

Awake And Behold My Servant

Dr. Ronnie Wolfe – Isaiah #21
Isaiah 52 – January 11, 2017 – Wednesday

I. AWAKE TO REDEMPTION, 52:1-3

A. Put On Thy Strength, 1

1. Exodus 13:3 *And Moses said unto the people, Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage; for by strength of hand the LORD brought you out from this place: there shall no leavened bread be eaten.*
2. Psalms 28:7 *The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.*

B. Put On Thy Beautiful Garments, 1

1. Isaiah 61:10 *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.*
2. In Ephesians 6 we read of the “whole armor of God.” These are our garments of salvation.

C. The Uncircumcised and Unclean Shall Not Come In Unto Thee, 1

1. Zechariah 14:21 *Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and see the therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.*

D. Shake Thyself From The Dust, 2

1. Here he may be speaking of rising from the dust as they leave the captivity of Egypt and Babylon, spoken of later in this chapter.
2. Perhaps speaking of the rising from the dust of death as we are resurrected to a new body and life.
3. They are to “loose thyself from the bands of thy neck,” or the yoke of bondage to Babylon, since it is near time for Israel to go back home to Jerusalem.

E. Sold For Nothing, Bought With Nothing, 3

1. There was no profit in Israel’s selling themselves by idolatry into the hands of those who took them into bondage.
2. There was no benefit in Egypt or in Babylon.
3. Also, they will be redeemed without money.
4. Israel were redeemed from the bondage of Egypt and Babylon without having to pay anything to God.
5. Also our salvation (our redemption) was without money – 1 Peter 1:18 *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*

II. KNOW THE NAME OF THE LORD, 52:4-6

A. The Bondage Of Egypt And Assyria, 4

1. Isaiah speaks here of two captivities: Egypt and Assyria

2. In the past they have known oppression, which seems to be normal for Israel as God's chosen people.
- B. The Bondage Of Babylon, 5
1. "Now therefore" refers to the bondage in which Israel exists at the present time, the time of the context of this writing.
 2. There is no prosperity in this captivity; they have been taken away for nothing—no profit.
 3. Babylon makes them howl, or cry out because of their bondage. Also, the name of the Lord is blasphemed.
 4. The only way Israel ever heard about the name of God is through blasphemy.
- C. Knowing The Name Of The Lord, 6
1. Israel shall know the name of the Lord.
 2. In bondage they know his name through blasphemy, but "in that day" they shall know that God is the only one who can deliver them from bondage.
 3. "In that day" refers to the soon-coming freedom from bondage that God will provide for Israel as they go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and re-establish temple worship.
 4. They will know "behold, it is I." Literally this says, "Behold I."

III. PREACH THE WORD, 52:7-8

- A. When Israel returns to Jerusalem, it will be a new day for Israel.
- B. God will deal with Israel differently. He will deal with them in their hearts, and they shall know the Lord in their hearts.
- C. Someone will come and bring good tidings, publish peace and salvation.
- D. This I believe to be John the Baptist.
- E. Rom. 10:15 *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*
- F. Verse eight expresses the work of the "watchmen," or the prophets and preachers who will preach this good news, the Gospel.
- G. God neither promises nor predicts another time of bondage for Israel, but he does promise salvation to them through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- H. The watchmen shall see eye to eye, or they shall agree on the message of the Gospel and will preach it without contradiction.
- I. This is at the time "when the LORD shall bring again Zion."

IV. REJOICE IN THE LORD, 52:9-10

- A. Israel is to rejoice, because it will not be long until they will be free from the bondage of Babylon: God has redeemed Israel, or set them free.
- B. We can also apply this deliverance to the hearts of all believers.
- C. God has redeemed his people from their sins.
- D. Therefore, we can rejoice in the Lord and be comforted.
- E. This redemption and rejoicing is for all nations (10). He has revealed his Son – his holy arm – to all people. Titus 2:11 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath*

appeared to all men,

- F. So, then, all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
- G. Romans 10:18 *But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.*

V. DEPART FROM EVIL, 52:11-12

- A. Israel is instructed to go out from Babylon, not taking anything with them such as idols or even Babylonian philosophies.
- B. They were not to touch anything unclean.
- C. Even to us the Lord teaches us in 2 Corinthians 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*
- D. When they leave Babylon, they are not to leave in haste as though they are afraid of their enemies. There should be no fear toward our enemies for God's people.
- E. Because he will go before us and lead us.
- F. He will also be our *rereward*.
- G. God will go before us – in front of us
- H. And God will be our *rereward* – in back of us.
- I. Therefore, there is no reason to fear our enemies. We are surrounded by God's love, strength, and grace.

VI. BEHOLD MY SERVANT, 52:13-15

- A. Here we are introduced to Jesus, the Messiah as "my servant."
- B. Isaiah is asking Israel to Behold him, to take note of him and remember him, because he will deal prudently, be exalted and extolled, and be very high.
- C. The people who saw the Lord were astonished at him (14).
 - 1. They saw a man marred, not glorified as an earthly king.
 - 2. They saw him marred in visage and form.
 - 3. They were surprised, and did not understand, that the Messiah would come as a poor man on earth among the lowly.
 - 4. His *visage* is his appearance before men, surprisingly humble and lowly.
 - 5. The word *form* implied beauty, which was marred. No one could see his beauty.
 - 6. Notice Isaiah 53:2, the last part, *and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.*
- D. Sprinkling of the nations, 15
 - 1. He will sprinkle all nations with his grace and his blood – 1 Peter 1:2 *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*
- E. The kings will shut their mouths
 - 1. As when he asked them questions and they could not answer his wisdom,
 - 2. As when they could not explain the origin of his coming into the world.
 - 3. As when they asked him no more questions (Matt. 22:46).
- F. They will see things they were never told, even through all the records of history.

1. The Gospel had not been told much among the Gentiles, so Paul became an apostle to the Gentiles – Romans 15:20 *Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:*
2. Then many of them will *consider* the Gospel message and will believe in Christ as Savior and be saved.

NOTE: Some believe that verses Isaiah 52:13-15 should actually be the beginning of Chapter 53. You might consider that as you read these two chapters. Next time we will begin to deal with the 53rd chapter, which is a very important chapter in Scripture.