

Hearken And Awake

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Isaiah #20
Isaiah 51 – January 4, 2017 – Wednesday

I. HEARKEN, YE THAT FOLLOW AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS, 51:1-3

A. Seek The Lord, 1

1. Amos 5:6 *Seek the LORD, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel.*
2. Acts 17:27 *That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:*

B. Look Unto The Rock, 2

1. Some say that Jesus is the Rock here, but it most likely is Abraham from which the Jewish people were hewn
2. The “hole of the pit when ye were digged” could very well be Sarah, since she was barren and could have no children. She was “the hole of a pit” with no strength to conceive and birth children. That is where the Jews came from.
3. The comparison is made in verse 2 where the Scriptures say, “Look unto Abraham your father and Sarah that bare you.”
4. The rock is Abraham, which God called alone. No other man on earth had this privilege, to be the father of the Hebrew nation. God called him only and no one else. He blessed him and increased him much.

C. God Will Comfort Zion, 3

1. Isaiah 51:3 *For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places;*
2. Zechariah 1:17 . . . *and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.*
3. These Jews need to “hearken,” because God has no reason by their own righteousness to comfort them – Lamentations 2:13 *What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? what shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? for thy breach is great like the sea: who can heal thee?*
4. God will make her wilderness like Eden and her desert like the garden of the Lord.
5. Three additional things will be found in Zion:
 - a. Joy and gladness, 3
 - b. Thanksgiving, 3
 - c. Voice of melody, 3

II. HEARKEN, MY PEOPLE, OH MY NATION, 51:4-6

A. A Law Proceeds From God, 4

1. This is not the Mosaic Law, but this is the law of the Gospel, the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
2. Jesus proved so well in Matthew 5:33, 38, and 43 that his laws were more strict than the laws of Moses. It is not that we are to love our neighbors and hate our enemies, but we are to love our enemies, to good to them, and pray for them.

B. God’s Righteousness Is Near, 5

1. God through his prophets, apostles, and preachers has put forth his righteousness and his salvation.
 2. God will judge the people through his Son, Jesus Christ.
 - a. In John 5:30 Jesus says, "My judgment is just."
 - b. He says in John 8:16 "My judgment I true."
 3. God brings his righteousness to us through the message of the Gospel, which is the work and person of Jesus Christ.
 4. Many Jews and Gentiles alike till trust "on mine arm." God's arm is Jesus Christ.
- C. We Are To Look At Heaven And Earth, 6
1. If we look to the heavens, we realize that they shall vanish away.
 2. If we look down to the earth, we realize that the earth will wax old like a garment
 3. Everything that lives in this realm shall die in like manner.
 4. But salvation shall be forever.
 5. And righteousness shall not be abolished
 6. This is eternal security through the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

III. HEARKEN, YE THAT KNOW RIGHTEOUSNESS, 51:7-8

- A. We Are Not To Fear, 7
1. The reproach of men.
 2. The revilings of men.
 3. Matthew 10:28 *And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*
- B. Wicked Men Will Be Eaten By Moth And Worms, 8
1. But the righteousness of God will be forever
 2. God's salvation shall be from generation to generation.

IV. AWAKE TO WHAT GOD HAS DONE, 51:9-16

- A. A Lesson From The Past, 9-10
1. We go back to the "ancient of days, the generations of old"
 2. We go back to Rahab, which is a poetic of emblematic name for Egypt.
 3. Rahab was cut and the dragon (Pharaoh) was wounded.
 4. Zion is here asking the God of old to awake as he did in the days when they were delivered from Egypt.
 5. The "arm of the Lord" is Jesus, and he had much to do with Israel's deliverance from Egypt.
 6. 1 Corinthians 10:4 *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*
 7. Verse 10 tells of his work, how that the "arm of the Lord" dried up the sea of the great deep and made it a way for the ransomed to pass over.
- B. A Lesson For The Future, 11-16
1. In verse 11 he says that "the redeemed of the LORD shall return with singing.
 2. It is the Lord that comforts them, 12
 3. He asks why they should fear a man what will die and made grass.
 4. He asks why they should forget the LORD their maker, 13a, who stretched forth the

- heavens and laid the foundations of the earth.
5. He asks again, 13b, why they should fear continually because of the fury of the oppressor.
 6. It seems in verse 14 that the LORD is hastening the time that Israel will be in captivity, hurrying on to the time when they will be loosed from bondage.
 7. This is because he is the LORD thy God, 15
 8. When they return, God will call them “my people.”

V. AWAKE FROM GOD’S CUP OF FURY, 51:17-23

- A. Jerusalem Has Drunk The Cup Of God’s Fury (Wrath) to a great extent, 17-18
 1. There is no one who can guide her back to her former glory.
 2. The fury is almost over, and God will comfort Israel
- B. Two Things Came To Jerusalem, 19
 1. The first is *desolation* and is repeated in the word *famine*.
 2. The second is *destruction* and is repeated in the word *sword*.
- C. Jerusalem’s Sons Have Fainted, 20
 1. Jerusalem’s sons have fainted due to the famine
 2. They lie at the head of all the streets with no recourse. Only God can save them.
 3. They have been beaten down with God’s fury and rebuke.
- D. Drunken With Affliction, 21
 1. They are like drunk men but not with wine.
 2. They are drunk with the afflictions that God has allowed upon othem.
- E. But They Shall Drink No More Affliction, 22
 1. God will take the bottle of affliction out of their hand, the cup of trembling.
 2. They will no more drink of it.
- F. The Cup of Dregs Will Be Put Into The Hand Of Those That Afflict, 23
 1. God will turn the tables on Israel’s enemies.
 2. This he did to Babylon – Jeremiah 25:15 *For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.*
 3. Those poor Israelites were made to worship the images of the world instead of their own true God.
- G. Zion’s Body Will Be Laid Down To The Ground, 23
 1. The chapter finishes with a disgraceful look at what Zion (the kingdom of God) is in the world.
 2. It is as a body laid to the ground, pushed under by the works of the world.
 3. The truth will lie in the streets – Isaiah 59:14 *And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.*
- H. Now don’t lose hope. The next chapter has some good news.