Spirit opens up our minds to the word of God, the Bible, and allows us to understand a little more about the mysteries of God.
  - 5. And even then, we must simply believe them because God spoke.

#### V. THE WITNESS GOING FORTH, 10-11

- A. Illustration Of The Rain, 10
  - 1. We all know that the rain comes down and waters the fields so that we can have a harvest.
  - 2. That gives us fruit, seed, and bread as we depend upon God to feed us.
- B. The Witness Goes Forward With Purpose, 11
  - 1. God's word, the witness, goes forth, and it will accomplish whatever God wants it to accomplish.
  - 2. God is sovereign in all things, even in sending forth his word into the world through

- prophets, preachers, tracts, teaching, etc. so that the word of God can perform a specific job with no loss.
3. It will prosper for the reason it was sent, to any area of the world.
  4. It will not return to God void, empty, worthless, uneventful.
  5. To us many times it seems that this is not so, because we preach the gospel to many people, but very few actually come to know Jesus Christ through faith.
  6. But God's word, when it takes on its job of God's effectual calling, there is nothing in hell, heaven, or earth that can hinder its purpose and its progress. Salvation is of the Lord.

## VI. A WITNESS ACCOMPLISHED, 12-13

### A. Israel Shall Go Out With Joy, 12

1. The people of Israel, who are now in bondage to Babylon, will be sent home by the will and power of God.
2. This time they will return to their land with joy and peace, for this type of bondage will never come upon Israel again.
3. They will clap their hands in joy and worship to God.

### B. This Will Be For An Everlasting Sign, 13

1. These hyperboles are given to express spiritual benefits for those who will come by faith to the Lord for salvation.
2. Life that is in bondage to the body, to the carnal mind, and to worldly philosophies will be liberated and set free from error, because truth makes us free.
3. God will now deal with Israel in a more spiritual way by putting in their hearts the desire to see the Messiah come and to do his work as portrayed by type in the Old Testament oracles, the offerings and sacrifices.
4. This will be the last time, the last days, in which the Son of God will be made flesh and dwell among us.
5. This will be the time when Jesus Christ will accomplish our redemption on the cross by his shed blood.

### C. This Will Be For God's Name, 13

1. Our faith is in Jesus Christ, but ours specifically is "upon his name."
2. John 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
3. Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*
4. Philippians 2:9 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

## VII. CONCLUSION

- A. So, today is the day of salvation.
- B. These things have taken place, and God will abundantly pardon all those who repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. Mark 1:15 *And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*